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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

for the financial year 2021

#EUBUDGET

Programme Statements of operational
expenditure

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Working Document Part I

Budget

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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET
of the European Union
for the financial year 2021

Working Document
Part I

**Draft General Budget
of the European Union
for the Financial Year 2021**

**Working Document Part I
Programme Statements of operational expenditure**

The 2021 Draft Budget is accompanied by twelve ‘Working Documents’, as follows:

Part I: Programme Statements of operational expenditure

Working Document I contains, pursuant to Article 41(3)(h) of the Financial Regulation, Programme Statements, which are coherent with the current legal bases and provide details on the resources which are dedicated to each spending Programme for the period 2014-2020.

Part II: Human Resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies

Working Document II presents information on the human resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies, and in particular for the Commission, both for the establishment plans and for external personnel and across all headings of the multiannual financial framework. Moreover, pursuant to Article 41(3)(b) of the Financial Regulation, it provides a summary table for the period 2014 – 2021 which shows the number of full-time equivalents for each category of staff and the related appropriations for all institutions and bodies referred to in Article 70 of the Financial Regulation.

Part III: Bodies set up by the European Union having legal personality

Working Document III presents detailed information relating to all decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings, with a transparent presentation of revenue, expenditure and staff levels of various Union bodies, pursuant to Article 41(3)(c) of the Financial Regulation.

Part IV: Pilot projects and preparatory actions

Working Document IV presents information on all pilot projects and preparatory actions which have budget appropriations (commitments and/or payments) in the 2021 Draft Budget, pursuant to Article 41(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation.

Part V: Budget implementation and assigned revenue

Working Document V presents the budget implementation forecast for 2020, information on assigned revenue (implementation in 2019 and estimation for 2021), and a progress report on outstanding commitments (RAL) and managing potentially abnormal RAL (PAR) for 2019, pursuant to Article 41(3)(d) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VI: Commission expenditure under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework

Working Document VI encompasses administrative expenditure to be implemented by the Commission under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework (heading 7) in accordance with Article 317 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the budgets of the Offices (OP, OLAF, EPSO, OIB, OIL and PMO), pursuant to Article 41(3)(e) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VII: Commission buildings

Working Document VII presents information on buildings under Section III - Commission, pursuant to Article 266(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VIII: Expenditure related to the external action of the European Union

Working Document VIII presents information on human resources and expenditure related to the external action of the European Union, pursuant to Article 41(10) and (11) of the Financial Regulation.

Part IX: Funding to international organisations

Working Document IX presents funding provided to international organisations, across all MFF headings, pursuant to Article 41(3)(g) of the Financial Regulation.

Part X: Financial Instruments

Working Document X presents the use made of financial instruments, pursuant to Article 41(4) of the Financial Regulation.

Part XI: EU Trust funds

Working Document XI presents the activities supported by EU Trust Funds, their implementation and performance, pursuant to Article 41(6) of the Financial Regulation.

Part XII: Payment schedules

Working Document XII presents summary statements of the schedule of payments due in subsequent years to meet budgetary commitments entered into in previous years, pursuant to Article 41(3)(i) of the Financial Regulation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

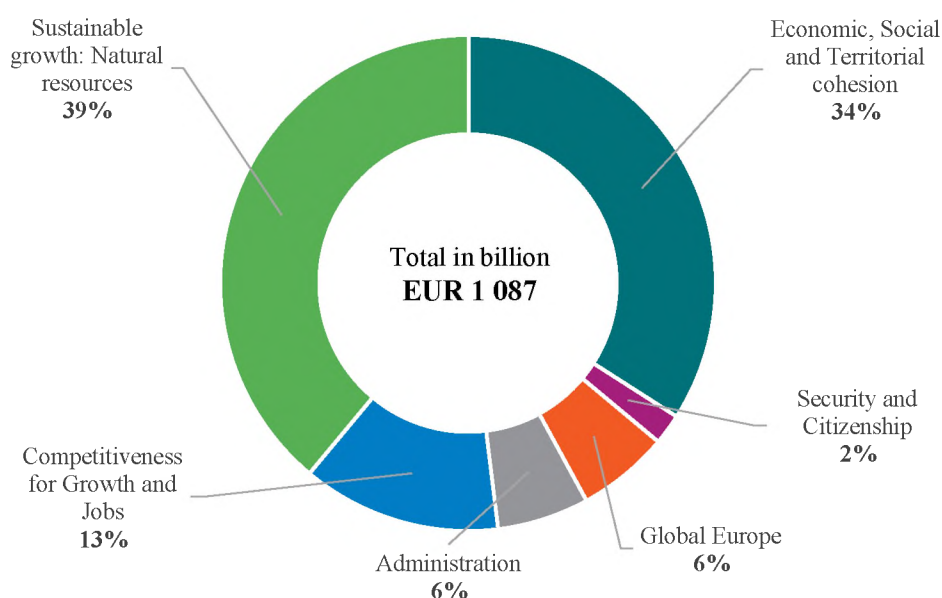
TO WORKING DOCUMENT 1

Programme Statements of operational expenditures

The EU budget is key for implementing European policies and priorities. It leverages national budgets and other financial sources at European and national level to address the challenges, and opportunities, faced by the Union. Unlike national budgets, the EU budget is predominantly focused on investment. Its programmes are multiannual in nature, providing a stable and predictable framework which is ideally suited to supporting strategic investments over the medium to longer term.

Although the EU budget represents around 1% of EU Gross National Income (GNI) and just above 2% of all public spending in the EU, actions supported are important tools for the achievement of many of the EU strategic priorities. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) translates the Union’s political priorities into financial terms for 7 years setting maximum annual amounts (ceilings) for EU expenditure (in payment appropriations) and for its main categories, known as headings (in commitment appropriations). The MFF thus supports other EU actions in, among others, the legislative, regulatory and fiscal domain to achieve the Union's objectives as set out in the Treaties and long-term strategies. It runs over a period that is long enough to be effective and to provide a coherent long-term vision for its beneficiaries and co-financing national authorities.

The European Commission as a political body operates based on policy priorities established by its President. For the current Commission in office, President von der Leyen has established 6 political priorities to respond to today's challenges encompassing budgetary and legislative means (see below “EU Budget supporting the Commission' political priorities”).



Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (EU 28) adjusted for 2020 in current prices.
 Source: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Technical adjustment of the financial framework for 2020, COM(2019) 310 final

The EU budget focuses on areas where pooling resources to tackle common challenges for all Europeans can deliver results that could not be achieved as effectively or efficiently by Member States acting alone. This applies in areas as diverse as cross-border infrastructure, external border management, large-scale space projects and pan-European research. In all these areas, the EU budget is uniquely placed to deliver ‘**European added value**’.

Strengthening performance is an overarching goal for the Commission, as clearly stated by the President of the European Commission: *"Every action we take must deliver maximum performance and value added"*. In this sense, systematic efforts are undertaken to deliver the best possible results and to tackle unexpected crises with the EU budget as well. The performance of the EU budget not only means that EU programmes are well managed, but also that they deliver results.

Programme Statements: Purpose and structure of the document

The Financial Regulation (Art. 41(3)(h)) requires the Commission to prepare the Programme Statements to justify funding requested for each of the EU spending programmes. They report on the indicators defined in the legal basis of each of the programmes and provide details on their corresponding resources. The Programme Statements are the first working document

accompanying the draft budget proposal and have the aim of supporting the Commission requests for the annual budget allocations for operational expenditure. They allow to draw lessons from the past and answer the following questions:

- Is the EU budget achieving its goals?
- Is it reaching the expected impact? To what extent?

The Programme Statements present the most comprehensive and up-to-date performance information for the 60 operational programmes and financial interventions of the EU budget. It is one of the main sources for the high-level annual reporting of the Commission in the Annual Management and Performance Report¹, which is part of the Integrated Financial and Accountability Reporting Package. This is a central input for the annual ‘discharge procedure’, by which the European Parliament and the Council hold the Commission to account for its use of taxpayers’ money.

The Programme Statements were first introduced to support the draft budget 2014 and are updated each year in the context of EU budget preparation procedure. They are discussed in annual budget hearings with the Commission services responsible for the spending programmes and revised based on the outcomes of these hearings.

By definition, performance reporting is a backward-looking exercise. Therefore, the Programme Statements cover the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 and present the results achieved until end 2019.

Each Programme Statement follows the same structure in 3 sections: (1) information on what the programme is about and highlighting its European added value; (2) the state of play of the implementation of the programmes; and (3) the assessment and evidence on performance and contribution to the mainstreaming policies.

This year, as the results are presented for the 6th year of implementation of the spending programmes, we have added a new section dedicated to the assessment of the performance of the programmes until end 2019.

Structure of each Programme Statement:


I. Programme overview

This section presents a short programme overview and highlights EU added value of the programme

II. Programme Update

- Implementation status (2017-2019)
- Key achievements
- Evaluations/studies conducted
- Forthcoming implementation
- Outlook for 2021-2027

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

- Financial programming and reference amounts
- Implementation rates (2019)
- **Performance assessment of the programme** 
- Indicator reporting per objective
- Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies(climate actions, biodiversity, clean air and gender)
- Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Stronger focus has also been put on the contribution of programmes towards the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Finally, the Programme Statements include a new section regarding the EU spending programmes contribution to **clean air** (see the dedicated sections for the sustainable development goals and clean air below.)

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/annual-management-and-performance-report-eu-budget-0_en

The EU budget performance framework

The performance framework of EU spending programmes is defined in each of the relevant legislative acts consists of objectives, indicators to measure progress and monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements.

The system of performance indicators for the EU budget during the MFF 2014-2020

The EU budget has an advanced framework for measuring and reporting on performance. The leading principles of this system are set out in the Financial Regulation, which requires the provision of information on the achievement of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives measured by indicators. The Commission's Better Regulation Guidelines provide instructions on setting indicators, their link with objectives and stage of implementation of a programme or policy area. These principles are implemented in a set of indicators set out in the legal basis of the respective spending programmes.

Indicators perform several functions: aggregating information; measuring progress toward EU objectives; providing early warning on programme implementation; and communicating about the EU budget.

Number of indicators and reporting frequency

The current performance framework of the spending programmes includes more than **700 indicators** measuring the performance against more than 60 general and 220 specific objectives. Not all measure EU budget performance directly. Some provide either high level contextual information (e.g. "the Europe R&D target of 3% GDP" or "share of researchers in the EU active population") or process related information (e.g. "quality of project applications", "number of participants"). Additionally, not all indicators are available immediately after the start of the programme. The reporting varies from one programme and type of indicator to another and is influenced mainly by the following factors:

- Type of performance indicators chosen determines when first performance information is available. Input indicators, used rarely in the PS, are available much sooner than result or impact indicators which require an action – potentially large-scale investment – to be finalised.
- The time lag between the input and the outcomes generated (e.g. the grants allocated for students under Erasmus+ can be monitored on an annual basis while the results for the infrastructure investment programmes like CEF will only be known when the projects financed by the programme reach the necessary maturity).
- The mode of implementation (shared, direct, or indirect) influences the way performance information is collected, aggregated and transmitted to the decision makers. Around three-quarters of the EU budget is implemented by Member States (under shared management) and the rest by the Commission or the executive agencies (direct management); or via agreements with third parties such as the European Investment Bank or international financial institutions (indirect management). The range of activities covered by the programme. Cohesion policy has a solid performance framework in terms of objectives and indicators in relation to the operational programmes. However, these indicators are not always easy to aggregate and report on policy achievements because of the diversity of the activities supported by each fund.
- The reporting frequency also depends whether the data could be collected internally (for example internal Commission' database systems, such as Horizon 2020, regional policy projects database or LIFE project database) or whether it is derived from external sources such as Member States (indicators used in the European Structural and Investment Funds) or international organisations (indicators measuring Sustainable Development Goals). In the latter case, the delivery of the information could be delayed as the reporting chain is much longer with a number of intermediaries.
- Cost of collection: some indicators for which the collection of data is expensive or complex can only be collected at a lower frequency (for example every 2 or 3 years). As a result, for some objectives the established indicators allow progress to be tracked on an annual basis while for some others the frequency is much lower.

Indicators in the 2021 Programme Statements

In budgetary terms, 2019 was the sixth year of implementation of the current 2014-2020 MFF. The spending programmes are now fully operational following some delays at the beginning of the implementation period and results can be assessed. The type of data reported depends on the life-cycle of the programmes, ranging from outputs to results. The most recent data are available from the programmes directly managed by the Commission. In most of the cases, the reported achievements are values recorded by the end of 2019. The programmes under shared management present values recorded and reported by the Member States as by the end of 2018. The programmes under indirect management present a mixed picture; some have achievement reported up to 2019 while the others depend on the reports or surveys carried out by the international organisations.

Practical limits of indicators

Indicators should, to the extent possible, provide the most direct evidence of the effects they are measuring. However, it is important to stress that the indicators alone are not sufficient to draw conclusions on whether a policy or programme is successful. The set of indicators presented in the PS as part of this working document does not represent any judgment. It is an objective and robust data source to help understand, monitor and inform of progress of spending programmes.

The EU budget performance framework under the 2021-2027 MFF

The Programme Statements accompanying the draft budget 2021 mainly focus on the performance of the spending programmes of the 2014-2020 programming period, for which substantial information is available by now. In parallel, the Commission continues working on the performance framework for the next generation of programmes.

The EU budget contributes to the realisation of EU policy in a wide range of policy areas, using multiple instruments and funding sources, under different management modes and involving different actors. This complex environment requires strong accountability and control mechanisms to ensure that the budget is properly and effectively spent; transparent reporting; and clear and effective communication to connect with citizens.

As confirmed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the EU budget has a very advanced framework for measurement and reporting on performance.² The preparation of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework has provided the opportunity to further improve, taking into account lessons learnt from the past, in order to construct a fully-fledged performance framework for the EU Budget, for the following purposes:

Communication on how EU spending programmes contribute to EU policies & priorities: link spending with the policy objectives and inform policy makers for better decision-making, including through interim and ex post evaluations;

Accountability & reporting on implementation: monitor progress and achievements of EU programmes, providing managers with an early warning and calibrating more effective interventions;

Performance monitoring and assessment: gather coherent and consistent information for monitoring performance continuously and for performing evaluations.

What will be strengthened under the future performance framework for the EU budget?

Lessons Learned	We need to streamline indicators	We need high-quality indicators for providing good information	We need to turn a long-term vision into well-defined results
What's new in the EU budget performance framework	<p>Core Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined indicators representing relevant aspects of the interventions Reported regularly in the Programme Statements Included in the legal acts of each spending programme 	<p>More systematic and complete metadata...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each indicator a description of its technical characteristics <p>... and metrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each indicator, baselines, milestones and targets are defined using a solid methodology or approach 	<p>Clearer link between EU spending and policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear explanation of what the intervention is intended to achieve and how this contributes to policy goals <p>Programme narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the intervention is expected to progress over time and to achieve its objectives

EU budget supporting the Commission' political priorities

The achievement of the European Commission's political priorities is pursued via a variety of methods, including the EU budget, legislation, policies or coordination. The overall progress is reported in the General Report on the Activities of the European Union³. The EU budget is thus only one of the tools supporting the implementation of the Commission's political priorities.

2019 marked the end of the mandate of the Juncker Commission and the beginning of the new Commission's mandate under President von der Leyen. Throughout this transition, the political compass of the European Commission continued pointing to the Union's fundamental values, i.e. respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. This has ensured the continuity among the outgoing and the incoming Commission's political priorities and has allowed the EU budget to seamlessly provide its support to all of the Commission's political priorities.

In the budgetary procedures under the Juncker Commission, there was a particular focus on supporting policies to boost competitiveness and economic convergence, to create jobs and growth as well as to respond to crises, notably the refugee crisis and security threats derived from war and instability in Europe's neighbourhood. The new Commission President von der Leyen has set six political priorities for the Commission⁴. These priorities aim at addressing the strategic challenges that Europe faces, i.e. improving the rule of law and fundamental rights, further promoting a Sustainable Europe, improving the Internal Market, encouraging the Social Market Economy, promoting a rules-based global order and enabling a better living together.

² <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/budgeting-and-performance-in-the-eu-oecd-review.pdf>

³ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/xr49vR>

⁴ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/kK49uD>

Climate mainstreaming

Cross-cutting policy objectives such as climate, environment and gender are pursued in a coherent and holistic manner under the 2014-2020 financial framework by reading across sectoral programmes to identify spending on such horizontal priorities. All major EU policies including cohesion, agriculture, maritime and fisheries, research and innovation, and external aid programmes therefore contribute in the form of so-called mainstreaming. Mainstreaming is achieved through a range of requirements for benchmarking, monitoring and reporting (using appropriate indicators) for all relevant EU policy instruments.

What do we do?

In the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework, the Commission implemented an innovative approach to dedicating resources to the fight against climate change: ‘climate mainstreaming’. This means that programmes in all policy areas must consider climate priorities in their design, implementation and evaluation phases. With a target of ensuring 20% of the EU budget expenditure contributes to climate goals, all programmes are designed to implement the following two types of measures.

- **Adaptation.** This is about finding solutions and ensuring preparedness for the adverse effects of climate change, taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise.
- **Mitigation.** This consists of actions that limit the magnitude of long-term climate change. Climate change mitigation generally involves reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

In this context, ‘**climate proofing**’ is the practice of making sure that buildings and infrastructure are well adapted to the changes in the environment. It is applied across the EU budget in the programmes supporting infrastructures. In addition, to guarantee that the EU budget financing does not have a harmful effect on the environment, an ‘**exclusion list**’ of projects that cannot be financed is also included in the common provision regulation.

Why do we do it?

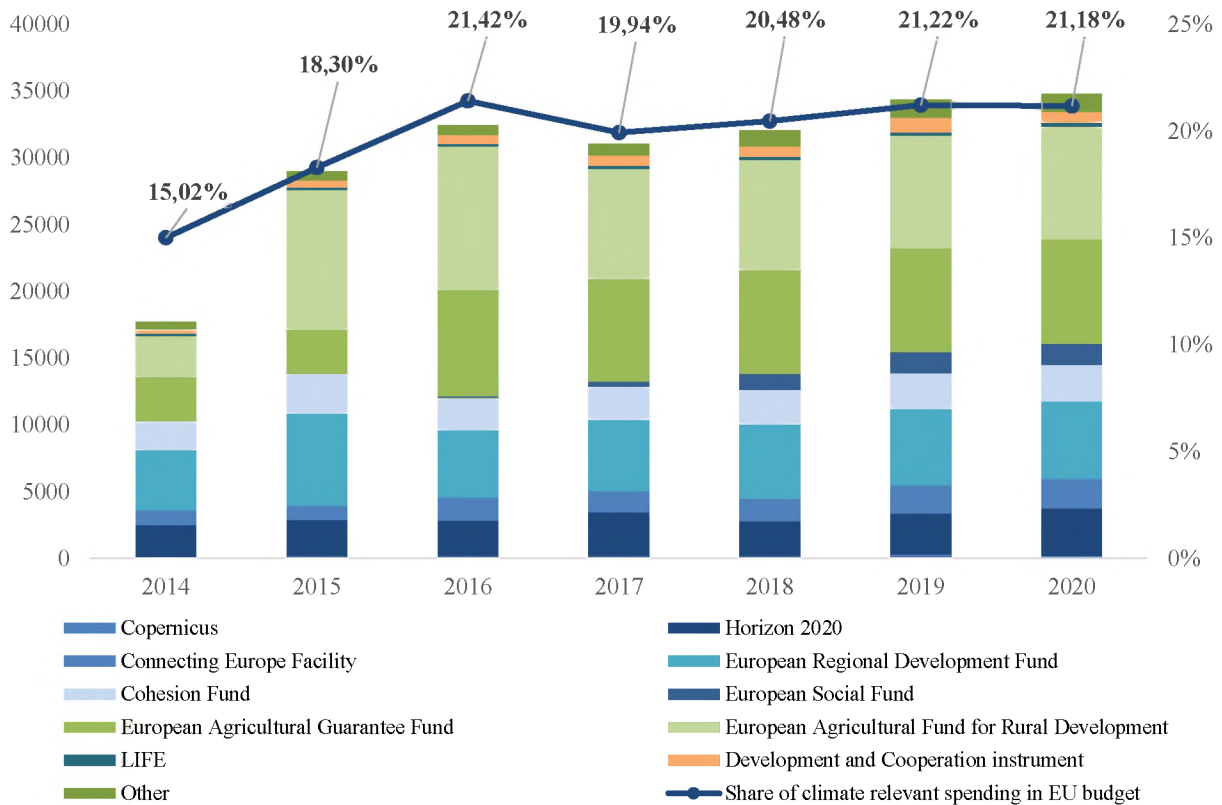
The fight against climate change is, by its very nature, a fight that transcends national boundaries. In order to develop new clean technology, deploy the best solutions and adapt our economies in favour of a more sustainable path, action at EU level is needed. EU action enjoys significant economies of scale, pulling together the resources to reach critical mass and building a stronger position in the international arena.

How much do we spend (in EUR million)?⁵

Heading	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% of the heading
1A	3 651,7	3 956,8	4 583,4	5 056,5	4 514,4	5 552,7	5 968,9	33 284,4	22%
1B	6 655,6	9 924,8	7 585,5	8 236,7	9 330,6	9 995,4	10 132,1	61 860,7	16%
2	6 673,3	14 066,2	19 044,8	16 280,5	16 416,0	16 609,1	16 698,2	105 788,1	25%
3	6,9	6,1	6,9	5,9	6,0	19,8	27,6	79,2	0,2%
4	740,1	1 073,1	1 225,2	1 505,3	1 815,6	2 211,9	2 013,9	10 585,1	15%
TOTAL	17 727,6	29 027,0	32 445,8	31 084,9	32 082,6	34 388,9	34 840,7	211 597,5	19,83%

For the period 2014 – 2020, the EU budget dedicates EUR 210 billion to the fight against climate change, or 19.83%.

⁵ To track the EU budget expenditure, an internationally recognised methodology, called OECD Rio markers, is used. The methodology implies that for each project/objective/strand/programme a coefficient of either zero, 40% or 100% will be applied to reflect the different degrees of integration of climate considerations. The EU budget mitigates its potential negative impact on climate by embedding climate considerations in every programme, climate proofing and the “exclusion list” of projects.



What have we achieved? Examples of achievement

143 045 tonnes of CO ₂ eq	30 000 registered users	79% of total EU Agricultural area
in CO ₂ equivalent thanks to Cohesion Fund investments.	of Copernicus Climate service	subject to at least one "greening" obligation, increasing the environmental impact of the measure

- **Horizon 2020** projects address technology development and market barriers, and accelerate the uptake of renewable energy technologies. On a regional basis, CoolHeating supported the implementation of small modular heating and cooling grids in south-eastern Europe using improved business strategies and innovative financing schemes. The project ‘best practices and implementation of innovative business models for renewable energy aggregators’ explored the aggregation of various distributed renewable energy sources. WinWind project partners drafted a number of good-practice measures based on those from their own countries to improve social acceptance of wind energy in the target regions. Biomass is also a valuable source of renewable energy, and so Securechain ensured optimal management of the EU’s woody biomass supply chain. LIFES 50plus focused on floating 5-10 MW wind turbines installed at water depths ranging from 50 metres to about 200 metres. In a climate-neutral EU, power generation should be fully decarbonised by 2050, with more than 80% of the EU’s electricity produced by renewable energy.
- Thanks to the **European Structural and Investment Funds**, in 2018 an estimated annual decrease in greenhouse gas emissions of 142 035 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent was achieved, and the energy consumption classification for 9 938 households was improved.
- The **European Social Fund** also contributes to climate objectives, notably through higher support for training and labour market measures linked to green jobs. For example, in Czechia, the European Social Fund supported 111 projects in the coal regions with a total allocation of EUR 21.3 million. More concretely, in North Moravia, the public employment service implemented a European Social Fund-supported project called ‘Outplacement’, which supported 265 miners by providing them with training in welding, driving or gaining a professional licence and other skills.
- Under the **common agricultural policy**, the ‘greening’ layer of direct payments accounts for 30% of Member States’ annual direct payment ceilings and covers annual obligations that are beneficial for the environment and climate (e.g. crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grassland), and the dedication of 5% of arable land to ecologically beneficial areas (‘ecological focus areas’). As of 2018, 79% of the total EU agricultural area was subject to at least one ‘greening’ obligation, increasing the environmental impact of the measure.
- In 2018, a total of 3.4 million hectares of **agricultural and forest land** was covered by management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation. This equals 89.5% of the 2023 target of 4 million hectares.

- The **LIFE** ‘agri adapt’ project aims to increase the resilience of EU agriculture to climate change by demonstrating sustainable best-practice adaptation measures with an ecosystem-based approach at farm level. The project aims to adapt 120 farms by its end.
- Under the **Development Cooperation Instrument**, the global climate change alliance plus initiative, as a thematic flagship initiative, will continue to enhance vulnerable partner countries’ resilience to the effects of climate change and to enable them to engage in low-carbon development processes by supporting them.

Climate-related administrative expenditure is not accounted for in the mainstreaming estimates. The European Commission is committed to sustainability. Thus, through the eco-management and audit scheme system, the Commission implements a monitoring programme to assess, measure, monitor and reduce the environmental impact of its daily activities. The Commission has achieved significant results, such as the following (results refer to the Brussels site during the period 2005-2018) ⁽⁶⁾:

- energy for buildings = – 65% (MWh/person);
- CO2 emissions for buildings = – 87% (tonnes/person);
- since August 2009, 95% of the Commission’s total electricity consumption in Brussels has come from 100%-renewable sources.

Biodiversity tracking

What do we do?

To halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity in the EU is a major objective of the Union, as also foreseen in the political guidelines from President von der Leyen and the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal Investment Plan (2020) further reaffirms the importance of biodiversity financing. The EU ambition on biodiversity is in line with international biodiversity policy. The global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and subsequent decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity call for Parties to CBD to report domestic and international biodiversity expenditures, funding needs, gaps and priorities, prepare national financial plans for biodiversity, and mobilize financial resources from all sources to reduce the gap between identified needs and available resources at domestic level. The upcoming EU Biodiversity Strategy and the post 2020 global biodiversity framework will provide further orientations regarding biodiversity financing and resource mobilization. The Union finances the protection of biodiversity by including the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 via the main funding instruments. The Commission tracks how much is spent on these objectives to ensure that spending has the desired positive outcomes for biodiversity and our society. As a party to the CBD, the EU reports on its domestic and international biodiversity-related financial flows. The Commission will assess and revise its biodiversity tracking methodology to adapt it to next MFF and other relevant developments.

Why do we do it?

The preservation of biodiversity ensures the long-term stability of ecosystems and enables sustainable preservation of natural resources for future generations. Tackling biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems requires significant investments, including ones to ensure a more resilient society and combat the emergence of diseases linked to ecosystem degradation and wildlife trade. Nature-based solutions – including ecosystem restoration – have the potential to provide a significant proportion of the mitigation potential needed to meet our international climate objectives in a very cost-effective way.

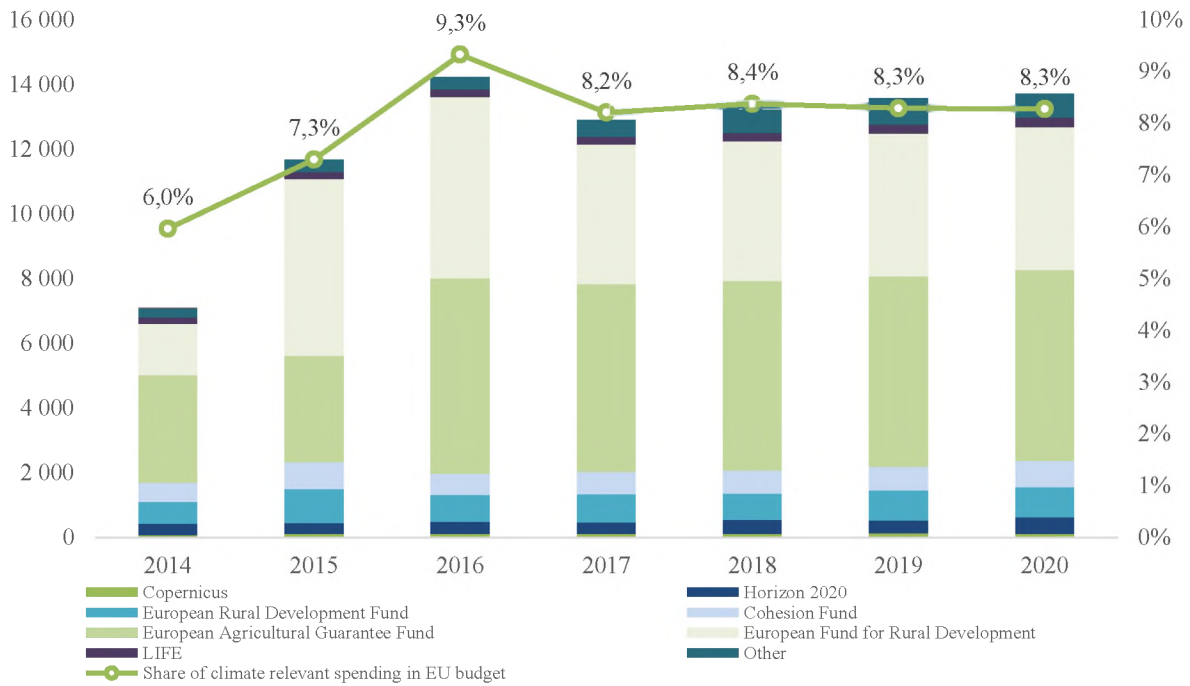
How much do we spend (in EUR million)?⁷

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Heading 1a	419,2	449,9	491,1	467,4	535,7	523,5	613,9
Heading 1b	1 274,1	1 878,8	1 481,6	1 556,5	1 527,	1 668,3	1 742,3
Heading 2	5 216,0	9 067,2	11 992,2	10 477,5	10 566,9	10 691,8	10 747,8
Heading 4	128,7	182,2	160,3	293,0	490,7	552,1	502,5
Total	7 038,0	11 578,1	14 125,2	12 794,4	13 120,9	13 435,7	13 606,5
%	6,0%	7,3%	9,3%	8,2%	8,4%	8,3%	8,3%

For the period 2014 – 2020, the EU budget dedicates EUR 85 billion, or 8,03% of the MFF, to the fight against biodiversity loss

⁽⁶⁾ For more details, please consult the environmental statement of the Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/other/ES2019_consolidated_volume_web_edition_optimised.pdf).

⁷ To track the EU budget expenditures an international recognized methodology, called OECD Rio markers, is used. The methodology implies that for each project/objective/strand/programme a coefficient of 0%, 40%, 100% will be applied to reflect the different degrees of integration of biodiversity considerations.



What have we achieved? Examples of achievement

Improving conditions of 186 different species	Almost 7 million hectares – roughly the size of Latvia – of natural habitats	16% of agricultural land were contributing to biodiversity
262 LIFE actions are aimed at improving conditions of 186 different Wildlife species: 84% of actions are expected to lead to an increase in the population of the species	supported under EU Cohesion policy	In 2018 16.1% of agricultural land was under management contracts contributing towards biodiversity, which is close to the targets of 17% for 2023.

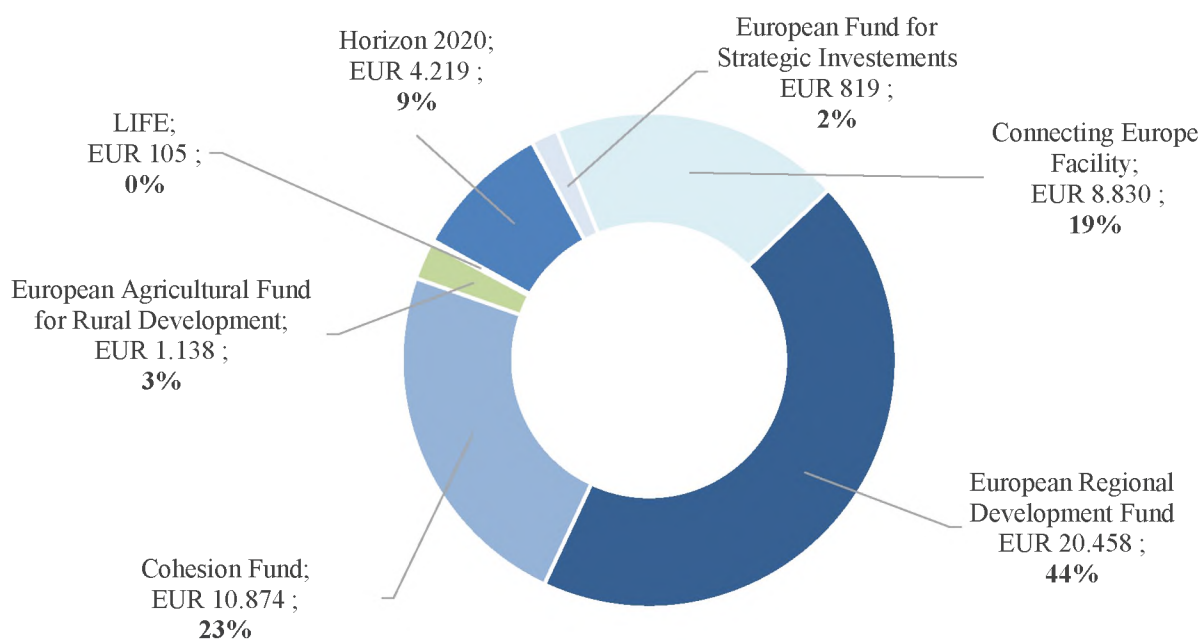
- **EU cohesion policy** is a key instrument to support Member States’ investment in biodiversity, nature and green infrastructure. During 2014-2020 period, Member States have allocated EUR 3.7 billion of EU financing to this area.
- Two examples of projects on wildlife species showing the potential catalytic effect of the **LIFE** programme are LIFE EUROTURTLES and LIFE Medturtles which, although presented by different organisations, are working together to tackle a relevant number of threats at nesting and foraging sites in a wide number of countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Slovenia – the first project - and Spain, Albania, Tunisia, Turkey). This allows to really spread best practice for the conservation of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), both listed as priority species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.
- Through the **Development and Cooperation Instrument**, the B4Life Flagship project contributed to integrating the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in development strategies and poverty eradication. The EU budget also mobilised substantial funds for combatting forest and wildlife crime, including to build national capacities of police, justice and customs authorities (through Interpol and the UN Organisation for Drugs and Crime) and to combat poaching and trafficking on the ground through civil society organisations in Africa (Congo Basin, Liberia, Kenya), Latin America (Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil) and Southeast Asia (Mekong region).
- **Horizon 2020** contributes significant financial resources to the conservation of biodiversity. **ECOPOTENTIAL** developed tools to connect Earth observation techniques with field measurements to study ecosystems and better manage protected areas such as National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage and Natura2000 sites, and marine ecosystems. **AQUACROSS** advanced knowledge on ecosystem management to enhance the resilience of aquatic ecosystems and arrest biodiversity loss. Wetlands are the ecosystems with the highest rate of loss around the world.

Clean air tracking

The EU has been working for decades to reduce air pollution to levels that do not give rise to negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment. Air quality has improved in the EU over time and emissions of several air pollutants have decreased. This has been possible thanks to EU clean air legislation and efforts to integrate both environmental protection requirements in general and clean air priorities in particular into sectoral policies, including stricter control of emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. Joint efforts at EU, national, regional and local levels, including the provision of EU budget funding to actions contributing to clean air objectives, have played an important role in delivering progress. However, efforts must continue and intensify as, in most Member States, quality of life remains hampered by the adverse impacts of air pollution. EU air quality standards need to be met across the EU.

To address remaining clean air quality challenges, EU funding has been made available and successfully used by Member States under various financial streams. Clean air projects have been supported directly, or clean air objectives have been effectively mainstreamed in other investments (e.g. infrastructure, rural and regional development). To monitor progress in the Member States' uptake of EU funds for clean air objectives, the Commission has started to track EU funding contributing to clean air by assessing the extent to which each funding stream contributes to this objective. This monitoring will contribute to better implementation of clean air policies in Member States. This tracking also fulfils the Commission obligation to report on Member States' uptake of EU funds in support of the objectives of Article 11(1)(c) of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (known as the national emission ceilings directive).

In order to comply with the directive's obligation of reporting, the programme statements for relevant programmes include the individual programmes' contribution to clean air throughout the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework. The precise methodology for tracking the contribution towards clean air objectives will be published along with the implementation report mandated by Article 11 of the Directive.



Clean air spending by programme

Programme	Estimated clean air contribution 2014-2020 (in EUR million)
Horizon 2020	4 219
European Fund for Strategic Investments*	819
Connecting Europe Facility*	8 830
European Regional Development Fund	20 458
Cohesion Fund	10 874

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	1 138
LIFE**	105
TOTAL	46 443

* Data available for the period 2014 - 2019

** Data available for the period 2014 - 2018

Gender equality

The Council of Europe defined gender mainstreaming as "the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policymaking⁸". According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), gender mainstreaming involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination⁹.

The Commission is committed to gender mainstreaming as a strategy for the promotion of gender equality in all its policies and activities, as set out for the first time in its Communication on 'Incorporating Equal Opportunities for Women and Men into all Community Policies and Activities'¹⁰. Building on this commitment, the Commission established gender equality as a cross-cutting objective for all policy areas, including fundamental rights and citizenship, employment and social inclusion, cohesion policy, education, research and innovation, external cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The Commission's long-standing commitment to gender equality gained recently new momentum with the adoption of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025¹¹ in March 2020, which delivers on the Commission's commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. It sets out policy objectives and actions to achieve significant progress towards a gender-equal Europe by 2025. The goal is a Union where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our European society.

The key objectives of the Strategy are ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics. The Strategy pursues a dual approach of gender mainstreaming combined with targeted actions, and intersectionality is a horizontal principle for its implementation. While the Strategy focuses on actions within the EU, it is coherent with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment.

With regard to the integration of gender mainstreaming in the EU spending programmes, the overview of the information reported on in the programme statements is as follows:

- 35 out of 60 spending programmes contain some qualitative or quantitative information related to gender mainstreaming. This marks the third consecutive year where an increase in the number of reporting programme statements is observed (33 programmes in 2019, 25 in 2018, and 20 in 2017).
- ten programmes provide some financial estimates on the EU budget contribution to gender mainstreaming, compared to eleven programmes in 2019 and eight programmes in 2017.
- six programmes include actions to tackle violence against women and girls.

With a view to reinforcing gender mainstreaming in the post-2020 programming period, the Gender Equality Strategy sets out that, 'in line with repeated calls by several Member States and the European Parliament, the Commission will look at the gender impact of its activities and at how to measure expenditure related to gender equality at programme level in the 2021-2027 MFF. The outcome of the recently launched audit by the European Court of Auditors on gender mainstreaming in the EU budget to promote equality will contribute to this process. This will improve gender mainstreaming in the Commission's budget process, further increasing the contribution made by policy design and resource allocation to gender equality objectives'. Accordingly, the Commission intends to strengthen the related reporting in the documents accompanying the draft budget 2022.

The EU budget and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations' (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets have given a new impetus to global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The EU has played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda, through public consultations, dialogue with partners and in-depth research. The EU is committed to

⁸ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>

⁹ <https://europa.eu/!kg64Cb>

¹⁰ <https://europa.eu/!dY44NY>

¹¹ <https://europa.eu/!QR89gN>

playing an active role to maximise progress towards the SDGs, as outlined in its Communication ‘Next steps for a sustainable European future’¹².

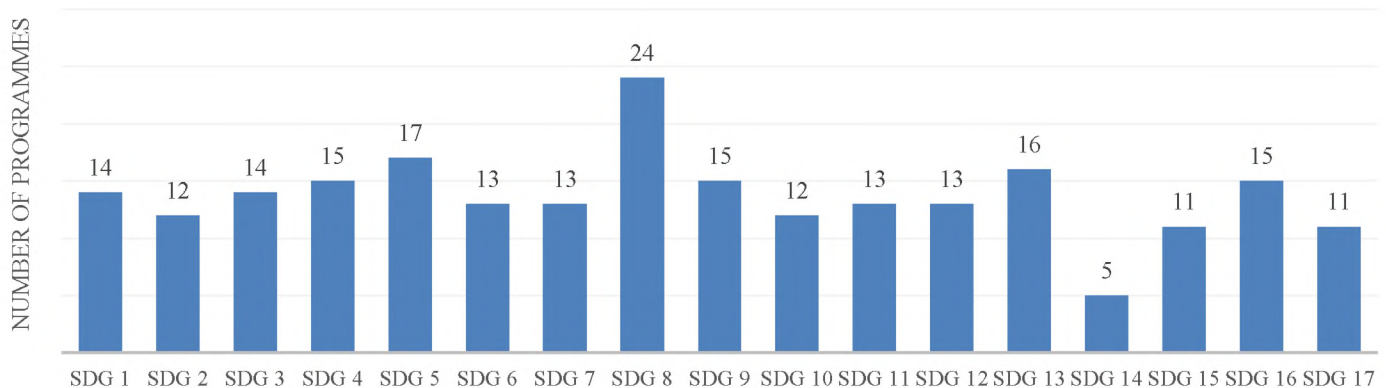
This lasting commitment to SDGs constitutes an overriding political priority for the von der Leyen Commission. Sustainability, productivity, fairness and stability have been identified in the Commission’s Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020¹³ as the four pillars on which the EU’s economic policy must rely to implement reforms and investments in the European Union. To this end, a holistic and balanced approach where the Union works better together with the Member States and across policy fields is required.

Given the division of competences between Member States and the EU, a close coordination is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs, as far as the contribution of Member States is concerned. Bearing this in mind, the refocusing of the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the SDGs is a key priority for the von der Leyen Commission¹⁴. As of 2020, the European Semester country reports will feature a reinforced analysis and monitoring of how each country’s economic, social and fiscal policies have contributed to its progress towards the SDGs, based on Eurostat’s EU SDG indicator set.

At Union level, sustainable development challenges are addressed through EU policies and regulatory instruments. As far as the former are concerned, the EU budget through its spending programmes provides a significant contribution to sustainable development by complementing the national budgets, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. In doing so, the design and implementation of the EU spending programmes aims at delivering on the objectives in each policy field whilst promoting sustainability through the actions and interventions of the relevant programmes, in a joint and coherent way.

In particular, 75% (45 out of 60) of the EU spending programmes contribute towards SDGs. In this context, 25 spending programmes contribute to SDG 8 for the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The 17 programmes contributing to SDG 5 for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls attest to the EU’s focus on gender mainstreaming with the integration of a gender perspective in the relevant policies. The number of programmes contributing to individual SDGs is presented in the graph below:

Number of contributing programmes per SDG



In the light of the cross-cutting nature of SDGs, and in order to ensure a holistic approach in addressing sustainable development, 87% of the spending programmes contributing to SDGs are designed to address multiple SDGs through their policy actions. With a view to further enhancing the reporting on the performance of its programmes and providing a deeper understanding of the EU policy coherence, as of this year the Commission presents the SDGs to which each EU programme contributes along with examples of its contribution.

The following infographic illustrates in a non-exhaustive manner the many examples of the contribution of EU programmes to SDGs. It serves to capture the EU’s coherent approach with which it supports a variety of initiatives in a wide range of policy fields across the globe with the aim to promote sustainable development for all.

¹² <https://europa.eu/!Pv74QX>

¹³ <https://europa.eu/!dg34Ck>

¹⁴ <https://europa.eu/!kK49uD>



In 2018 the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** awarded over EUR 194 million for a cash assistance and accommodation scheme in Greece, providing approximately 25 000 places in apartments and suitable shelters to the most vulnerable migrants.



The **Spotlight Initiative's** 'safe and fair' programme (EUR 25 million), aims at ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the region covered by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.



Food assistance reached 12.6 million people in 2018 through the **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived**.



By the end of 2018 **Cohesion Fund** financing had resulted in an increase in waste-recycling capacity to 714 936 tonnes per year, compared to 47 245 tonnes per year at the end of 2017.



27.5 million people had benefited from improved health services financed by the **European Regional Development Fund** by the end of 2018.



With financing from the **Development Cooperation Instrument**, Switch Africa Green provides funding to green business projects in Africa. In its first phase, it supported 3 000 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and contributed to creating or securing 10 000 green jobs.



In 2019, under the Africa–Europe Alliance, over 8 000 African students and staff were granted scholarships in EU universities by **Erasmus+**, bringing the total to over 26 000 since 2014..



Humanitarian aid provided financing to 24 countries and for six regional interventions in 2019 to strengthen the disaster preparedness of national response systems and mitigate the impact of climate-induced disasters on humanitarian needs.



EUR 2.4 billion were committed by the **European Social Fund** to projects targeting gender equality by the end of 2019. For example, the 'nidi gratis' project in Lombardy, Italy has provided 30 000 low-income families with free access to nursery schools for their children..



To date, the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund** has funded nearly 15 000 projects on preserving the marine environment and ensuring better resource efficiency.



Since 2014, over 3 million people have been provided access to high-quality drinking water and wastewater treatment under the **European Regional Development Fund** and the **Cohesion Fund**.



The diversifood project, financed by **Horizon 2020**, aims at achieving organic and low-input agriculture by enriching the diversity of cultivated plants within diverse agroecosystems.



The **European Fund for Strategic Investments** has helped provide renewable energy to approximately 10 million households and save over 5 000 gigawatt hours of energy per year.




The **justice** programme supported the participation of 1 358 participants in judicial training programmes in 2018, thereby fostering a common legal and judicial culture.



Innovation management capacity assessments and guidance are provided to more than 4 000 SMEs per year under the **competitiveness of enterprises and small and**



Free, full and open data access resulting from the **Copernicus** international cooperation arrangements is expected to reach approximately 50% of the world's population via a local data hub.

	<p>medium-sized programme.</p>	<p>enterprises</p>
<p>Galileo's search and rescue service allows the time required to detect emergency distress beacons to be reduced to 10 minutes.</p>		

EU budget and financial instruments

The Union can intervene and pursue its objectives by means of traditional as well as innovative instruments in addition to regulatory and other non-spending policy initiatives. Traditional direct non-repayable subsidies or grants coexist with innovative instruments including sometimes complex market-based tools, categorised under the broad terms of financial instruments and budgetary guarantees. First launched in the mid-1990s, financial instruments have been growing in importance and scope, albeit accounting for less than 3% of the EU budget (with grants at almost 90%). More recently, EU policies have witnessed the further expansion of budgetary guarantees. The External Lending Mandate in 1994 was followed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in 2015 and the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) became operational in 2018.

Finally, the EU can also use “blended” instruments, characterised by a combination of budget guarantees and/or financial instruments and/or grants aiming to further expand the scope of the EU financing supporting sustainable development goals¹⁵.

The shift towards financial instruments and budget guarantees is largely driven by efficiency criteria, notably to maximise the impact of EU investments and its leverage effect. These instruments should be aligned with EU spending priorities in different areas: cohesion, research and innovation, SME support, climate change and energy, etc. However, grants remain the essential implementation mode in the policy areas where market-based tools cannot apply or parts of programmes targeting policy development where beneficiaries are public authorities (e.g. taxation, customs, fight against counterfeiting of euro, etc.).

The 2021 Programme Statements in this working document include information on financial instruments financed by the specific programme. This information should be considered for information purposes and does not constitute the official reporting on the financial instruments financed by the EU budget. The *Working Document X* on financial instruments attached to the 2021 Draft Budget presents more detailed information on quantitative aspects of the financial instruments.

EU budget and Trust Funds

A Trust Fund is a legal arrangement with a distinct financial structure that pools the funds of several donors to jointly finance action on the basis of commonly agreed objectives and reporting formats.

Since 2013, the EU has the possibility to create and manage trust funds (EUTFs) in the area of external action. EU Trust Funds offer a number of advantages: they are EU-led tools, offering better coordination with Member States; better control of operations by the Union and other donors and enhanced EU visibility. Trust Funds benefit from fast decision-making processes and from their capacity to pool larger sums from different donors and sources making them a flexible, proactive and adaptable tool. The contributions from the EU budget to a EUTF are decided during the budgetary year based on implementation needs.

To date, the Commission has set up 4 EUTFs. The 2021 Programme Statements contain a point indicating how a specific programme contributes to a Trust Fund(s). This information should be considered for information purposes and does not constitute the official reporting on the EU budget contribution to the EUTFs. The *Working Document XII* on EUTF attached to 2021 Draft Budget presents more detailed information on the EU budget contributions to the EUTFs and implementation of their activities.

Table 2: List of EU Trust Funds and EU spending programmes contributing to the EU Trust Funds

EUTF	Full title	Origin of EU budget contribution to EUTFs
AFRICA EUTF	The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Humanitarian aid

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/innovative-financial-instruments-blending_en.

		Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
BÊKOU EUTF	The EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic	Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
		Humanitarian aid
COLOMBIA EUTF	The European Union Trust Fund for Colombia	Development Cooperation Instrument
		Humanitarian aid
MADAD EUTF	The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis	Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
		European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
		Humanitarian aid
		Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II)

Source: European Commission

II. PROGRAMME STATEMENTS

The following sections contain all Programme Statements, presented by MFF heading.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems (EGNOS and Galileo)****Lead DG: DEFIS****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

GALILEO is Europe's state-of-the-art global navigation satellite system, providing a highly accurate global positioning service under civilian control. Galileo consists of a satellite constellation and the necessary ground infrastructure to control the satellites and enable the provision of positioning, navigation and timing services. Galileo offers autonomous navigation and positioning services, but is also compatible with the US GPS satellite navigation system. Galileo is one of the European large infrastructure projects and is entirely financed by the EU budget. Galileo ensures Europe's autonomy in an area that is of strategic importance to both its economy and security. Galileo is already used, among others, in mobile phones and car navigation. Galileo could be used for a large number of purposes, including critical business processes that require uninterrupted navigation, and timing services needed for example for critical applications such as the synchronisation of electricity grids and telecommunication networks.

EGNOS, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, is a fully operational regional satellite navigation system, monitoring and correcting open signals emitted by the US GPS and – in the future – Galileo. It consists of several transponders installed on geostationary satellites and a network of ground stations. By improving the accuracy and reliability of the US GPS signal over the territory of Europe, EGNOS allows users in Europe to use GPS signals, for instance, for safety-critical applications such as operating aircraft. It allows users in Europe and beyond to determine their position to around 1 metre.

These programmes contribute to stimulating economic activity and technological innovation. They enable traffic management to be optimised whether on road, waterborne or aerial. Better managed traffic not only improves safety but also reduces pollution since travel is more efficient. Satellite navigation also enables emergency services to better carry out their duties (e.g. in case of fires, road accidents, mountain rescue). Another added-value is that the combined use of GPS and Galileo signals allows for better precision and availability and opens the door to new applications which are not possible by using GPS alone.

EU added value of the programme

The EU's action is based on Article 172 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and on the GNSS Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013 on the further implementation of the European satellite navigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo). Today, about 11 % of the EU's GDP, i.e. about EUR 1300 billion, relies on satellite navigation signals, often controlled by third countries.

EGNOS and Galileo will not only ensure Europe's autonomy, but also provide additional benefits in combination with other GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System). Such benefits will result from the additional services of the systems and the increased performance coming from additional satellites. Galileo is also the only GNSS specifically designed for civil purposes, i.e. it aims to satisfy the needs of the civil sector, in compliance with the most demanding security standards. Billions of users all over the world are expected to use Galileo, hence reaching an unparalleled level of outreach compared to any infrastructure owned by the EU.

Both programmes are complex projects, which exceed the financial and technical capacities of a single Member State. As such, they fully fall within EU competence. Considering their requirements in terms of security, all Member States must be involved in those programmes.

Implementation mode

The Commission adopts annually a work programme in the form of an implementation plan and funding of the actions required to meet the objectives of Galileo and EGNOS programmes. The European GNSS Agency (GSA) and European Space Agency (ESA) implement more than 98 % of the budget in indirect management in accordance with the provisions of the respective delegation agreements. The European Commission through procurements and grants implements the remaining budget in direct management.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation status (2017-2019)***

Galileo has been operational and providing initial services since 2016. While the exploitation phase was launched in 2016, the deployment phase continues in parallel. The Galileo initial services are being gradually improved to provide robust positioning and timing services with a high level of performance in terms of availability and accuracy.

a) *Galileo programme: deployment of space and ground infrastructure*

The deployment of the Galileo space infrastructure has continued with the aim of reaching full operational capability. The fully deployed Galileo system will consist of 24 operational satellites plus six in-orbit spares. At the end of 2019, there are 26 Galileo satellites in orbit and all of them are providing services. 22 of them are fully operational for all services. The two satellites that were launched in the wrong orbit in August 2014 are already used for the Search and Rescue service. Furthermore they have

undergone in-depth tests and modifications of their on-board software between 2016 and 2017 which will allow their operational use for the Open Service by the end of 2020. In parallel, the production of additional satellites of the first generation is on-going with the procurement of Batch#3 (12 satellites) which was signed in June 2017. The first Batch#3 satellites are contractually scheduled to be delivered by the August 2020. In order to initiate the transition between the first and the second generation of Galileo satellites and to ensure the maintenance of the Galileo constellation in the future, a procurement of additional (so-called transition) satellites was launched in May 2018 and is expected to be finalised in 2020, subject to the consolidation of the final requirements for these satellites by June 2020. On the launch services, a contract for the development of a dispenser for carrying Galileo satellites on-board of an Ariane-62 launcher was signed with Ariane Group in summer 2019 and will deliver the first Ariane-6 dispenser flight model for Galileo by early 2021.

With regard to the Galileo ground infrastructure, the ground mission and ground control segment continued operations of the Galileo satellites. In February 2019, a major upgrade of the Galileo ground infrastructure has started, aiming at improving the robustness of the system and its compliance to security requirements. The *European GNSS Service Centre* (GSC) in Madrid (ES) continued to provide a single interface between the Galileo system and Galileo users. To ensure independent monitoring of the Galileo services, the *Galileo Reference Centre* (GRC) started to operate in Noordwijk (NL) in May 2018. The GRC was requested to support the GNSS performance monitoring needs of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) as well as to provide support to EUROCONTROL. The back-up site of the *Galileo Security Monitoring Centre* (GSMC) was transferred from the United Kingdom to Spain in 2019.

Regarding security, key actions included measures to improve cyber security, to obtain and maintain security accreditation for operations and for site infrastructure and development of operational concepts and procedures for the Public Regulated Service.

To ensure the continuity of services beyond 2020, the future Galileo services and high-level objectives for security were defined in the evolution High Level Definition document. In parallel, preparatory activities have started for a definition of new Galileo services to be developed as of 2021 such as an emergency service to broadcast warnings related to natural disasters.

b) Galileo programme: service provision

Since the declaration of Galileo Initial Services in December 2016, three services (Open Service, Public Regulated Service and Search and Rescue Service) were continuously provided most of the time throughout 2019. However, in July 2019, the provision of Galileo Initial Services was impacted by a technical incident, which occurred in the Galileo ground infrastructure. Despite intense recovery efforts, the incident led to a six-day interruption of the Galileo initial navigation and timing services. Nevertheless, the Galileo Search and Rescue Service was unaffected and remained operational. The Commission set up an independent Inquiry Board, which analysed the root causes of the incident and provided detailed recommendations. The Commission has put in place a process for implementation of these recommendations to ensure that Galileo is a stable, robust and resilient system. One of the priorities for 2020 is to carry out all necessary activities to deal with the impact of this technical incident and avoid the repetition of similar incidents in the future.

The performance levels of the Galileo Open Service and the Galileo Search and Rescue Service in terms of availability and accuracy continuously exceeded the Minimum Performance Level targets defined in the Service Definition Documents. The detailed performance reports of Galileo services are publicly available on the European GNSS Service Centre website ⁽¹⁾.

c) EGNOS programme: service provision

The continuity and quality of all three EGNOS services were successfully ensured in 2019. In order to guarantee the continuity of services beyond 2020, the development of a major EGNOS release version has continued in 2019.

EGNOS was designed for aviation, and aviation continues to be a key segment. EGNOS increases accuracy and integrity, improving accessibility, efficiency and safety to operators, pilots and airports across Europe. EGNOS allows lateral and angular vertical guidance during the final approach of a plane without requiring visual contact with the ground until a height down to only 200 feet above the runway. At the end of 2019, there are around 350 EGNOS-enabled airports in 23 countries in Europe. Thus, the objective of an annual increase in the number of airports has been achieved for each consecutive year since 2014. The figures are: 2014: 129 airports, 2015: 173, 2016: 230, 2017: 251 and 2018: 315. In agriculture, more than 80 % of European farmers using satellite navigation for tractor guidance rely on EGNOS.

The EGNOS service area was extended up to latitude 72 degrees north. To that end, an update of the EGNOS Safety of Life Service Definition Document was published in February 2019. Most of the Member States' European territories and the territories of Norway and Switzerland are fully covered, with the exception of the Azores (Portugal), Cyprus and Northern Norway. The Azores will not be covered until the ground segment is upgraded to EGNOS V3 that will be in place (around 2025). This is because the current technology (so-called EGNOS V2) and Ranging and Monitoring Stations (RIMS) network do not allow to cover such territories. Cyprus is expected to be covered in 2020 and Northern Norway in 2023 with the deployment of the EGNOS V2.4.2-B evolution.

d) Market uptake

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.gsc-europa.eu/>

In 2019, the estimated number of Galileo-enabled smartphones in use worldwide has reached one billion. Since the declaration of Galileo Initial Services in 2016, the market uptake of Galileo-enabled smartphones has been very rapid. In 2019, there were 156 Galileo-enabled smartphone models available on the market. The full overview of Galileo-enabled devices is available online ⁽²⁾. Other activities supporting the market uptake of Galileo included Galileo acceleration and hackathon initiatives to foster the developments of applications that use Galileo signals and standardisation activities to ensure that Galileo is properly considered in standardisation bodies. When it comes to European GNSS downstream standardisation, the Commission aims to facilitate the development and promote the inclusion of Galileo and EGNOS in the ongoing relevant work of the standardisation organisations, in particular with voluntary measures.

A major step in enhancing the market uptake of EGNOS was the adoption of measures laying down airspace usage requirements and operating procedures for performance-based navigation in 2018. In a nutshell, the Regulation requires the publication of Localizer Performance with Vertical guidance (LPV procedures) delivered by EGNOS in all European instrument runway ends before January 2024. This underlines the importance and role of EGNOS as a key enabler for performance-based navigation for modernisation of the aviation in Europe.

In the field of *international cooperation*, negotiations with the US and Norway for access to the Galileo Public Regulated Service continued. Progress was made with regard to the extension of EGNOS to European Neighbourhood Policy countries (South). The Commission approved 9 million EUR funding for infrastructure needed to provide the EGNOS Safety of Life signal in the ENP South countries.

Concerning *radio frequency and spectrum management activities*, a Commission delegation participated at the 2019 World Radio Communication Conference. With regard to Galileo, the main issue was a better protection of the Galileo E6 frequency band against unintended interference from radio amateurs in the same frequency band.

e) Management of Intellectual Property Rights

The Commission has granted extended licences to Galileo-related intellectual property rights (IPR), thus enabling industry to make use of European knowledge and assets generated under the EU Space programme. The Commission has further secured several inventions generated by the industry and applied for patents generated by the Commission staff and in direct procurement. Finally, the Commission has licensed several patents from the industry and sublicensed them subsequently for free use of the general public.

f) Project management and risk management

Since 2014, the Galileo programme management processes are described in the Programme Management Plan, which is common for the European Commission, European GNSS Agency and European Space Agency. It sets up a framework for the decision-making (boards and meetings), programme management (procurement management, schedule control, budget, cost and cash management, risk management) and related regular reporting (monthly, quarterly and annually). The Risk Management Plan details the way the risks are identified, classified and treated until their reduction or mitigation.

Key achievements

Over the past years, the key priority has been ensuring the continuity of Galileo and EGNOS services, continuing preparations for full operational capability of Galileo services and promotion of market uptake of Galileo and EGNOS services. These achievements can be highlighted as follows:

1. Continuity of Galileo and EGNOS services

Galileo Initial Services were declared operational on 15 December 2016 and have been continuously provided and have gradually improved since then. Galileo is operational which gives the Union a strong position on the world stage of satellite navigation where the US and Russian systems are being modernised and the Chinese system is rapidly being developed.

Galileo Initial Services are fully interoperable with GPS, and their combined use is bringing more accurate and reliable positioning for end users. Navigation in cities, where tall buildings can often block satellite signals, particularly benefits from the increased positioning accuracy of Galileo and GPS combined. In addition, Galileo's accurate timing contributes to enabling more resilient synchronisation of banking and financial transactions, telecommunication and energy distribution networks to help them operate more efficiently. Finally, Galileo is helping to save lives. **Galileo's Search and Rescue service reduces drastically the time to detect emergency distress beacons from up to three hours to just ten minutes.** As the location of the distress beacon is determined more accurately, people lost at sea or in the mountains can be rescued more quickly. Furthermore since January 2020, Galileo is also offering a unique functionality to Search and Rescue, called the Return Link, which provides an acknowledgment message back to users in distress, confirming the correct localization of their distress.

2. Market uptake

The number of Galileo-enabled smartphones in use has soared to 1 billion in just 3 years. The majority of smartphone producers have included and enabled Galileo on their chipsets. Europe's investment in Galileo is bringing daily benefits to millions of people.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.usegalileo.eu>

Another key achievement is the use of satellite signals for locating people calling the EU-wide emergency number 112. Location information based on Galileo provides an accuracy of only a few meters in contrast to the current Cell ID technology where the accuracy varies from 2 km to 10 km. In 2019, public services dealing with the location information during a 112 emergency call in several EU Member States were supported from the EU funded Help 112 project. The currently ongoing Help 112 II project is supporting seven Member States: Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany, Portugal, Hungary, and Croatia.

3. Environment and climate change

Global navigation satellite systems Galileo and EGNOS contribute towards tackling climate change by supporting environmentally friendly transport solutions, sustainable agriculture and meteorological monitoring. For example:

- Reduced fuel consumption: satellite navigation enables optimal routes for cars, buses, boats and airplanes by providing accurate positions. This allows significant reduction of the fuel required to go from A to B and thus contributes to the reduction of CO2 emissions.
- Sustainable agriculture: As the centrepiece of precision farming, use of satellite navigation reduces the need for fertilisers. In turn, this means a reduction of greenhouse gases such as CO2, nitrous oxide and ammonia in the atmosphere.

Evaluation/studies conducted

In 2017, an interim evaluation of the European GNSS programmes (EGNOS and Galileo) and evaluation of the European GNSS Agency ⁽³⁾ was carried out. Since then no further evaluations or studies were conducted.

In 2018, the Commission adopted an Impact Assessment accompanying the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for Space Programme** ⁽⁴⁾.

In 2020, the Commission is undertaking an impact assessment study on an initiative to foster the use of Galileo in critical infrastructure that depends on space services for timing and synchronisation (in energy, telecommunications and bank/finance transaction networks). The initiative considers awareness actions on Galileo and EGNOS's features, specific industrial or R & D support, or the preparation of specific legislation. An open public consultation will be part of the input to the impact assessment.

Forthcoming implementation

The priorities for 2020 are to:

1. Ensure service continuity for Galileo and EGNOS services, and their continuous improvement, robustness and security of the system and in particular the redundancy of the ground segment;
2. Continue preparations for the full operational capability of Galileo services;
3. Promote the market uptake of Galileo and EGNOS services by continuing the ongoing activities and by implementing the actions proposed in the Space Strategy for Europe;
4. Prepare for the further implementation of the programmes after 2020.

Galileo service provision

The main priority for 2020 is to ensure service continuity of Galileo services and their continuous improvement.

With regard to Galileo infrastructure, the key actions in 2020 are the following:

- a) Space segment: signature of the contract for the transition satellites;
- b) Ground segment: reinforce the redundancy of the ground mission segment, upgrade of the ground segment and deployment of System Build version 2.0;
- c) Carry out necessary activities to deal with the impact of the Galileo service incident of July 2019.

With regard to Galileo services, the key actions in 2020 are the following:

- a) Ensure the continuity of Galileo Initial Services according to the service level commitments published in the Service Definition Documents; ensure stability, availability and reliability of services;
- b) Continue gradual Galileo service improvements including by updating the minimum performance levels in the Service Definition Documents and by introducing the Galileo Search and Rescue service Return Link Service functionality;
- c) Continue development of the Galileo Commercial Service in its two distinct functionalities: High Accuracy Service and Commercial Authentication Service;
- d) Continue development of new functionalities of the existing Galileo services (such as Open Service Navigation Message Authentication) and continue preparation for new Galileo services (such as the emergency service);
- e) Independently monitor and report on the Galileo performance through the Galileo Reference Centre;

⁽³⁾ SWD (2017) 346

⁽⁴⁾ SWD(2018) 327 final

With regard to security, key actions will include measures to ensure the accreditation of the system, in particular cybersecurity issues.

EGNOS service provision

Continuity of EGNOS services and their continuous improvement are the key objectives for EGNOS in both medium and long term. On this basis and to guarantee the continuity of services beyond 2020 by managing obsolescence, the activities of the system (V2.4.2-A) will be finalised with the qualification of new Central Processing Facility (CPF) technology. This is the most critical EGNOS subsystem in terms of obsolescence. Additionally, the development of another system evolution (V242-B) will continue. It will include new technology for the channel-C of the Ranging and Integrity Monitoring Stations (RIMS-C), and will deploy three new RIMS (in Finland, Ukraine and Jordan) to ensure full Member States' European territories coverage (except possibly Azores).

The new generation of EGNOS, EGNOS version 3, will be the first satellite-based augmentation system implementing dual frequency and multi-constellation, augmenting both GPS and Galileo systems. The development activities for EGNOS version 3 will continue in 2020, notably:

- a) EGNOS version 3 system development activities;
- b) Finalisation of standards for dual frequency multi-constellation satellite-based augmentation system;
- c) Finalisation of the procurement of the new EGNOS Service Provider, the EGNOS service data access facility (SDAF) (i.e. EDAS version 3) and an EGNOS GEO-4 contract;
- d) Follow-up of the EGNOS V3 security accreditation process;

Activities will continue for preparing the extension of EGNOS to the partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Instrument South and for the evolution roadmap for EGNOS.

Market uptake

The market uptake of Galileo and EGNOS is a priority of the Space Strategy for Europe. The Commission will continue its activities to achieve this goal, with an increasing number of actions that GSA will also carry out within its field of competence. Various measures are planned for 2020 with a focus on:

- a) Pursuing market uptake, standardisation and research and development activities, notably in three priority domains: intelligent transport, intelligent infrastructures and intelligent interconnectivity;
- b) Strengthening Europe's role as a global actor in space: promote worldwide use of Galileo and EGNOS, foster cooperation with strategic partners and ensure system interoperability with other systems, pursue economic diplomacy and outreach activities, and continue international negotiations on PRS access and EGNOS coverage extension, notably to partner countries of the European Neighbourhood Instrument South and East;
- c) Pursuing radio spectrum coordination and frequency protection activities.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposed to help maintain and further enhance the EU's leadership in space. The Commission's proposal brings all existing and new space activities under the umbrella of a single EU space programme. The proposal for the EU space programme maintains existing infrastructure and services and introduces a number of new features such as fostering a strong and innovative space industry in Europe, maintaining Europe's autonomous access to space and a unified system of governance.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 876/2002 and Regulation (EC) No 683/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council	2014 – 2020	7 071,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	3,4	2,1	3,4	2,5	3,0	3,0	3,5	20,8
Operational appropriations	1 322,8	1 058,5	848,2	895,0	804,9	687,7	1 203,5	6 820,6
Total	1 326,2	1 060,6	851,6	897,5	807,9	690,7	1 207,0	6 841,4

2. Implementation rates

2019				2020			
CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate

Voted appropriations	690,718	100,00 %	992,971	99,77 %	1 207,028	0,03 %	953,500	4,92 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	818,757	94,38 %	1 248,091	83,37 %	1 325,919	0,03 %	1 228,101	4,28 %

(*) 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 performance of the Galileo programme to develop and provide global satellite-based radio navigation infrastructures and services by 2020 progressed but was impacted by the Galileo service incident of July 2019. The Commission set up an independent Inquiry Board, which analysed the causes of the incident and provided recommendations. In particular, those actions cover the review of Galileo’s operational management, including interactions between the Commission, the GSA and ESA, in order to achieve a system and an organisation that will always ensure uninterrupted service provision. For example, some measures establishing a unique end-to end maintenance and configuration management are being introduced and operational procedures and processes have been updated. The Commission has put in place a process for implementation of these recommendations to ensure that Galileo is a stable, robust and resilient system. One of the priorities for 2020 is to carry out all activities to deal with the impact of this incident.

With regard to the ground infrastructure, a deployment of the new system release Galileo System Build 1.5.1 (SB1.5.1) has progressed significantly despite delays incurred due the Galileo incident. This system release includes improvements in the infrastructure in order to support the provision of Galileo Services with increased availability. On the satellites, the last launch of Galileo satellites took place in July 2018 and the in-orbit test review took place early 2019, increasing the total count of operational satellites in-orbit to 26. The manufacturing of additional satellites to complete the constellation and provide sufficient spare for ensuring its continuity has continued according to the planned schedule. The current planning assumes that the first satellites shall come out of the production chain by third quarter of 2020 for a launch date to be planned afterwards as soon as all conditions are met including on ground segment and operations side. As the programme intends to use the Ariane-6 launcher in a near future, development of a specific dispenser to carry the Galileo satellites on-board Ariane-6 has also been initiated in 2019 and shall be completed by mid-2021.

With regard to the Galileo services, gradual service improvements took place: a new Service Definition Document for the Open Service of Galileo providing minimum performances levels in positioning and timing was published in 2019 and a new Search and Rescue functionality called the Return Link Service which was declared operational in January 2020. By the end of 2021, the High Accuracy Service with 20cm positioning accuracy should be provided in Europe, its implementation schedule is linked to the deployment of Galileo ground and space infrastructure as outlined here above.

The Programme has also progressed on the preparation of the Galileo Second Generation with the procurement of ‘Transition Satellites’ through a competitive dialogue with industry that started in 2018. The procurement process has proceeded according to schedule and shall result in a contract award in the second half of 2020. The main challenges encountered with this procurement were linked to the consolidation of the technical specifications for these satellites as the work on the Galileo 2nd Generation requirements definition was not completed yet.

EGNOS programme

The performance of the EGNOS programme to provide satellite-based services improving the performance of GPS to gradually cover all EU Member States has steadily improved and just few territories remain uncovered. The coverage of these territories is envisage to be achieved with the launch of the EGNOS V3 technology around 2025..

The continuous delivery of EGNOS services was successfully achieved by efficient implementation of recurrent activities and preparation of system updates. To guarantee the continuity of services beyond 2020, work has continued on the development of a major EGNOS release (V2.4.2-A) and the completion of the study phase of an additional EGNOS evolution (V2.4.2-B), which will improve the coverage Member States’ European territories. The implementation phase of this latter evolution was procured in 2019 and is expected to deliver its services around 2023.

The EGNOS service area was extended up to latitude 72 degrees north. To that end, an update of the EGNOS Safety of Life Service Definition Document was published in February 2019. Most of the Member States’ European territories and the territories of Norway and Switzerland are fully covered, with the exception of the Azores (Portugal), Cyprus and Northern Norway. Northern Norway is expected to be covered in 2023 with the deployment of the EGNOS V2.4.2-B evolution.

Activities for the development of a new generation of EGNOS, EGNOS version 3, continued. In October 2019, a satellite hosting the GEO-3 payload for EGNOS version 3 was successfully launched.

Market share of the EU GNSS industry in worldwide downstream market

With regard to the general objective of for supporting European presence in space and the development of satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing services, and in particular the programme performance for the market share of EU GNSS industry in worldwide GNSS downstream market, steady progress was achieved.

In 2018 and 2019, the presence of EGNOS in receiver models stabilised at 68 % of the total number of receiver models worldwide. Contrary to the expectations in 2014 when a trend of steady growth was predicted and the milestones were set, the market penetration of EGNOS is lower than expected, in particular in the location based services. This is because the early uptake of dual frequency in receiver models outperformed by far the benefit of EGNOS. Also, a rapid development in many GNSS constellations as well as commercial augmentations of the signals increased the performances of the GNSS to the level where the EGNOS benefits are less competitive than assumed in 2014. With regard to the 2020 target, it can be assumed that the number of EGNOS enabled receivers will not grow beyond 70 % of receiver models worldwide.

In 2019, the presence of Galileo in receiver models was at 42 % of the total number of receiver models worldwide. In 2014 when the 2020 target was set, it was expected that the number of Galileo enabled receivers will double in 7 years. There has been a tremendous uptake of Galileo-enabled smartphones, at the end of 2019 there were more than one billion of them on the market. However, in other market segments such as rail, maritime or internet of things the market penetration of Galileo is lower. This is due to various reasons: long lifetime of receivers in the market (5-10 years models still on market), missing certification or standardisation, constraint in energy consumption of the chips on the connected objects, cost of optimisation (still many GPS-only models available) and receiver models serving only regional markets (e.g. Chinese or US manufacturers). Also, main manufacturers were all equipping their devices with Galileo as preparation for Galileo Initial Services and in the years 2016-2020 the activities will concentrate more on activation and optimisation of Galileo use which is not reflected in the statistics.

In the coming years, the market share shall increase mainly due to phasing out of old models, increasing use of Galileo in the US and use of Galileo signals in safety-critical applications in aviation or rail segments. Nevertheless, the 2020 target seems to be optimistic. For both indicators, the data are based on models in the offering of 31 largest market players over all segments, where, due to mergers and acquisitions and new entrants (mainly from China) to the data sample, resulted in decrease of the overall SBAS/EGNOS and Galileo penetration.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Supporting European presence in space and the development of satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing services

Indicator 1: Market share of EU GNSS industry in worldwide GNSS downstream market								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EGNOS present in number of receiver models: 63 %	63 %	63 %	75 %	75 %	78 %	82 %	85 %	85 %
	Actual results							
	63 %	63 %	68 %	68 %	68 %	68 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Galileo present in number of receiver models: 35 %	35 %	35 %	45 %	40 %	42 %	44 %	70 %	70 %
	Actual results							
	35 %	35 %	38 %	41 %	42 %	42 %		

Comment: The market share indicator is based on the percentage of Galileo and EGNOS receivers in the total number of receiver models worldwide. The baseline for this indicator was established in 2014 and the data is included in the 2014 market report of the European GNSS Agency and is measured annually. The trend of the production of Galileo and EGNOS enabled model receivers suggests that receiver manufacturers are gradually integrating Galileo and EGNOS into their products and the milestone target for this indicator is likely to be reached. Total number of receiver models in the GPS survey in 2012: 483. In 2018 and 2019, the presence of EGNOS in receiver models stabilised at 68 % of the total number of receiver models worldwide. Contrary to the expectations in 2014 when a trend of steady growth was predicted and the milestones were set, the market penetration of EGNOS is lower than expected, in particular in the location based services. This is because the early uptake of dual frequency in receiver models outperformed by far the benefit of EGNOS. Also, a rapid development in many GNSS constellations as well as commercial augmentations of the signals increased the performances of the GNSS to the level where the EGNOS benefits are less competitive than assumed in 2014. With regard to the 2020 target, it can be assumed that the number of EGNOS enabled receivers will not grow beyond 70 % of receiver models worldwide.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To develop and provide global satellite-based radio navigation infrastructures and services (Galileo) by 2020

Performance

The programme performance to meet the objective to develop and provide global satellite-based radio navigation infrastructures and services (Galileo) by 2020 was stable although with some resulting delays.

The infrastructure and the number of operational satellites (all services considered) for the fully deployed Galileo system will consist of 24 operational satellites plus six in-orbit spares. At the end of 2019, there are 26 Galileo satellites in orbit and all of them are providing services. 22 of them are fully operational for navigation services. The deployment of the constellation could not reach 30 satellites by the end of 2020 as initially anticipated. This is due to the signature date of the Batch#3 contract in June 2017. It took place a few months later than anticipated, in order to properly assess all implications on the programme of the decision and award of the contract. The 30 satellites in-orbit (including the two satellites on the elliptical orbit) will be reached by mid-2021.

The upgrades of the Galileo global terrestrial infrastructure and the system upgrade so-called System Build 1.5.1 which will improve the operability, robustness and security of the system was slightly delayed in 2018 due to changes in the composition of the industry consortium. The System Build 1.5.1 was expected to be implemented in 2019 but the migration was prolonged due to the impact of the Galileo service incident of July 2019. The complete System Build 1.5.1 is now expected to be fully in operations by mid-2020. The System Build 2.0, which is the baseline for Galileo Full Operational Capability will only be deployed in Q3/Q4 2021 instead of end of 2020, which is directly linked to the incident in July 2019.

With regard to the Galileo services, the Galileo initial services were declared operational on 15 December 2016. These include the Galileo Initial Open Service, the Galileo Initial Public Regulated Service, the Galileo Initial Search and Rescue Service. By the end of 2021, the High Accuracy Service with 20cm positioning accuracy should be provided in Europe. The Mission Requirements for Galileo Open Service for Safety of Life applications should be agreed in 2020. The delay for the implementation of the additional Galileo Service (HAS and CAS) is directly linked to the delays in the achievement of a system configuration for Galileo FOC (System Build 2.0) and 30 satellites deployed.

Indicator 1: Galileo infrastructure Cumulative number of operational satellites								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
		12					30	30
	Actual results							
	3	9	18	22	26	26		

Indicator 2: Galileo infrastructure New terrestrial infrastructure deployed version								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
June 2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
	IOV final configuration	Ground Segment Version 2.0	System Build 1.5.0	System Build 1.5.0	System build 1.5.1	System build 1.5.1	System Build 2.0	System Build 2.0
	Actual results							
		GSM Version 2.1/GCS 2.0	SystemB 1.5.0	SB 1.5.0	SB 1.5.0	Migration ongoing to system build 1.5.1		

Indicator 3: Galileo services provision Number of services implemented								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			3	3	3	3	5	5
	Actual results							
		0	3	3	3	3		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Galileo – services	02 05 01		957.5

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	

Galileo – services	F			3	3	3	3	5
	P	0	0	3	3	3	3	

Specific Objective 2: To provide satellite-based services improving the performance of GPS to gradually cover the whole ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) region by 2020 (EGNOS) and European neighbouring countries

Indicator 1: Progress of the EGNOS coverage extension versus agreed coverage extension

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
		Establish EGNOS service evolution plan v2.0	Advancement in coverage	Advancement in coverage	Advancement in coverage	Advancement in coverage	Coverage of EU -28 with EGNOS in line with the EGNOS Service – Evolution plan	Coverage of EU-28 with EGNOS in line with the EGNOS Service Evolution Plan
	Actual results							
		EGNOS Service Evolution Plan v2.0 was established	98.98 % coverage of EU28-NO-SW land masses for APV-I	98.9 % coverage of EU28-NO-SW land masses for APV-I	98.7 % coverage of EU28-NO-SW land masses for APV-I	99.1 % coverage of EU 28-NO-SW land masses for APV-I		

Comment: According to the legal base (Regulation (EU) No 1285/2013) the specific objectives of EGNOS cover the following 3 services. Open Service (OS), EGNOS Data Access Service (EDAS) and Safety-of-Life Service (SoL). In 2015, the EGNOS Service Evolution Plan (SEP) was agreed between the Commission and the European GNSS Agency and it constitutes the baseline for the implementation of the EGNOS mission and security requirements. It defines the extension of EGNOS services over the European territory in terms of their availability, which is depicted in a form of ‘availability maps’. The progress of EGNOS APV-I coverage extension versus the Programme objective to cover EU28 states (plus Norway and Switzerland) is reported through the percentage of EU28-NO-CH land masses which effectively achieve APV-I 99 % availability coverage (i.e. observed EGNOS performance). APV-I = Approach procedure with vertical guidance, category 1.

Indicator 2: EGNOS service availability index based on the number of airports with EGNOS-based approach procedures with an operational status versus the total number of airports with EGNOS – based approach procedures

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Service availability index: 100 %			Maintain the service availability: 99 %	Maintain the service availability: 99 %	Maintain the service availability: 99 %	Maintain the service availability: 99 %	Maintain the service availability index constantly at least on 99 %	Maintain the service availability index constantly at least on 99 %
	Actual results							
	98 %	100 %	> 99 %	100 %	100 %	> 99 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total number of airports with EGNOS procedures: 93							Increase the number of airports with EGNOS procedures	Increase the number of airports with EGNOS procedures
	Actual results							
	132	174	230	251	315	342		

2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total number of airports with an operational status: 93							Increase the number of airports with EGNOS procedures	Increase the number of airports with EGNOS procedures
	Actual results							
	129	173	230	251	315	342		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
EGNOS – services	02 05 02		246
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EGNOS – services in operation:	F	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	3	3	3	3	3	3	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

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)

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

Lead DG: ENER

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

ITER is a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source. ITER is currently under construction in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance in the south of France. In an unprecedented international effort, seven partners – China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States – have pooled their financial and scientific resources to take fusion energy to the threshold of industrial exploitation. ITER will not produce electricity, but it will resolve critical scientific and technical issues and thereby take fusion to the point where industrial applications can be designed. As the first fusion device in the world to produce and sustain a plasma that outputs more power than is put into it, ITER will be the proof of principle for magnetically-confined burning plasmas that will open the way to the next step: a demonstration fusion power plant.

The programme covers the European contribution to the ITER Organization (IO) for the construction of the ITER facility, which includes the procurement of equipment, installation, general technical and administrative support for the construction phase, and participation in commissioning and operations. It also covers other ITER-related activities, such as the Broader Approach activities with Japan. These European contributions are delivered through Fusion for Energy (F4E), the European Domestic Agency located in Barcelona (Spain). F4E was set up in 2007 as a European Joint Undertaking by a Council Decision under the Euratom Treaty

EU added value of the programme

ITER will achieve what no single country can do on its own. The risk, costs, and long-term nature of a large research project such as ITER puts it beyond the reach of individual EU Member States and even of the EU itself. Thus, the establishment of a global framework through an international agreement between Euratom and six other Parties was essential to undertake this large-scale scientific experiment. Construction started in 2007 and Euratom, as the Host Party of the project, is responsible for 45 % of the construction phase. Euratom's obligations to the project are fully discharged through the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy (F4E)

Europe's support to ITER and ITER-related activities such as the Broader Approach activities with Japan contributes to the strategic agenda of the European Union for clean and secure energy. In particular, it supports the first objective of the Commission's political agenda: *'boosting growth, jobs and investment in future high potential technologies'*. Supporting European businesses and research organisations to work on ITER represents an investment in the high-tech and advanced civil engineering industries. To date, F4E has awarded over 700 contracts and grants to companies, including SMEs, in 24 countries, for a value of almost EUR 5 billion.

Fusion has enormous potential and net present value as an environmentally friendly and virtually unlimited source of energy. Therefore, its development as a future energy technology contributes to the Research & Innovation pillar of the Energy Union. Thanks to its leadership in fusion research and the construction of ITER, Europe will be in a privileged position to reap the benefits of constructing and operating the first generation of fusion power plants in the future.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) is the lead DG for the implementation of the European contribution to ITER. The programme is managed under the indirect management mode through the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy (F4E).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

In 2015, the ITER Council approved an action plan prepared by the ITER Organization (IO) to address the challenges faced by the project related to schedule, cost and governance. One of the main actions was the revision of the baseline (long-term schedule, cost and scope) in 2016. The updated schedule follows the *'staged approach'* which first prioritises the construction of the components essential to achieving First Plasma (FP, the beginning of operation) in 2025, followed by a series of installation and testing phases before starting the full performance phase (Deuterium-Tritium operation) in 2035.

ITER continues to move towards its assembly phase. As of the end of November 2019, the work up to First Plasma is 65.9 % completed. This progress corresponds to an average rate of 0.68 % per month over the last 21 months. To reach the First Plasma milestone, all components from the ITER members need to be available and delivered on time to the ITER Organization (IO), and assembled and installed in the Tokamak Complex.

Although the machine will begin preliminary operations in 2025, ITER construction will nevertheless continue until 2035, when testing will end and experimental operation will begin. The percentage completion up to the end of all construction activities in 2035 is now 51.8 %. The European in-kind contribution to the ITER project has progressed over the course of 2019 from ca. 34 % (December 2018) to almost 42 % (December 2019) against a planned target of almost 48 %. The European cash contribution to IO by the end of 2019 amounts to about EUR 1 140 million (committed amount) for an equivalent value of about one third of the overall cash contribution for the construction phase.

Key achievements

In terms of governance, since 2015 the goal has been to address the issues in management and project culture that caused, along with other factors, the project's delays and cost overruns. At European level, changes made to improve the functioning of Fusion for Energy (F4E). New management with industrial experience was appointed at F4E, and new monitoring systems and indicators were introduced along with strategies to streamline the governance of the project. The effects of these efforts are becoming visible, with the construction progressing in accordance with the 2016 baseline, renewed confidence in the project among the stakeholders, and coverage in the media reporting on the project's 'turnaround'.

A full series of key performance indicators dedicated to the specific monitoring of the schedule and cost performance have been recently introduced to better monitor the progress and the efficiency of F4E in delivering the Euratom contribution to the ITER project. A dashboard report based on these indicators is submitted regularly to the Governing Board. It includes metrics based on an Earned Value Management system.

For what concerns the progress at the ITER site, in November 2019 the walls & floors of the Tokamak building were finished, that marked the successful completion of an important construction milestone, about 5 years from the first pouring of concrete for the basemat slab. This first-of-a-kind infrastructure for a fusion device was a new territory for all involved and needed to comply with the extremely strict standards set by France's Nuclear Safety Authority. For its construction, approximately 10 types of concrete were developed to be used in different parts of the edifice. The building counts more than 80 000 embedded plates, anchored deep into the concrete, and positioned with accuracy to match the location of the ITER equipment that will be installed. Moreover, 18 of the 46 heavy doors weighing 70 tons each have been installed, to keep inside the radiation resulting from the fusion reaction.

Construction is well advanced on the Crane Hall, which will enlarge the Tokamak building to accommodate the cranes that will move the components during assembly. The first and second modules of its roof were lifted into place by Fusion for Energy (F4E) on 4 December 2019.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The Mid-term progress report in accordance with Article 5b of the Council Decision establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it has been adopted on 21 March 2019 (COM(2019)147 final (1)). The evaluation states that following the overhaul in management, the project is now on track within its current (2016) baseline, and early indicators show positive effects of the change. However, ITER's construction and management are still under improvement; in such a long-term project, it will be important to monitor whether these positive effects continue and grow over the next few years. Regarding ITER's place in energy policy and decarbonisation, the project remains an important part of EU energy and innovation policy, and although it does not contribute directly to energy and climate targets in the short- to medium-term, its potential role in the decarbonisation of the energy landscape post-2050 is very significant.

Three external studies were conducted in 2018 and 2019. The key findings of these studies were presented in the Programme Statements 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

In 2020, the European in-kind contribution to the ITER project should progress by ca. 10 % with the following main deliverables by F4E:

- Magnets: several components will be completed (all 10 Toroidal Field Coil Winding Packs) and handed over to IO (the 9 Pre-Compression Rings, the first 2 out of 10 Toroidal Field Coils, 2 out of 5 Poloidal Field Coils).
- Main Vacuum Vessel: the full production for all sectors will continue, heading towards final assembly of sectors 5 and 4.
- Blanket System: signature of the various contracts for the series manufacturing of the EU share of First Wall panels, the first batch of Beryllium tiles and the CopperCromeZirconium alloy raw material.
- Divertor: the main activities will be the follow-up of the on-going manufacture of the full-scale prototypes of the divertor inner vertical target by the additional suppliers and of the on-going manufacture of the two contracts for Stage I of the series production of the divertor cassette body.
- Remote Handling: the main activities will focus on the continuation of preliminary design activities and starting, in some areas, the final design activities, accompanied by complementary prototyping and qualification activities.
- Vacuum Pumping: The contract for Leak Detection systems will be signed. Manufacturing of the Torus and Cryostat Cryopumping System will be initiated. Megavolt ITER Injector & Concept Advancement (MITICA) contracts will focus on manufacturing and assembly. As for the Front-end Cryopump Distribution System, final design will be completed and all components will be in the manufacturing stage. Work for the Warm Regenerationlines will be completed.
- Tritium Plant and ITER Radiological & Environmental Monitoring Systems (REMS): First activities will start in support of the Hydrogen Isotope Separation system. As for Radiation and Environmental Monitoring Systems, the tendering process for 1st plasma activities will be on-going.
- Cryoplant: End of installation for Liquid Nitrogen Plant and Auxiliary Systems components will take place.

(1) <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2019/EN/COM-2019-147-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

- RadioFrequency Heating & Current-Drive: The Electron Cyclotron (EC) system (Upper Launchers and ex-vessel waveguide systems) procurement activities will focus on the fabrication of the blanket shield module and material, in parallel to final design/prototype and testing activities related to the ex-vessel systems. For the EC Plant Control system, the main activity will be the delivery, installation and commissioning of the ECPC Stage 2 in ITER-IO.
- Electron Cyclotron Gyrotrons, Power Sources and Power Supplies (PS): the manufacturing and testing of the last units of the Main and Body High Voltage Power Supplies will continue, the first sets will be delivered to ITER Cadarache and the preparation of the EU Gyrotrons tendering procedure will be initiated.
- Neutral Beam (NB) Heating & Current Drive (non FP): As for the Neutral Beam (NB) Test Facility at RFX-Padua, for MITICA, the activities in the test bed will continue with commissioning and testing of vessel and power supplies. The contract for MITICA Cryoplant will be completed. The contracts for MITICA diagnostics, MITICA Beam Source, MITICA Beam line components will proceed. As for the NB at ITER-Cadarache, detailed design and manufacturing design consolidation for Neutral Beam power supplies systems of the ITER units will be developed.
- Diagnostics (partly FP): Several diagnostics systems will finalize either the preliminary design phase or the final design phase. Procurement activities will encompass manufacturing contracts- as for the electrical auxiliary components – and design contracts as for the core plasma Thomson scattering system.
- Test Blanket Systems (TBS – non-FP): The activities, performed in collaboration with EUROfusion, will be mainly focused on the Preliminary Design and Safety Analyses.
- Site, Buildings and Power supply: completion of the civil works in the Tokamak Complex and erection of the Tokamak Building steel structure in order to grant crane access from the Assembly Building to the Tokamak Pit to allow installation of the Cryostat Base by IO. Alongside this, there will be deliveries of building services equipment for the Tokamak Complex, deliveries related to electrical networks and load centres and the completion of the Cryoplant and Building Services auxiliary buildings.
- The cash contribution to IO for 2021 of about 250M€ will be committed.
- Broader Approach (BA): The activities in 2020 will focus on the delivery of the remaining EU contributions within the frame of BA Phase I, and the preparation for BA Phase II.

F4E plans to commit more than EUR 550 million for procurement contracts.

In 2021, the European in-kind contribution to the ITER project is expected to progress by ca 9 %. The main deliverables by F4E in relation to ITER will be the following:

- Magnets: three Toroidal Field Coils and one Poloidal Field Coil.
- Main Vacuum Vessel: the first Sector deliveries.
- Blanket System: F4E will award contracts for the procurement completing the need for the Beryllium and CuCrZr materials in relation to the series production. High heat flux testing will be carried out on First Wall panel full-scale prototypes to assess the performance of the selected manufacturing routes. F4E will award the contract for the first 30 degree sector pipe bundles of blanket cooling manifold.
- Divertor Systems: F4E will sign with IO the Procurement Arrangement (PA) for the Divertor rails project as well as the contract for Stage 2 of the Cassette Body Series Production. High heat flux testing will also be carried out on full-scale prototypes of the divertor inner vertical target.
- Remote Handling: Divertor Remote Handling systems will further develop the final design by already running task orders and new contracts, supported in some areas by laboratory tests. Cask & Plug RH systems will continue final design development of FP components and gradually moving from preliminary design to final design of non-FP cask systems with existing and new contracts. Neutral Beam Remote Handling systems FP components will continue final design development and prototyping of FP components. In-Vessel Viewing systems will focus on final design activities, validated by prototyping.
- Cryoplant (FP), Vacuum Pumping and Fuel Cycle: F4E will sign a contract for manufacturing and testing of the NB Front End Cryodistribution System as well as for the cryostat leak detection and localization. In the area of Fuel Cycle, F4E will sign a specific contract for the Waste Management Systems Preliminary Design.
- Antennas and Plasma Engineering: The main contract for Manufacturing, Assembling & Testing of the EC Upper Launcher Port Plug will be awarded.
- Neutral Beam Heating and EC Power Supplies and Sources: F4E will sign specific contracts for the Padua Research on ITER Megavolt Accelerator (PRIMA) assembly as well as for MITICA control system. F4E plans that the contract for NBI-1&2 Drift Duct will be signed. Sets of HV power supplies for the EC will be delivered during the year and installation and commissioning on ITER site completed for the first sets.
- Diagnostics: Manufacturing activities for several Diagnostic components and systems, most of them essential for first plasma will continue and some first plasma (FP) components of the Magnetics diagnostic and the Tokamak electrical services will be delivered in 2021. F4E will launch or sign additional contracts for the manufacturing of electrical feedthroughs, front-end components (waveguides, mirrors and horns) for the collective Thomson scattering system, supporting platforms for the in-

vessel bolometer cameras, and different components (in-port and ex-port) for the wide-angle viewing system, among others. F4E plans to sign a framework contract for the design of the core plasma Thomson scattering system.

- Test Blanket Systems (TBS): The preliminary design phase will continue for Test Blanket Module (TBM) Sets, Ancillary Systems, Safety and Accidental Analyse and TBM Set Fabrication Development and Manufacturing studies. The collaboration with EUROfusion will continue.
- Site, Buildings and Power Supplies: F4E will make the remaining areas of the Tokamak building not delivered in 2020 (Level L3, L4 and L5) ready for IO contractors to work (RFIOC) as well as levels B2, B1 and L1 of the Tritium building to enable IO contractors to continue assembly activities. The contracts for Architect Engineer Design as well as Support to the Owner for Buildings 21, 23, 24 (Hot Cell Complex), will be signed.

Cash contributions to the ITER organization for the year 2022: ca. EUR 300 million (forecast).

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The proposal for the future ITER programme is included in the 2021-2027 MFF Heading 1 ‘Single Market, Innovation and Digital’ under the name ‘International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)’.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
2013/791/Euratom: Council Decision of 13 December 2013 amending Decision 2007/198/Euratom establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it	2019 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	8,9	9,7	6,6	7,3	6,4	6,5	6,4	51,8
Joint undertaking	720,9	382,2	323,3	315,2	369,9	402,6	358,4	2 872,5
Total	729,8	391,9	329,9	322,5	376,4	409,1	364,8	2 924,3

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	409,116	99,99 %	361,254	99,79 %	364,775	99,84 %	445,466	27,27 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	427,669	99,69 %	380,020	99,41 %	366,092	99,84 %	447,189	27,23 %

(*) 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 ITER project/programmes is performing well. The deficiencies (immaturity of the design and the manufacturing challenges, management deficiencies and a lack of cooperation between the Domestic Agencies and the ITER Organization, schedule and cost estimate thus perceived to be unreliable) identified in the beginning of the 2014-2020 MFF period have been addressed, which improved the overall effectiveness of the project and thus allows moving to the reactor’s assembly phase. In practical terms, the ITER Parties launched in 2015 a major overhaul of the project, which included the appointment of a new senior management in the ITER Organization (IO) with an Action Plan under the leadership of a new Director-General. The action plan envisaged a complete re-organisation of the ITER Organization, a close cooperation with the Domestic Agencies the freezing of the design to allow the construction of buildings and other components and the establishment of a Reserve Fund as incentive for the ITER Organization to minimize changes as much as possible. A new reliable baseline was approved in November 2016, achieved a stabilization of the project and provides a realistic basis for its completion.

Changes in the management and organization of Fusion for Energy (F4E), that acts as EU’s Domestic Agency delivering the European contribution to IO, took place in parallel to those in IO and entailed the change of the Director (in early 2016) and the majority of the top management and its organization (in 2016 and 2017).

Against this background and due to the stringent supervision and proactive management by the Commission in line with the adopted supervision strategy (nominations of the prominent experts for the management and the decision-making bodies of the IO, rigorous follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations of the annual management assessment reports, etc) as of the end of November 2019 the work up to First Plasma (first important project milestone due at the end of 2025) is 65.9 % completed. This

progress corresponds to an average rate of 0.68 % per month over the last 21 months. To reach the First Plasma milestone, all components from the ITER members need to be available and delivered on time to the ITER Organization (IO), and assembled and installed in the Tokamak Complex.

General objectives

General Objective 1: development of fusion as a potentially limitless, safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically competitive source of energy

Indicator 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at EU level compared to 1990								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
18 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	20 %	21 %	21 %	21 %
	Actual results							
	23 %	22 %	22 %					

Source: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/trends-and-projections-in-europe-2015>. The study is updated every June; the latest update in June 2018 added the data for 2016.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to provide the Euratom contribution to ITER and to the ITER related activities

Indicator 1: Percentage of Euratom’s obligations discharged by the ITER Organization (IO) through the Joint Undertaking F4E								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
6 %	13 %	19 %	27 %	36 %	46 %	57 %	63 %	63 %
	Actual results							
	13 %	17 %	24 %	31 %	35 %	41 %		

Source: Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Greenhouse_gas_emission_statistics#Trends_in_greenhouse_gas_emissions
The study is updated every June; the latest update in June 2018 added the data for 2016.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Not applicable

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals are targets to be achieved by 2030. Through these Goals, the EU has set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy. ITER and fusion development in general are on a longer timescale than this framework, but already contribute to several of these Goals at a later stage. For example, they will contribute to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate under Sustainable Development **Goal 7** (‘Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all’) and Sustainable Development **Goal 13** (‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’).

ITER also falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of virtually all Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Sustainable Development **Goal 9** (‘Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation’)

Finally, ITER is also an example of a global partnership for Sustainable Development **Goal 17** (‘Strengthen Means of Implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development’).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Not applicable

7. Programme related additional information

Since its launch, the ITER project has faced many challenges in terms of schedule, risk of cost increase and management. Many of these are linked to the inherent nature of the project, which goes beyond the current state-of-the-art of fusion technology. Some are a consequence of the complex international nature of the project, with seven international Partners (and seven Domestic Agencies responsible for procurement). Radical decisions were taken in 2015, in particular at the extraordinary ITER Council of March 2015, to put the project back on track. One of the most important decisions was the appointment of a new Director-General of the ITER Organization and the approval of an action plan for the sound and effective management of ITER.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus)

Lead DG: DEFIS

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

Copernicus is the European system for monitoring the Earth. It is a user-driven programme offering six free-of charge services to EU, national, and regional institutions, as well as to the private sector: atmosphere monitoring, marine environment monitoring, land monitoring, climate change, emergency management and security. The programme builds on the initiative on global monitoring for environment and security launched in 1998. It aims at filling the gaps in European earth observation capacities. Data is provided from space infrastructures, particularly the sentinel missions developed under the programme, other missions and in-situ infrastructure supported by the Member States. Copernicus services are mainly operated by European Union bodies and agencies.

The Copernicus Services transform this wealth of satellite and in situ data into value-added information by processing and analysing the data. Datasets stretching back for years and decades are made comparable and searchable, thus ensuring the monitoring of changes and their impact; patterns are examined and used to create better forecasts, for example, of the ocean and the atmosphere. Maps are created from imagery, features and anomalies are identified and statistical information is extracted.

EU added value of the programme

Copernicus is a programme originally launched under the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and is actually a component of the new Space Regulation, based on the European Space Strategy. Given its benefits to a wide range of EU policies and its potential for reaching the objectives of the European Green Deal, Copernicus is a prominent industrial as well as environmental policy programme. Copernicus delivers useful data and information for EU policies for agriculture, environment, development and humanitarian aid, energy or coastal surveillance, smart cities, climate change adaptation, transport, border security and many other fields, including the IT sector, culture, and education.

The Copernicus programme cannot be realised by a single Member State alone because it encompasses a pan-European capacity and depends on the provision of data and services throughout all the Member States, which needs to be coordinated at Union level. Therefore, by reason of the scale of the action, the programme is better achieved at Union level, and may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union.

Implementation mode

Copernicus has a financial envelope of EUR 4.3 billion for 2014-2020. The first part of the budget (EUR 3.394 billion) is dedicated to the development of the capacity, managed under indirect management through delegation agreements signed in 2014 with ESA and EUMETSAT.

The second part of the budget (EUR 0.897 billion) concerns the Copernicus Services, implemented both under indirect and direct management. For the indirect management part, there are in total six delegation agreements with entrusted entities, providing six services. Three delegation agreements with the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Medium-Range Weather Forecasting Centre (ECMWF) and Mercator-Océan have been signed in 2014. Two more with EU Agencies FRONTEx and EMSA were signed by the end of 2015; and the final delegation agreement with EUSatCen was signed in 2016.

The remaining part of the budget is dedicated to actions under direct management, mostly those supported by the JRC in order to implement the Copernicus Global Land and Emergency services, and the user uptake activities.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

During 2017 major progress has been made with the launch of Sentinel 2-B on 6 March, and of Sentinel 5p on 13 October. The addition of Sentinel-5p is of particular significance, as it adds the Copernicus own capacity to monitor atmospheric composition, especially as regards important polluting gases.

On 25 April 2018 Sentinel 3-B was launched. The 7 satellites are in orbit and operational as planned. Moreover, the six Copernicus Services are operational. In response to a great surge in users' uptake being registered, bringing the number of registered users to more than 200 000, 5 new Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) platforms have been launched and are operational since June 2018. More cooperation agreements have been signed with third countries and associations, including the African Union, Ukraine, Serbia, Chile, Brazil, Colombia, and India. The Commission was also Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) for 2018.

In 2019 all the set priorities have been reached. Preparations for the 8th satellite, result of an international cooperation, Sentinel 6A, have been completed. Construction and preparations for launches and operations of the first Sentinel C and D Units have proceeded

as planned. All six core services continue to be fully operational. The dissemination of Copernicus data and information having been strengthened, the user base reached new records. International activities have been pursued with old and new agreements, to promote the uptake of Copernicus data globally in order to maximise its societal value in addressing global challenges; to create the conditions – on the basis of reciprocity – for integrating the data and information acquired by international partners into the European Earth Observation data management system; and to facilitate international cooperation and access to international markets for European researchers and industry. As of December 2018, the European Commission had signed Copernicus Cooperation Arrangements with the following administrations: (i) Americas: United States, Brazil, Chile, and Colombia; (ii) Africa African Union Commission; (iii) Asia: India; (iv) Oceania: Australia; (v) Europe (candidate and associated countries): Serbia, Ukraine. In 2019, discussions have been launched or continued for cooperation arrangements with Argentina, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO); Canada, Vietnam, Thailand, Panama and the Holy See; the Indonesian Space Agency, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

This completes the first phase of the strategy with regard to Copernicus Cooperation Arrangements. As a result, Copernicus' free, full and open data access is expected to reach ca. 50 % of the world's population via a local data hub.

The main issue for the future will be the continuity of the operation, given that new satellites will have to be launched, in replacement of the actual in-orbit operating ones, when these will have completed their end-of-life cycle; Services might also need to expand towards new areas, in response to user requirements, in sectors as agriculture, coastal areas development, polar areas monitoring, CO₂ anthropogenic emissions control.

Key achievements

The seven Copernicus satellites now in orbit are producing high quality, free, and open observation data every day reaching more than 300 000 registered users. More than 12 million data products are published and the users' download volume has reached more than 200 million Gigabytes.

Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS): the CEMS Rapid Mapping component was activated over 81 times in 2019 to cover, among others, forest fires in Greece and Italy and wildfires in Australia.

Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS): A new release of the product portfolio was issued with improvements to ocean monitoring. The Copernicus Ocean State Report #3 was published, highlighting changes in the marine environment due to climate change up to year 2017, and providing an important contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14 – ocean acidification). The number of registered users accessing the service continues to grow and has now reached nearly 20 000.

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS): In 2019, the service provided the finalised products for land cover and land use at pan-European level and the complementary high-resolution layers on specific land cover characteristics for the reference year 2015. It also started the processing of the High resolution products for the 2018 reference year, and the preparation for next generation Corine Land Cover product (CLC+) that will support the LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) reporting obligations, coastal zone monitoring information in preparation with the CMEMS and High Resolution Vegetation Phenology. At Global level, in 2019 the service produced yearly mid-resolution land cover maps of the Earth's surface. The service delivered also on a ten daily basis over 20 variables supporting the monitoring of vegetation, agriculture, energy, cryosphere and water cycle.

Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS): In 2019, the joint work between CAMS and Sentinel 5P observations providers has allowed substantial progress to bring the different Sentinel data products to the high level of quality required for active assimilation in the CAMS global operational system. The CAMS success stories are showcased on the CAMS website ⁽¹⁾. Euronews continued to air daily air quality bulletins over Europe based on CAMS. A survey has estimated that, in the period June to September 2019, these bulletins have been seen by more than 7 million people across all platforms. In parallel, a media partnership with CNN International began in July 2019 to broadcast air quality updates (and climate updates) across the CNN global TV network.. CAMS has also continued to be the primary source of information for leading smartphone applications about air pollution: Apple/The Weather Channel, Windy, Breezometer, Plume Labs... Finally, all this resulted into a very substantial impact and visibility of CAMS in the international press and online media on topics such as wildfires, air quality or the ozone hole.

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S): The service entered its operational phase in June 2018 and has now a user base of over 30,000 registered users. At the end of 2019, 308 entities from 29 countries and international organizations are contributing to this European effort. Data released by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) show that 2019 was the second warmest year in a series of exceptionally warm years across the globe, as CO₂ concentrations continue to rise. Many sectoral applications are benefitting from the Service including agriculture, forestry, health, energy provision, water management, tourism and biodiversity. C3S delivers immense amount of climate data and information – over 16000 TB of total data delivered- and C3S is heavily invested in quality-assurance activities that cut across the datasets, tools, applications and services. C3S publishes monthly climate bulletins, the annual European State of the Climate and key indicators of climate change.

Copernicus Security Service (CSS): The **Copernicus Border Surveillance service (CBS)** in 2019 added three new services. In the first half of 2019, Copernicus/Eurosur Fusion Services supported Europol-led law-enforcement operation Tayrona, in which

⁽¹⁾ <https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/>

FRONTEX provided resources to protect EU external borders, focusing on countering drug smuggling and firearm trafficking in the Atlantic. In addition, Earth Observation tools have contributed to increase the efficiency of Frontex surveillance operations, where several thousand irregular migrants were detected at EU external borders. **Copernicus Maritime Surveillance service (CMS):** By the end of 2019, there were 42 user organisations registered in the system, which represents a 45 % growth in number of organisations compared to the previous year. Furthermore, a total of 3,972 EO services (i.e. one satellite image product and any relevant additional data) were delivered during the year, all at the direct request of users. CMS provided crucial support to fisheries control operations and assisted the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for several operations in Western and Eastern Africa and Sri Lanka. At the request of the Danish Defence Command – Joint Arctic Command (JACO), CMS continued to monitor pollution in Greenland on a regular basis. CMS also continued supporting customs authorities, contributing to successful operations resulting in the apprehension of drug traffickers, and supporting law enforcement operations, such as the EUNVAFOR Atlanta and Sophia operations, and Member State law enforcement authorities. **Copernicus Service in Support to EU External Action (SEA):** In 2019, the overall number of requests more than doubled, with a total of 148 requests received – a 35 % production increase compared to 2018. The number of users accessing the service also considerably increased – around 60 % – compared to 2018.

The data and information access service (DIAS) allowed better Copernicus data and information uptake. The user base has dramatically increased to above 300 000 users and is still growing. Copernicus relies not only on satellites data, but also on a wide range and number of in-situ data. This component established in 2017 an agreement with EUMETNET encompassing all six Copernicus services – it is foreseen to have a single interface providing access to meteorological, hydrological, and climatological data owned by all EUMETNET members which is recognized as a best practice of efficiency.

User uptake activities maximising the use of Copernicus applications by public and private users have been extended. A Framework Partnership Agreement with the Member States (plus Iceland and Norway) has been opened since 2017. A Copernicus support office (which acts as a helpdesk), two networks of local multipliers (the Copernicus Relays and Academy) have been set up and a communication campaign including video materials, factsheets, brochures, online tutorials, an online exchange platform and workshops has been developed. To support young companies, Copernicus Masters, Hackathons, Incubation and Accelerator Programme and training courses and material have added considerable support to universities and research, through the Copernicus Skills programme. An ERASMUS+ sectoral skill alliance for Earth Observation was created, with multiple universities and research centres developed curriculum material based on Copernicus. A summer course on Copernicus was organised with KIC Climate Change, while the Commission continues to finance post-doc scholarships in partnership with the KIC raw material. The Copernicus ‘Research and User Support’ service portal provides online training and technical support to users throughout Europe. Finally, in 2019 in Horizon 2020, 5 topics on Copernicus and 11 projects related to the programme were launched.

Cooperation arrangements have been concluded with the United States, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the African Union Commission, India, Serbia and Ukraine. Negotiations are ongoing with Argentina, Indonesia and with the United Nations Environment programme (UNEP). With Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) initial discussions are starting. Two workshops were organised for Ukraine and ASEAN countries promoting Copernicus.

In 2018, the European Commission took over the chair of the Committee for Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and is now recognised as a major space player and Copernicus is regarded as the global benchmark for earth observation. The UNFCCC COP25 conference acknowledged the increasing relevance of systematic atmospheric observations and modelling such as provided by Copernicus. This applies specifically to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, but as well to other policies of international or global nature, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the European Development Policy. Other collaborations with main global stakeholders are currently being established including with the Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the Impact Assessment accompanying the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council **establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for Space Programme** ⁽²⁾, and of the study on **ex-ante evaluation of the socioeconomic benefits of Copernicus** ⁽³⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statement 2019.. Key challenges for the future relate to global and political developments (such as climate change, security, competitiveness of European industry) as well as to lessons learned from the implementation of the programme in the past (such as governance, data distribution and linking space data with other policy areas). The priorities are (1) continuity of services (2) new missions and evolution of services, (3) development of new activities in support of answers to societal challenges, for example help in implementation of the European Green Deal. The governance model proposed for the next financial period builds on the current framework, whilst taking advantage, where appropriate, of synergies, notably as regards security.

The **Copernicus market report 2019** ⁽⁴⁾ looked at the current uptake of Copernicus in Europe. The second edition of the Copernicus Market Report details how Copernicus free and open data and information is used to tackle more and more societal,

⁽²⁾ SWD(2018) 327 final

⁽³⁾ <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/study-estimates-copernicus-benefits-be-10-times-its-costs>

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/PwC_Copernicus_Market_Report_2019.pdf

environmental and economic challenges – ranging from floods and wildfires to insect infestation and forest regrowth. The report was commissioned by the European Commission and is an update to the previous Market Report from 2016. It contains numerous new analyses, comparisons and deep dives into new benefit areas. With over 200,000 users, Copernicus is expanding fast. It has doubled its footprint on the Earth Observation (EO) scene and now supplies 20 % of the world’s EO data. The volume of downloads grew by 133 % since the first Market Report was released in 2016. On top of that, the report found that 72 % of EO companies in Europe use Copernicus (+ 11 percentage points since 2016). In a single year (2018), Copernicus generated EUR 2.9 billion of benefits to its European users, nearly half the cost of the programme. Copernicus represented about 20 % of the data used in Earth observation applications. The market for Copernicus-based applications is growing at 15 % per year.

Forthcoming implementation

For 2020, a further Sentinel launch (Sentinel 6A) is foreseen bringing the number of operational satellites to 8, as planned. The main objective of Sentinel 6 is to provide high-precision measurement of the sea level, with evident relevance for climate change observations. On the data dissemination side, the start of operations of the data and information access service has marked improved access to Copernicus, and add processing capabilities in a cloud environment for the users. New products are being tested for use, for example the ground motion service, and new non-space specialists user communities are being targeted for uptaking campaigns, for example farmers and cultural heritage operators.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposed the budget to help maintain and further enhance the EU’s leadership in space. The Commission’s proposal brings all existing and new space activities under the umbrella of a single EU space programme. The proposal for the EU space programme maintains existing infrastructure and services and introduces a number of new features such as fostering a strong and innovative space industry in Europe, maintaining Europe’s autonomous access to space and a unified system of governance. For Copernicus in particular, its contribution to the European Green Deal, will be highlighted by a new CO2 anthropogenic emissions control mission, to verify the Paris agreement commitments. Among other missions in the pipeline, a polar mission to observe Arctic changes and a land surface temperature monitoring mission.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010	2014 – 2020	4 291,5

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	2,5	2,5	2,6	2,6	2,6	2,9	3,0	18,7
Operational appropriations	360,4	553,9	583,6	604,8	627,6	858,6	643,9	4 232,8
Total	362,9	556,4	586,2	607,4	630,2	861,5	646,9	4 251,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	861,470	100,00 %	603,078	99,65 %	646,947	93,38 %	552,000	23,80 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	881,998	100,00 %	619,229	99,64 %	662,561	93,09 %	567,437	25,18 %

(*) 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 programme has continued to meet the criteria established in its general and specific objectives. The monitoring capacities, intended as operating satellites in orbit, ground infrastructure and in-situ network, have been successfully deployed. This has guaranteed the achievement of an European autonomous access to environmental knowledge and a major role of the EU at international level. The six core services are all operative and provide the expected accurate and reliable level of geo-information. The quality of the outputs is confirmed by the consistent growing level of registered users up taking the programme products and information to face this surge distribution, capabilities have been enlarged through the above mentioned DIAS service. To further facilitate the uptake it might be useful to plan a ‘cloudification’ of data, enabling also the European digital Big Data projects implementation. The socioeconomic benefits have been consistently monitored and measured: the last Copernicus market report

published in February 2019 (referred to ten selected value chains) claims that the benefits in 2018 in the downstream market are estimated to be between EUR 125 and 150 million, up from EUR 54 million in 2015. They are expected to grow by an average annual growth rate of 15 % up to the end of 2020, with a progressive adoption of EO-based solutions in some industries such as renewable energies.

The downstream Earth observation (EO) sector includes all enterprises whose main business is to provide services based on EO data. The Copernicus Market Report 2019 also confirmed that 72 % of these companies use Copernicus data (an additional 6 percentage points compared to 2016). The European downstream EO sector had 6 000 full-time jobs in 2012 and 7 877 in 2016. The average growth rate of 10 % (observed between 2012 and 2016) was applied to produce estimates for 2017 and 2018.

The objective to foster the development of a competitive European space and services industry and maximising opportunities for European enterprises to develop and provide innovative Earth observation systems and services has shown positive results. The original baseline scenario assumed a 5 % annual growth rate between 2013 and 2020 in the European EO sector, thanks to the availability of Copernicus data and services. Instead, the annual growth rate observed during 2016 – 2018 period has been 14 %, demonstrating a positive effect of Copernicus ⁽⁵⁾.

The international dimension has been enlarged through specific agreements signed with several countries, adding to the role of the EU in international fora and conferences, including various UN agencies. With the conventional data access infrastructure (e.g. ESA Open hub) and the setting up of the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS), the entire Copernicus database is available on a free, full and open data policy, including to GEOSS members. The target of 100 % excludes the restricted products from the Emergency and Security Services.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Monitoring the Earth to support the protection of the environment and the efforts of civil protection and civil security

Indicator 1: Number of specific service components corresponding to users’ service-level requirements to realise that Copernicus data and Copernicus information is made available for the environment, civil protection and civil security

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Service components put into operations during year:	0	6	5	2		1	0	0
	Actual results							
	2	2	6	3	1			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total number of Operational service components: 6	0	6	11	13	13	14	14	14
	Actual results							
	2	4	10	13	14			

Comment: Service components operational at end of 2018 are Emergency Mapping, Early Warning System of Floods, Early Warning System of Forest Fires, Pan-EU land service, EU local Land service, Global land service including Global hot spot service, Atmosphere and Marine services, the three security service components (border surveillance, maritime surveillance, support to external action) and provision of access to reference data access = responding to Copernicus Regulation Art 5(1). The Climate Change Service is operational since June 2018 (earlier than the milestone initial plan which was set in 2019). The milestone was initially foreseen in 2019 and the actual result was advanced to 2018.

General Objective 2: Maximising socioeconomic benefits, thus supporting of the Europe 2020 strategy and its objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by promoting the use of Earth observation in applications and services

Indicator 1: Expected growth in downstream Earth Observation sector directly benefiting from Copernicus

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
				140			180	180
	Actual results							
				131	144	159		

Methodology: baseline index = 99

Comment: The growth of downstream EO sector is measured in terms of employment figures on the sector, with baseline as measured in 2012. The downstream Earth observation (EO) sector includes all enterprises whose main business is to provide services based on EO data. The

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/PwC_Copernicus_Market_Report_2019.pdf

Copernicus Market Report 2019 confirmed that 72 % of these companies use Copernicus data (an additional 6 percentage points compared to 2016). The European downstream EO sector had 6 000 full-time jobs in 2012 and 7 877 in 2016. The average growth rate of 10 % (observed between 2012 and 2016) was applied to produce estimates for 2017 and 2018.

Unit of measure: Employment index

General Objective 3: Fostering the development of a competitive European space and services industry and maximising opportunities for European enterprises to develop and provide innovative Earth observation systems and services

Indicator 1: Market penetration, including expansion of the existing markets and creation of new markets and competitiveness of the European downstream operators

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
100		105		116		128	140	140
	Actual results							
			149	170	195			

Methodology: baseline index = 100

Comment: The original baseline scenario assumed a 5 % annual growth rate between 2013 and 2020 in the European EO sector, thanks to the availability of Copernicus data and services. Instead, the annual growth rate observed during 2016 – 2018 period has been 14 %, demonstrating a positive effect of Copernicus.

General Objective 4: Ensuring autonomous access to environmental knowledge and key technologies for Earth observation and geoinformation services, thereby enabling Europe with independent decision-making and action

Indicator 1: Number of directives and decisions directly invoking the use of Copernicus data and Copernicus information by Union institutions and bodies for autonomous decision-making

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
5				15			12	12
	Actual results							
			7	8	10			

Comment: Official legislative acts directly referred to the Copernicus programme:

Directives and decisions mentioning the use of Copernicus

CELEX number Publication Reference

32014D0261 OJ L 136, 09/05/2014, p. 35

32013D1313 OJ L 347, 20/12/2013, p. 924

32013D1386 OJ L 354, 28/12/2013, p. 171

32017Y0322 OJ C 89, 22/03/2017, p. 1

32016Y1001 OJ C 363, 01/10/2016, p. 1

32013R0100 OJ L 81, 21/03/2012, p. 7

32011R1255 OJ L 321, 5.12.2011, p. 1

32006R1974 OJ L 368, 23.12.2006, p. 15

32018D0621 OJ L 51, 23.2.2018, p. 17–22

32018D0620 OJ L 102, 23.4.2018, p. 23–55

The table above refers to the five directives/legislative acts published before 2014 (referring to GMES- the former name of the Copernicus programme) and the new acts since 2014. It does not refer to other DGs directives or regulations, involving the use of Copernicus (e.g.: environmental legislation, Climate Action, Maritime Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Development etc.)

General Objective 5: Supporting and contributing to European policies and fostering global initiatives, such as GEOSS

Indicator 1: Percentage of Copernicus global Earth Observation data available through Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %	approximately 10 %	20 %	40 %		75 %		100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
				40 %	100 %			

Comment: With the conventional data access infrastructure (e.g. ESA Open hub) and the setting up of the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS), the entire Copernicus database is available on a free, full and open data policy, including to GEOSS members. The target of 100 % excludes the restricted products from the Emergency and Security Services. The data for this indicator is from the yearly report provided

by the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), Mercator Ocean, Frontex and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Delivering accurate and reliable data and information to Copernicus users, supplied on a long term and sustainable basis enabling the services referred to in Article 4(1) and responding to the requirements of Copernicus Core Users

Performance

As regards the specific objectives the achievements have been confirmed for the accuracy and reliability of data provision, the in-situ component and the users' number. The high level of uptakes is actually a result of the quality of the services provided. The number of registered users showed a steady increase and almost the doubling of engaged users. At the end of 2019, there were more than 300 000 users registered, demonstrating a steady increase in the number of users. About 20 % of the registered users are active 'satisfied' users (downloading a product at least once in the last quarter). The number of active users has been growing as quickly as the number of registered user, keeping the ratio stable.

Indicator 1: Number of engaged users showing sustained uptake through registered data download								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1.0				1.5			2.0	2.0
	Actual results							
				13.8	30.0			

Comment: The 2013 baseline is 10 000 registered users, milestone of 2017 means a 50 % increase from the baseline, the target value means a doubling of engaged users. At the end of 2019, there were more than 300 000 users registered, demonstrating a steady increase in the number of users. About 20 % of the registered users are active 'satisfied' users (downloading a product at least once in the last quarter). The number of active users has been growing as quickly as the number of registered user, keeping the ratio stable.

Unit of measure: The figures are in 10 000

Indicator 2: Progression in number of satisfied users expressed by the percentage of returning and engaged users								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %		20 %		0 %			65 %	65 %
	Actual results							
				20 %	20 %			

Comment: Users' satisfaction is expressed as percentage of Copernicus users which integrate the service products regularly into their workflows. About 20 % of the registered users are active 'satisfied' users (downloading a product at least once in the last quarter). The number of active users has been growing as quickly as the number of registered user, keeping the ratio stable.

Specific Objective 2: Providing sustainable and reliable access to spaceborne data and information from an autonomous European Earth observation capacity

Performance

Attention should be paid in ensuring for the future the continuity of the satellites operation and the evolution of the core Services, as well as the development of a competitive downstream market. New horizons for the use of space borne data and information have been opened by research and technological advances, for example through the interaction with Big Data and AI, new security concerns, and a renewed centrality of Copernicus data-based evidence to tackle the big challenge of climate change and implement the European Green Deal. In this framework the development of a new satellite mission dedicated to the monitoring of anthropogenic emissions could be of great help to achieve a zero emission society by 2050. Copernicus will have to find ways to keep up with the international competition in the area of Big Data exploitation and help filling the gap EU has when compared with US or China.

Indicator 1: The accomplishment of the space infrastructure in terms of satellites deployed and data it produces for integration into geo-information services								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

	1	2	4	7	7	7	8	8
Actual results								
	1	2	4	6	7			

Comment: In terms of the number of satellites deployed.
Unit of measure: Total EU autonomous satellite capacity

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs(*)	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Sentinel 1A, 2A, 3A, 1B, 2B, 3B, 5P operating	02 06 02	7	218,040
Sentinel construction of next series 1C&D, 2C&D, 3C&D, 5B&C, 6B	02 06 02	9	156,885
Total			374,925

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Construction, launch and operation of satellites	F	1	2	3	1			1
	P	1	1	2	3	1		1

(*)The Copernicus satellites called Sentinels are currently being developed for the specific needs of the Copernicus programme. Sentinel-1 provides all-weather, day and night radar imagery for land and ocean services. The first satellite (Sentinel-1A) was launched on 3 April 2014. The second one (Sentinel-1B) was launched in April 2016. Sentinel-2 provides high-resolution optical imagery for land services. It will provide for example, imagery of vegetation, soil and water cover, inland waterways and coastal areas. Sentinel-2 also delivers information for emergency services. The first Sentinel-2 satellite was launched in June 2015 and the second unit was launched in March 2017. Sentinel-3 provides high-accuracy optical, radar and altimetry data for marine and land services. It measures variables such as sea-surface topography, sea- and land-surface temperature, ocean colour and land colour with high-end accuracy and reliability. The first Sentinel-3 satellite was launched in February 2016, the second unit in April 2018. Sentinel-5 Precursor is a satellite mission launched in October 2017 and it will contribute to reduce data gaps between Envisat and Sentinel-5. The other Sentinel no. 6 will be deployed after 2019.

Specific Objective 3: Providing a sustainable and reliable access to in-situ data, relying, in particular, on existing capacities operated at European and national levels, and on global observation systems and networks

Performance

The performance was satisfactory. The supporting indicators refers to the reliability of services based on the supply of data from local sensors. At the beginning, only 2 services were able to integrate the data from local sensors in their products and in 2016 all 6 services were integrating data from local sensors because in-situ data, issued from National, local sensors and the related networks were not available, hence the coordinating role of the European Environment Agency could not be successfully played on all services. The number of core services is not going to change unless a new one is going to be created (not planned for the next years). Some developments, however, may be implemented, for example the supply through inter-service platforms of specific products, for areas like CO2 anthropogenic emissions monitoring, coastal zones management, agriculture applications, tourism, cultural heritage protection.

Indicator 1: Sustained availability of in-situ data for supporting Copernicus services								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	2	4	6	6	6	6	6	6
	Actual results							
	2	4	6	6	6			

Unit of measure: Number of Services receiving in-situ data

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2019	
		Number	EUR million
Products supplied operationally in response to user requirements in service component 'Emergency Mapping Service', 'European Flood	02 06 01	8	N/A

Alert system', 'Pan-European Land Cover', 'EU local land', 'Global land', 'Access to reference data', and in services 'Atmosphere Monitoring' and 'Marine Environment Monitoring' services			
Cross-cutting support activities and ramp-up phase of additional service components	02 06 01	1	1.4
Total		9	1.4

The numbers refer to the number of service components which produce operational geo-information products, or are receiving cross-cutting support activities. Service components are defined in the Copernicus Work Programme and multi-annual implementation plan, and are listed above under section 3.3.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Delivering accurate and reliable data and information to Copernicus users (Copernicus Climate Change Service)	56,7	38,6
Delivering accurate and reliable data and information (satellite imagery, digital or printed maps) to Copernicus users (30 % of output produced relating to 3 Copernicus services on Land monitoring, Atmosphere Monitoring and Marine Environment Monitoring is attributed to Climate Change)	21,6	9,2
Output in terms of contribution made by data from Sentinel satellites (estimated to be some 34 % of Sentinel related budget)	196,8	164,8
Total	275,1	212,6

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
113,5	195,8	202,8	209,6	198,9	275,1	212,6	1 408,3

(*)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 Copernicus Climate Change service provides access to several climate indicators (e.g. temperature increase, sea level rise, ice sheet melting, warming up of the ocean) and climate indices (e.g. based on records of temperature, precipitation, drought event) for both the identified climate drivers and the expected climate impacts ⁽⁶⁾.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Deliver accurate and reliable data and information to Copernicus users (The Copernicus Land monitoring service will provide information including on the dynamics of monitoring of biodiversity: operational continuity of Land Monitoring service is to be achieved by 2015 (30 % of output produced attributed))	9,3	3,4
Output in terms of contribution made by data from Sentinel satellites (estimated to be some 21 % of Sentinel related budget)	121,5	101,8
Total	130,8	105,2

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
64,5	97,3	98,9	107,8	101,6	130,8	105,2	706,1

(*)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

⁽⁶⁾ The European Commission signed a Delegation Agreement with ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change service. It is operational since June 2018.

The Copernicus land monitoring service provides geographical information on land cover and on variables related, for instance, to the vegetation state or the water cycle. It supports applications in a variety of domains such as spatial planning, forest management, water management, agriculture and food security, etc. The service is operational since 2012 ⁽⁷⁾.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

*‘The integration of statistics, geospatial information, **Earth observations**, and other sources of Big Data, **combined with new emerging technologies**, analytics and processes, are **becoming a fundamental requirement for countries** to measure and monitor local to global sustainable development policies and programs (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (**UN-GGIM**) co-chair)’. In this framework Copernicus supplies crucial information (indicators/sub-indicators) for monitoring the progress of the following SDGs ⁽⁸⁾:*

SDG 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service helps with data and products on crop indices, dry Matter Productivity and Soil Moisture.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) supplies air quality forecasts on pollutants, CO₂, NO₂ levels, pollens levels

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) systematically provides in near real time information on global inland water bodies and their seasonal replenishment, lake and river water levels, temperature, turbidity and trophic state, including potential water availability from snow and ice cover.

SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) provides global 5-day forecasts of desert dust and the other main aerosols (sulphates, sea salts, black and organic carbon); Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides climate indicators of electricity consumption, alongside estimates of the combined production from all renewable sources

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

The Copernicus Emergency Service can contribute to safeguarding cultural heritage by monitoring and documenting the impact of earthquakes through interferograms, which depict where the earthquake impact is most severe along with information for emergency response to different types of disasters, including floods, as well as related prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

Copernicus Climate Change Service provides routine access to key indicators on a number of Essential Climate Variables (mean temperatures and anomalies, sea-ice extension, CO₂, etc.)

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

⁽⁷⁾ The global component produces data across a range of biophysical variables at a global scale (i.e. worldwide), which describe the state of vegetation (e.g. vegetation condition index), the energy budget (e.g. land surface temperature, top of canopy reflectance) and the water cycle (e.g. soil water index). The Pan-European component will produce 5 high resolution data sets describing the main land cover types: artificial surfaces (e.g. roads and paved areas), forest areas, agricultural areas (grasslands), wetlands, and small water bodies.

The local component focuses on ‘hotspots’ which are prone to specific environmental challenges. It provides detailed land cover and land used information (over major European cities, which are the first type of ‘hotspots’, i.e. the Urban Atlas.

⁽⁸⁾ https://www.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/2018-10/Copernicus_SDG_Report_July2018pdf.pdf

SDG 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

Copernicus Marine Monitoring Service offers monitoring of the oceanic carbon cycle, ocean PH and acidity, monitoring of fishing grounds. Effective maritime surveillance can help combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, thereby contributing to sustainable fisheries goals. Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service, can supply satellite data to ensure that fishing is carried out safely and sustainably

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service delivers products for the protection of Natura 2000 areas for instance their grassland status and information on vegetation index, land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

DG ESTAT is assessing the possibility to introduce in the future new Copernicus based sub-indicators for various SDGs.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)

Lead DG: ECFIN

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is one of the three pillars of the Investment Plan for Europe that aims to revive investment in strategic projects around the continent to ensure that money reaches the real economy. The Investment Plan for Europe also includes the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP). EIAH offers a single access point to a 360-degree offer of advisory and technical assistance services to identify, prepare and develop investment projects across the European Union. The EIPP is designed as a bridge between EU project promoters and investors worldwide.

With the EFSI support, the EIB Group is providing funding for economically viable projects, especially for projects with a higher risk profile than those usually financed by the EIB. The focus is on sectors of key importance for the European economy, including:

- Strategic infrastructure including digital, transport and energy;
- Education, research, development and innovation;
- Renewable energy and resource efficiency;
- Support for small and mid-sized businesses.

EU added value of the programme

Since the global economic and financial crisis, the EU has been suffering from low levels of investment. Collective and coordinated efforts at European level are needed to reverse this downward trend and put Europe on the path of economic recovery. The Investment Plan for Europe focuses on removing obstacles to investment, providing visibility and technical assistance to investment projects and making smarter use of new and existing financial resources. The European Fund for Strategic Investments, the driver of the Investment Plan, aims to overcome current market failures by addressing market gaps and mobilising private investment. Action at the Union level allows for economies of scale in the use of the Union budget funds in combination with the EIB Group financing by catalysing private investment across the Union and making best use of the European institutions and their expertise and knowledge for that purpose. The multiplying effect and the impact on the ground will thus be much higher than could be achieved by an investment offensive in a single Member State or a group of Member States. The fact that there is no country-specific or sectorial project allocation, will provide for greater attractiveness for investors and lower aggregated risks. The investments supported under the EFSI should contribute to achieving existing Union programmes and policies and the targets and objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, quality job creation and economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Implementation mode

Indirect management.

II. Programme Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The legal basis: Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP) – The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EU L 169, 1.7.2015, p. 1) was adopted on 25 June 2015. The Commission and the EIB signed the EFSI and the EIAH Agreements with the EIB on 22 July 2015. Moreover, the Commission Implementing Decision for the EIPP was adopted on the same date.

On 30 December 2017, the Regulation to extend and enhance the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI 2.0) entered into force – Regulation (EU) 2017/2396 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) 2015/1017. It extends the duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investments and introduces technical enhancements for the EFSI and the EIAH.

The EFSI 2.0 Regulation reinforced the definition of ‘additionality’ and enhanced the transparency of the investment decisions. At present, the scoreboard of indicators and the rationale of the Investment Committee’s decisions for granting the use of the EU guarantee are made publicly available. The EFSI 2.0 also introduced that at least 40 % of projects under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window shall contribute to climate action, in line with the commitments made at the COP21. Moreover, in The EFSI 2.0, the work of the EIAH was enhanced by providing more tailor-made assistance on the ground and working in close cooperation with national promotional banks and institutions.

In November 2018, the European Commission issued a Communication on the ‘Investment Plan for Europe: stock-taking and next steps’ (COM(2018) 771 final).

In 2019, implementation continued making progress towards reaching the objectives set by the EFSI 2.0 Regulation. This in particular focused on the new climate target of 40 % under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window, investment mobilised as well as impact on jobs and growth.

In this respect, in October 2019, the European Commission published a factsheet on ‘The Juncker Plan’s impact on jobs and growth’ (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/juncker-plan-impact-jobs-growth_en.pdf). Moreover, the Commission and the EIB conducted a study assessing the root causes of the observed geographical spread of the EFSI’s support.

The EFSI is now coming close to the end of its investment period for approvals of operations that will end by 31 December 2020. Given the long-term nature of support under the EFSI, operational monitoring will continue until repayment of all underlying financing and investment operations.

The EFSI support is provided through an EU Guarantee of EUR 26 billion. A Guarantee Fund constitutes a liquidity cushion from which the EIB is to be paid in the event of a call on the EU Guarantee. Thus, the liquidity cushion is intended to provide an appropriate safety margin avoiding exposing the Union budget to sudden guarantee calls, which could entail spending cuts or budget amendments. The Guarantee Fund under the EFSI is funded mainly from payments from the Union general budget and revenues originating from operations under the EU Guarantee. Total EU budget allocated for the Guarantee Fund provisioning amounts to EUR 8 425 million. The schedule of operational commitments of the budget for provisioning the Guarantee Fund is presented under Section III below and follows the pre-agreed plan that reflect the gradual build-up of the EFSI portfolio. Since the portfolio is now largely established, the operational appropriations for 2019 and 2020 are low compared to previous years.

Key achievements

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)

The Investment Plan for Europe, with the European Fund for Strategic Investments, has demonstrated that EU funding can make a crucial contribution to boost investment, to foster the development of skills and employability, as well as to modernise education, training, and promote youth work. The results so far support the evidence that the EFSI has been effective in providing financing to investment projects and SMEs alike, reaching initial targets and being on track to achieve the end-2020 ones. By July 2018, the EFSI has successfully helped mobilise EUR 334.8 billion of private and public investment and therefore reached its initial EUR 315 billion objective.

The EFSI is also on track to meet the second, end-2020 target of unlocking additional investment of at least EUR 500 billion. As of 31 December 2019, 1 269 EFSI projects have been approved by the EIB Group for a total investment value of EUR 458.4 billion: EUR 271.7 billion for Infrastructure and Innovation Window (IIW) investments (602 approved projects) and EUR 186.7 billion (667 approved projects) under the SME Window (SMEW). About 1 125 000 SMEs across all Member States are expected to benefit.

The EFSI is implemented in strong cooperation with national promotional banks and institutions (NPBIs). As of 31 December 2019, cumulative EFSI investment mobilised in cooperation with NPBIs amounted to EUR 123.2bn or 27 % of the EFSI total. Moreover, 61 Investment Platforms were approved under the EFSI that help support smaller projects in 18 Member States in areas like SMEs, environment and energy.

The EFSI has benefitted all Member States. At the end of 2019, the top beneficiary countries, in terms of the EFSI investments mobilised relative to GDP, were Greece, Estonia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Poland. The EFSI had a big impact in countries that were hit hard by the crisis.

Although the EFSI is neither geographically nor sector-specifically earmarked, but demand driven, it has backed projects across all eligible sectors under the programme. The EFSI has enabled the EIB Group to support unserved markets and clients, for example for the IIW more than three quarters of the clients are new EIB counterparts.

The Investment Plan for Europe has contributed significantly to job creation and growth. It is estimated that as of 31 December 2019, the EFSI IIW operations have contributed to creation of more than 1.1 million jobs. As regards intermediated operations under IIW and SMEW, the EFSI helped sustain and support more than 8.5 million jobs. It is estimated that, by 2019, investments under the Juncker Plan had increased EU GDP by 0.9 % and it is set to increase EU GDP by 1.8 % by 2022 (Source: EIB assessment).

Apart from contribution to growth and jobs, by end-2019 EFSI investments had concrete impacts on citizens across EU by ⁽¹⁾:

- Delivering renewable energy to over 10 million households,
- Building or renovating 531 000 affordable flats,
- Providing better waste treatment for 33.3 million people,
- Investing in new or improved transport for over 95 million passengers,

⁽¹⁾ Source: EIB assessment – informal reporting by the EIB as of 31 December 2019 as well as information

- Delivering high speed internet for 15 million additional households,
- Providing access to better healthcare for 30.6 million people, and
- Saving over 5 000GWh of energy per year.

Few examples of EFSI projects:

- EFSI supported a EUR 25 million loan to Apeiron Biologics, a private Austrian clinical stage biotech company. Apeiron has been working in the field of immune-oncology to develop new cancer treatments.
- EFSI supported a company called Azimo based in Poland with a mission to make international payments affordable to all. With its fast, simple and low-cost international payment solutions around the world, Azimo furthers the UN Sustainable Development Goals of financial inclusion and inequality reduction.
- EFSI supported a company called Olmix in France with a EUR 30 million loan. The company uses algae and clay to create better food and fertiliser that can improve the nutrition, hygiene and health of plants, animals and humans.
- EFSI supported a EUR 70 million loan to Talasol Solar energy power plant based in Spain. The plant is expected to be operational in 2020 and create 500 jobs during the implementation phase.
- EFSI supported a EUR 7.5 million loan to GreenFiber International SA based in Romania to finance a recycling and circular economy project. The project will contribute to the creation of 280 full-time jobs and will increase the amount of waste collected and processed by over 50 000 tonnes per year.

European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)

Since its launch in September 2015 and until end-2022, the EIAH offers project promoters a single point of entry for technical assistance, guidance and advice covering the entire project lifecycle. As of end-2019:

- the EIAH received a total of 1 547 requests of which 79 % were received directly by EIAH, whilst the remaining were sourced through partnership arrangements.
- 1 325 Requests were project-related and of those 741 came from the private sector.
- 482 Requests have been allocated to receive more detailed technical assistance from the EIAH of which 197 are completed.

As of end-2019, the ‘Environment and resource efficiency’ EIAH sector (which includes Climate Action and Circular Economy) represents almost 20 % of the requests reaching the EIAH. 11 % of EIAH assignments (requests receiving detailed advisory support) have a climate dimension whereas 2 % of the requests have a circular economy dimension. EIAH assignments with a climate action dimension represent an envelope of EUR 9.6 million (22 % of the total EIAH assignments estimated budget) and corresponds to estimated investment costs of EUR 8.2bn.

To date, 27 MoUs have been signed with national promotional banks and institutions (NPBIs) from 22 Member States. The memorandum allows the EIAH and NPBIs to establish synergies between their respective operations. The MoU foresees several areas of engagement for NPBIs, from participating in knowledge sharing activities to acting as a national / regional point of entry for advisory support and local delivery of advisory support.

The EIAH also offers funding support (EUR 7 million) through a Call for Proposals from NPBIs, which is open since December 2017. The Call is offering co-funding in the form of grants for a wide range of programmes to support development of investable projects by participating NPBIs. The types of eligible activities include: (a) delivery of investment advisory services on behalf of the EIAH, (b) establishment or developing organisational capacity and (c) knowledge transfer for the development of a local advisory capacity. As of the end of 2019, 15 NPBs have submitted their proposals under the Call and 6 funding agreements were signed.

The EIB signed an agreement with the EBRD on 20 March 2017 (amended on 18 September 2018) to deliver the EBRD Advice for Small Businesses (ASB) Programme in Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Croatia under the European Investment Advisory Hub umbrella. It includes delivery of more than 300 advisory projects during the funding agreement lifetime (until end-2020), across Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Croatia, of which at least 10 % will be carried out with international advisers, depending on market needs. As of the end of 2019, 201 requests under this programme were receiving detailed advisory support.

European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)

The EIPP is the EU’s online matchmaking platform which brings together investors and project promoters by providing an easily-accessible and user-friendly database, giving projects more visibility, enabling investors to find investment opportunities and helping them secure the financing they need to grow.

In 2019, more than 600 projects were received and 499 projects were published on the EIPP. In total as of end of 2019, the EIPP provided 956 investment opportunities. Including the results of the 2019 EIPP survey, more than 60 projects have received financing after being published on the Portal. Three EIPP testimonial videos were produced and released in 2019.

In March 2019, a first InvestEU Matchmaking event with more than 250 participants was organised by the EIPP including dedicated matchmaking sessions between 200 selected EU-based project promoters and 50 private investors (Business Angels, Venture Capital and Private Equity funds).

In addition, the EIPP collaborated with the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) in the EBAN Helsinki 2019 Annual Congress and co-organised the first edition of the European Angel Investment Summit in Brussels. During these events,

entrepreneurs, investors, corporates and innovators assembled to experience networking, productive workshops and insightful panel discussions and, most notably, entrepreneurs and investors participated in hundreds of one-to-one meetings.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation (SWD(2018) 316 final) have been presented in the Programme Statement of the financial year 2020 (COM(2019) 400 – June 2019).

In January 2019, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published a Performance Audit on the implementation of the EFSI titled ‘European Fund for Strategic Investments: Action needed to make EFSI a full success’. The ECA audit looked at operations under the EFSI 1.0. The ECA concluded that the EFSI has been effective in raising finance to support substantial additional investment in the EU. The report also made some recommendations for areas of improvement, which were addressed to the EIB Group, to the Commission or both. Most recommendations were already addressed by the EFSI 2.0 Regulation. The ECA main recommendations include:

- Promoting the justified use of higher-risk EIB products under the EFSI;
- Encouraging complementarity between EU financial instruments: the Commission considers this recommendation as being implemented through the legislative proposals for the post-2020 MFF. The Commission proposal is to establish a single investment programme (InvestEU Programme) in order to enhance consistency and complementarity and to avoid possible duplications and overlaps between different instruments.
- Improving the assessment of whether potential EFSI projects could have been financed from other sources: based on the EFSI 2.0 Regulation, EIB has already included qualitative assessment of additionality, including the availability of complementary and alternative sources of finance.
- Estimating better the investment mobilised: the EFSI multiplier calculation methodologies were updated by January 2019. Those methodologies are applied at approval stage ensuring that only incremental investment mobilised is accounted for towards the EFSI target.
- Improving the geographical spread of EFSI supported investment: the Commission and the EIB, through the EFSI Steering Board, conducted a study assessing the root causes of the observed geographical spread. The EFSI Steering Board also provided recommendations for actions to be taken in the remaining EFSI implementation period until end of 2020.

In 2019 the European Court of Auditors initiated a Performance Audit on the implementation of the EIAH. The final report is expected to be adopted in spring 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

The remaining EFSI 2.0 implementation shall focus in particular on reaching the revised target of at least half a trillion euros of investment mobilised based on operations to be approved by end-2020. It shall also aim at reaching the climate action target for the IIW and address the EFSI Steering Board recommendation in terms of the EFSI geographical balance. After 2020, while the investment period for approvals will have been closed, the focus will be on signing approved operations before the deadline of 31 December 2022. Given the long-term nature of support under the EFSI, operational monitoring will continue until repayment of all underlying financing and investment operations. In 2021, the focus shall also be on a smooth transition towards the InvestEU Fund, the proposed new investment support instrument for the next MFF.

For the EIAH implementation, annual specific grants agreements (SGAs) are concluded between the EU and the EIB. The work programme underlying the 2020 SGA should be finalised by May 1 2020 and will have an N+2 implementation period.

As to the EU’s online matchmaking platform, in 2020 the EIPP will continue to give EU-based projects more visibility enabling investors to easily find investment opportunities in Europe.

Outlook for the period 2021-2027

As part of the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021 to 2027, the Commission has proposed a new initiative to mobilise private and public investment – the InvestEU Programme. It consists of the InvestEU Fund (the successor of the EFSI and other 13 centrally-managed financial instruments), the InvestEU Advisory Hub (the successor of the EIAH and other 12 centrally managed advisory programmes/initiatives) and the InvestEU Portal (the successor of the EIPP). The InvestEU Programme will bring together under one roof the multitude of EU financial instruments and advisory services currently available to support investment in the EU. It will make EU funding for investment projects in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible.

The InvestEU Fund shall focus on addressing the large investment gaps in key areas of the future through an EU budget guarantee. It will thus further boost job creation and support investment and innovation in the EU. It is expected to mobilise around EUR 650 billion of private and public investment across the EU by end-2027. At least 30 % of the InvestEU Fund will contribute to fighting climate change.

The InvestEU Advisory Hub will provide project development advisory support and capacity building throughout the investment cycle to foster the origination and development of investment projects and access to financing. The assistance will be provided in the InvestEU Programme’s policy areas and will also ensure a central point of access for project promoters and authorities.

The InvestEU Portal will continue the current EIPP, a database providing visibility to investment projects for which EU-based project promoters seek financing and providing investors with information about investment opportunities available in Europe, but with a better linkage between the projects and a possible financing by the InvestEU Fund implementing partners.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments	2015 – 2020	Maximum EU provision: EUR 26 billion

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations		1 360,5	2 128,9	2 661,1	2 038,3	186,9	172,9	8 548,5
Total		1 360,5	2 128,9	2 661,1	2 038,3	186,9	172,9	8 548,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	186,879	100,00 %	1 023,000	99,99 %	172,852	88,43 %	1 105,216	98,47 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	377,277	100,00 %	1 213,398	97,74 %	225,752	91,14 %	1 185,416	98,58 %

(*) 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 European Fund for Strategic Investments is achieving its objectives as set in the Regulation. It has supported investments by providing risk-bearing capacity to the EIB and has increased access to financing for SMEs and small-midcaps. The EFSI is fully on track to meet the end-2020 target of unlocking additional investment of at least EUR 500 billion.

The EFSI has significantly increased the volume of European Investment Bank (EIB) Group financing and investment operations in priority areas. As of end-2019, the EFSI enabled the EIB Group to sign EUR 69 billion of riskier financing and investment operations in all policy priority areas as defined in the Regulation. The number of projects that received support under the EFSI initiative amounted to 1 269 at the end of 2019, which is already higher than the final target for 2020 of 1 000.

While financial market condition have improved over the last few years, evidence suggests that there remain significant market gaps and sub-optimal investment situations. These concern market size and structure, public-sector promoter constraints and access to finance for certain type of beneficiaries. In particular, for SME financing there is still a gap in terms of cost of finance and collateral requirements. In addition, there are huge market gaps in areas related to climate action and sustainability.

All EU Member States have received financing supported by the EFSI. While the EFSI is a demand driven instrument, further efforts are ongoing with an aim to improve the geographical balance among the MS during by end-2020 (see section on ‘Evaluations/studies conducted’). The EFSI Strategic orientation provided that the share of investment under IIW in any three Member States together (measured by signed loans/investment amounts) should not exceed 45 % of the total EFSI portfolio. As of 31 December 2019, the share of top three Member States (France, Italy and Spain) accounts for 48.2 % of signed EFSI financing and for 45.1 % of investment mobilised by approvals. Both metrics are slightly above the indicative limit of 45 % set out in the Strategic Orientation. Therefore, the Commission and the EIB conducted a study on the causes of EFSI geographical balance through the EFSI steering board. Based on the conclusions of the study, the EFSI steering board adopted a set of actions to be implemented until the end of the EFSI implementation period (end 2020). These include:

- The EFSI Steering Board to continue monitoring closely the indicative geographical concentration limit set in the EFSI Strategic Orientation. Moreover, it will monitor the geographical balance and country absorption of EFSI financing through appropriate indicators. For Member States significantly underrepresented based on a GDP per capita metrics, this monitoring shall include analysis of the specific investment situation of the concerned Member States, particularly in the framework of cooperation between the Commission and the EIB in the context of the European Semester.

- More targeted awareness raising activities with a particular focus on EU13 including the organisation of a regional operational-oriented workshop targeting project promoters and local economic actors in the CESEE region (i.e. to present case studies, including Investment Platforms and projects with NPBI, allowing peer-learning within the region) and of a joint EC-EIB social media campaign for awareness-raising and promotion of the EFSI oriented towards the EU13 Member States (based on existing activity in this region).
- EIB to keep special focus on EFSI operations in the EU13 Member States, in particular in the innovation, climate and environment, and SME sectors. 5. Further EIAH outreach for the EU13 region to support better project preparation and provide upstream technical assistance. However, given the EFSI demand driven nature, the geographical balance depend mostly on the market uptake in EU13 who are also main recipients of grant support under structural funds.

The EFSI has slightly surpassed the 40 % objective for climate action under Infrastructure and Innovation Window. In fact, as of end-2019 40.2 % of signed operations under IIW in 2019 contributed to climate action. This was achieved through more focused support of climate related projects like renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The EFSI is providing EU added value by addressing market failures and by supporting riskier operations to non-EFSI EIB operations. EFSI supported operation also value by mobilising other private investors through ‘signalling effect’ as support is seen as a strong ‘stamp of approval’. An intervention at EU level ensures that a critical mass of resources can be leveraged so as to maximise the impact of investment on the ground.

Additionality under EFSI means ‘the support by the EFSI of operations which address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations and which could not have been carried out in the period during which the EU guarantee can be used, or not to the same extent, by the EIB, the EIF or under existing Union financial instruments without EFSI support’. Therefore additionality criteria and other eligibility criteria set in the EFSI Regulation direct the supported financing towards projects and policy areas where there are identified market failures and sub-optimal investment operations. These criteria have been strengthened with the EFSI 2.0 Regulation.

Support to different sectors under EFSI is considered balanced. The three largest sectors in terms of investment mobilised are access to finance for SMEs and Mid-Caps (31 %), RDI (26 %) and Energy (17 %). As far as IIW is concerned, all the sectors are within the 30 % limit with largest share of the Energy sector (29.3 %).

The EIAH is now a well-established and recognised advisory support tool for project promoters and an influential networking partner for the NPBI. Thus, after a ramp-up phase that took longer than originally expected, the EIAH became a performing programme that continued to perform well in 2019. As of the end of 2019, 482 requests were allocated for EIAH support and 71 of the EIAH assignments that entered the EIB lending appraisal system and could potentially benefit from the EFSI guarantee (representing an estimate of investment of EUR 11,9bn under EFSI).

The cooperation with NPBI is one of the EIAH’s main tools to ensure local outreach. As of end-2019, the EIAH concluded 23 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with NPBI from 22 Member States and 4 MoUs with other institutions in order to stimulate local demand for advice. In addition, a Call for proposals to develop local advisory capacity within NPBI was launched by the EIAH in December 2017. By end of 2019, 15 applications had been received under this Call for proposals and seven Funding Agreements had already been signed in this regard.

The EIPP, the EU’s online matchmaking platform, gives EU-based project promoters visibility and it helps them reach a large network of potential investors and it enables investors to find the appropriate investment opportunities. As of end-2019, the EIPP enabled more than 65 successful matches between project promoters and investors. Also, as of end 2019 EIPP provided visibility to 956 investment opportunities emanating from all Member States with a total proposed investment of EUR 66 billion. In 2019, the EIPP organised a successful matchmaking event and effectively collaborated with its partners and co-organised several other matchmaking events. These communication efforts resulted in a significant increase of the number of projects published on the EIPP compared to previous years hence exceeding the initial expectations. The challenges of continuously receiving new good projects for publication as well as new quality investors’ registrations remain. Therefore, further communication and promotional activities (e.g. participations to conferences and events, social media campaigns) are envisaged to achieve further visibility of the EIPP.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Supporting growth-enhancing investments in line with Union priorities, especially in the areas of: (a) research, development and innovation; (b) development of the energy sector in accordance with the Energy Union priorities; (c) development of transport infrastructures, and equipment and innovative technologies for transport; (d) financial support through the EIF and the EIB to entities having up to 3 000 employees, with a particular focus on SMEs and small mid-cap companies; (e) development and deployment of information and communication technologies; (f) environment and resource efficiency; and (g) human capital, culture and health; (h) agriculture, fishery, aquaculture and (i) for less developed regions and transition regions, other industry and services eligible for EIB support.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Increasing the volume of European Investment Bank Group (EIB Group) financing and investment operations in priority areas

Indicator 1: The cumulative volume of investment mobilised (EUR billion)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			125.0	245.0	340.0	420.0	500.0	500.0
	Actual results							
		60.0	164.1	256.3	375.5	458.4		

Comment: The EFSI 1.0 target was to mobilise by July 2018 at least EUR 315 billion of additional investment. The EFSI 2.0 target is to mobilise at least EUR 500 billion of additional investment by 2020.

Unit of measure: Estimated volume of funding raised (EUR billion, approved operations).

Indicator 2: The number of projects to receive support under the EFSI initiative								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2018
			400	600	750	900	1 000	1 000
	Actual results							
		172	421	717	1 031	1 269		

Methodology: Cumulative figures

Comment: IIW and SMEW

Unit of measure: Number of approved projects

Indicator 3: The cumulative number of countries having received EIB financing (signed operations) under the EFSI								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2018
			20	26	28	28	28	28
	Actual results							
		18	28	28	28	28		

Unit of measure: Number of countries covered

Indicator 4: The aggregated multiplier effect								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
	Actual results							
		13.30	15.18	13.53	15.60	15.66		

Methodology: Multiplier effect.

Comment: The expected effective EFSI multiplier, which can only be calculated at the end of the EFSI investment period, is around 15 in terms of the use of the EU guarantee compared to the total investment raised for the projects supported under the initiative and the terms of the transactions. As at end-2019, the IIW multiplier related to operations approved was estimated at 13,56x and the multiplier related to SMEW approved operations was assessed at 20,65x. This means that a multiplier effect should be generated by means of the provision of an EU guarantee to the EIB, so that EUR 1 of the EU guarantee under this initiative could generate approximately EUR 15 investment in projects.

Indicator 5: The share of the EFSI Financing under the IIW that supports project components that contribute to climate action								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2018
					40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
	Actual results							
					35.9	40.2		

Unit of measure: Share of action components (Percentage, signed operations)

Specific Objective 2: To provide advisory support for investment project identification, preparation and development to public and private counterparts, not necessarily linked to the EFSI operations through the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)

Performance

The actions of the programme as far as the Specific Objective 3 is concerned are achieving their goals. After the ramp up phase, the EIAH is now an identified stakeholder by the project promoters seeking for advisory support and a key partner for National Promotional Banks and Institutions (NPBIs). The EBRD Advice for Small Businesses (ASB) financially supported by the EIAH is a key contributor to the achievement of these goals. As of the end of 2019, the EIAH assignments represent an estimated of investment of EUR 32.1 billion.

Indicator 1: The number of project for which the support have been requested								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			200	200	200	200	200	200
	Actual results							
		70	271	334	416	456		

Unit of measure: Number of projects (annual).

Indicator 2: The number of project that have received the support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			25	70	100	100	100	100
	Actual results							
		2	11	84	187	198		

Unit of measure: Number of projects (annual).

Specific Objective 3: To create an publicly available web portal where EU based projects promoters will be given the opportunity to boost the visibility of their projects to potential international investors

Performance

The indicator concerning the number of projects published in the EIPP shows a significant increase compared to previous years demonstrating a significant improvement compared to initial expectations. This is because EIPP resources were invested in developing partnerships as well as in communication therefore enhancing the visibility of the EIPP.

Indicator 1: The number of project published on the EIPP								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			150	300	450	500	500	500
	Actual results							
		0	139	238	508	956		

Methodology: Cumulative

Unit of measure: Number of projects

Indicator 2: Number of countries covered (cumulative)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			20	25	27	28	28	28
	Actual results							
		0	25	28	28	28		

Unit of measure: Number of countries

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
	01 04 06		20
Total			20

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Narrative justification Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

The additional investments mobilised under the EFSI should help support job creation/employment and demand and therefore boost economic growth leading to an increase in the EU long-term growth potential. The ‘new’ EFSI should also support projects in accordance with the Union’s energy, climate and efficiency targets laid down in the Europe 2020 strategy and in the 2030 Framework for climate and energy policies and which aim to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The legal basis does not foresee any specific budget or targets for reaching the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. There are no sectoral or country specific quotas or pre-allocations in the Regulation.

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

The EFSI 2.0 Regulation, while recognising the demand-driven nature of the EFSI, introduced a target of at least 40 % of the EFSI financing under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window to support projects with components that contribute to climate action, in line with the COP21 commitments. The EIB uses its internationally agreed methodology, as part of its rules and procedures, to identify climate action components or cost shares of supported operations. A Key Monitoring Indicator (KMI) referring specifically to the contribution of EFSI financing under the IIW to climate action was introduced in 2018. As of December 2019, the cumulative share of climate action components under IIW was 40.2 % for signed amounts.

Contribution to financing clean air

The EFSI investments in non-combustible renewable energy sources have a secondary positive impact on clean air when this replaces energy production from more polluting sources (see information on SDG7). It is estimated that approximately EUR 5.8 billion of financing approved under EFSI as of 31 December 2019 contributed principally to clean air objectives (?). This is expected to help mobilise approximately €29 billion of public and private investments.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The EFSI investment support for empowerment and economic advancement through micro-entrepreneurship, can further contribute to combatting poverty, reducing inequality and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Moreover, numerous important social housing projects have been undertaken, as for example in France, Spain, Poland, and Portugal. As of 31 December 2019, an estimated number of 531 000 affordable flats were built or renovated with the EFSI support.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The EFSI investments is estimated to have ensured better healthcare for 30.6 million people, through contribution to the rehabilitation and expansion of health facilities and the support given to medical research.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The EFSI support for social entrepreneurship and social infrastructure contributes strongly to health and wellbeing and inclusive and quality education. As of 31 December 2019, EUR 214.44 million of signed amounts were dedicated to education. This mainly related to social infrastructure investment for the purposes of education like schools or university campuses as well as support for SMEs active in the education sector.

SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The quantitative goal (40 %) on targeted climate change projects such as energy efficiency and clean transport under the IIW are set out in the EFSI 2.0 and strongly contribute to combatting climate change and its impact, and access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. In addition, dedicated efforts are made to ensure uptake of broader sustainable growth projects beyond the climate target, and to place a stronger focus on sustainable investments across sectors.

It is estimated that the EFSI has facilitated the provision of renewable energy to approx. 10 million households. The EFSI investments are estimated to have helped saving over 5 000 GWh of energy per year through the energy efficiency measures of supported projects. As of 31 December 2019, the EFSI signed amounts for energy and environment and resource efficiency reached approx. EUR 16.5 billion and have mobilised an estimated EUR 85.9 billion of investment for energy capacity building from renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency and supporting electricity network projects. It is worth noticing the promotion of major cross-border projects to increase interconnection and security of supply.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

(?) Commission estimate. In terms of the EU budget, it is estimated that €819.74 million of the provisioned amount in the EU Guarantee Fund would be needed for the support of the indicated financing approved under EFSI for clean air objectives. The EU Guarantee under EFSI is not ring-fenced for specific projects, therefore the indicated amount of the EU budget constitutes an estimate for indicative purposes.

EFSI investments can support meaningful advancements towards promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full and productive employment and decent work for all. EFSI investment support for empowerment and economic advancement through micro-entrepreneurship and SME support, can further contribute to combatting poverty, reducing inequality and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Several employment and start-up programmes have been signed contributing to the creation of a well-qualified workforce as needed by modern economies, as well as generating employment opportunities for young people.

For IIW, EFSI operations are expected to have both temporary and permanent employment effects, related to the implementation and respective the operational phase of the EFSI projects. In addition to the direct impact of EFSI, there is also an indirect or induced employment impact to be considered (for example, a project to develop new transport infrastructure might contribute to new job opportunities in the local economy).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The EFSI's strong support for transport, social and digital infrastructure contributes to inclusive and sustainable growth. In addition, the EFSI's strong support for research, development and innovation projects helps foster innovation and contributes to sustainable industrialisation. Investment in transport infrastructure materialised in signed amounts of approx. EUR 7.1 billion, unlocking some EUR 28.6 billion to promote transport networks, cleaner fleets, to reduce congestions and bottlenecks. These investments provided improved transport for over 95 million passengers.

The EFSI financing targeted also the development of the broadband infrastructure needed to keep different actors connected, as well as development of new technologies needed to promote Europe's long-term competitiveness. The EFSI helped deliver high speed internet for 15 million additional households.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The EIAH is providing advisory support for investment project especially in countries where the financing via the capital market is the less developed. In terms of geographical coverage, 65 % of the advisory support assignments are targeting cohesion countries

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The EFSI's dedicated investments in economic and social infrastructure projects supports advancement towards promoting resilient and inclusive infrastructure, and further efforts to support service-rich integrated infrastructure projects would contribute to inclusive and sustainable cities. The EFSI supported projects about water supply and sanitation, wastewater and solid waste treatment and recycling as well as sustainable urban and rural development. For example, as of end-2019, better waste treatment was made available for 33.3 million people through the EFSI supported investments.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The EFSI investment support to inclusive business practices and SME growth and development could also contribute to promoting sustainable production and consumption practices. This is the case of dedicated support to SMEs active in circular economy, those using recyclable materials, and those deploying energy efficiency measures.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

Nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia

Lead DG: ENER

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

When Bulgaria and Slovakia were candidate countries to join the European Union (EU), the closure and subsequent decommissioning of six Soviet-designed, first generation nuclear reactors at two nuclear power plant sites was made a condition for their accession. As part of the agreements the Union declared its willingness to provide financial aid and the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes were established to assist the Member States concerned in implementing the decommissioning of Kozloduy units 1 to 4 and Bohunice V1 units 1 and 2 in accordance with their respective decommissioning plans, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety.

EU added value of the programme

Being confronted to early closure of their plants, it was not possible for Bulgaria and Slovakia to accumulate sufficient funds from operation of the plants.

It is therefore in the interests of the Union to provide financial support for the seamless continuation of decommissioning in order to progress towards the so called decommissioning end state, in accordance with approved plans, while keeping the highest level of safety. This will contribute to provide substantial and durable support for the health of workers and the general public, preventing environmental degradation and providing for real progress in nuclear safety and security.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is managed under the indirect management mode through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency, a public law body in Slovakia.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Commission adopted the 2019 work programmes and associated financing decisions, allocating EUR 77,0 million for the implementation of the actions in Bulgaria and Slovakia. These funds sum up to EUR 364,4 million allocated from 2014 to 2019.

The Kozloduy programme made significant progress on dismantling in the auxiliary buildings. The plasma melting facility, a first-of-its-kind facility for the high-performance volume reduction of radioactive waste, is now in industrial operation. In parallel, construction works continued for the National Disposal Facility, i.e. the low and intermediate level waste surface repository, which will receive large quantities of the decommissioned materials. In accordance with the updated performance baseline, the programme completion date remains the end of 2030.

The Bohunice programme made substantial progress in 2019. The dismantling of the turbine hall equipment and the auxiliary buildings were completed, including the demolition of the four cooling towers. The dismantling of the large components in the reactor building started in earnest. In accordance with the updated performance baseline, the completion date for the programme remains the end of 2025.

Key achievements

As the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes (NDAP) progress, knowledge-sharing and synergies are becoming more concrete, resulting in time and cost savings in decommissioning projects. The similar design of the Bohunice and Kozloduy reactors provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences, methods and tools. This knowledge-sharing reduces risks and cost. For example, in 2019 the feasibility of decontaminating the primary circuits at Kozloduy was confirmed on the basis of experience from Bohunice. The transportation of decontamination equipment used at Bohunice to Kozloduy was then prepared with a view to decontaminating the primary circuits in 2020.

Kozloduy programme (BG)

The dismantling of equipment in the turbine hall was completed in August 2019, a year earlier than scheduled. The plasma melting facility, a first-of-its-kind facility for the high-performance volume reduction of radioactive waste, started operations in November 2018 and continued with the support of the system provider until the end of 2019. It is now in industrial operation and the technical and financial evaluation of the first operational campaign will be finalised in 2020. The operational and financial feedback will be of the highest interest to several radioactive waste organisations in the EU as they are confronted to similar challenges.

Bohunice programme (SK)

By July 2019, all 12 steam generators, each made up of 145 tonnes of steel, had been removed from the reactor building and transported to the former turbine hall, where construction of the dry-cutting workshop was finalised and the cutting equipment for breaking up the generators was installed. In the second half of 2019, the pressurisers were cut up and the construction started of two wet-cutting workshops in which the reactor internals will be segmented under water. In 2019, disposal capacity for low-level waste, representing over 90% of total radioactive waste by volume, was extended by around 30% at the Mochovce repository.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest (mid-term) evaluation (SWD(2018)344 final) have been presented in the Programme Statements 2020.

Internal audit (IAS)

The Commission's Internal Audit Service completed its audit on the implementation of DG ENER's control strategy for the delegated bodies implementing the NDAP in November 2019 (audit report IAS.C2-2018-ENER-003). It concluded that the strategy is implemented effectively, thus providing overall reasonable assurance on the effective implementation of decommissioning work financed by the programmes.

Ex post evaluation of energy projects

Until 2013, the assistance programmes allocated funds to energy-sector projects in line with the respective Member States' accession treaties and national energy policies. The impact assessment prepared in advance of the current (2014-2020) programmes concluded that those measures would achieve their objectives with the existing funding and should then be discontinued. Therefore, the current programme is limited to implementation of the decommissioning plans, so that it is the focus of the resources and governance structures.

In 2019, the Commission finalised an *ex post* evaluation of the energy-sector projects financed in 2007-2013. Over €947 million had been committed in support of 58 projects seeking to achieve:

- environmental upgrading (including energy efficiency);
- modernisation of conventional energy production;
- restructuring and modernisation of electricity transmission and distribution;
- enhanced security of supply; and
- enhanced use of renewable energy sources (Bulgaria only).

The *ex post* evaluation concluded that action under the programme was both instrumental and timely in the three countries (Bulgaria, Slovakia and Lithuania), as no other programmes could match the scope and number of projects covered. The programme gave effective support to mitigation measures along the energy value chain, according to national needs. It contributed to the building and modernisation of energy networks, facilitating connections and diversifying the energy mix. On the consumption side, it supported the refurbishment of hundreds of public and private buildings and thousands of households, the modernisation of district heating networks, greater energy efficiency in industry and better street lighting in 35 cities.

Forthcoming implementation

The forthcoming implementations for commitments appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA) for the year 2020:

Kozloduy programme (BG)

- the construction of the national disposal facility will move on;
- the plasma melting facility will enter into full industrial operation and create relevant know-how;
- the decontamination activities of the primary circuit will start;
- the management of legacy waste, and decontamination and dismantling activities in the reactor building;

Bohunice programme (SK)

- continued progress in dismantling large components from the reactor building, including the reactor vessels, leading to the last stage of decommissioning;

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The outlook for 2021 priorities:

Kozloduy programme (BG)

- the construction of the national disposal facility will move on steadily;
- the further progress will be made on the management of legacy waste, and decontamination and dismantling activities in the reactor building;

Bohunice programme (SK)

- the steady progress in dismantling large components from the reactor building, including the reactor vessels, leading to the last stage of decommissioning;
- the preparations will start for the demolition of buildings and site restoration

III. Programme key facts and performance framework**1. Financial programming**

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1368/2013 of 13 December 2013 on Union support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia, and repealing Regulations (Euratom) No 549/2007 and (Euratom) No 647/2010	2014 - 2020	518,4

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support								
Operational appropriations	69,7	71,1	72,6	74,0	75,5	77,0	78,5	518,4
Total	69,7	71,1	72,6	74,0	75,5	77,0	78,5	518,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	76,994	99,99 %	62,183	99,99 %	78,537	0,00 %	97,800	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	76,994	99,99 %	62,183	99,99 %	78,537	0,00 %	97,800	0,00 %

(*) 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**

To date the progress against the objectives is generally satisfactory, although delays are progressively accumulating since 2014 in the overall implementation. As shown in the mid-term evaluation report COM(2018)468, technical challenges remain intrinsic to the decommissioning process, and the decommissioning market is still in a developmental stage. This has led to instances of setbacks among contractors. Further, delays have increased during regulatory approval processes in all three countries. However, the programmes' critical path is monitored with the highest level of attention and when risks are identified, mitigating actions like the parallel execution of tasks or the work in several shifts are proposed so that at this point in time the end-dates are maintained. After the mid-term evaluation in 2018 the time profile of the activities has been revised to re-calibrate the tracking of progress and performance. For both the Kozloduy and the Bohunice programme, the decommissioning programme's end-date is maintained.

The Commission measures the progress and performance of the decommissioning programmes against the objectives set out in the relevant Council Regulations. Additionally, they have been monitored through the detailed target and schedules provided for in the implementation procedures and the Earned Value Management (EVM) system. In 2019, the Commission launched a call for tender for a study on the EVM systems already implemented in each of the decommissioning programmes. The main objective of this study is to further improve the existing earned value management systems. The analysis work started in January 2020.

As the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes progress, knowledge dissemination and synergies are becoming more important, resulting in higher efficiencies and hence substantial time and cost savings in decommissioning projects. The two proposals on decommissioning programmes introduce knowledge dissemination and developing synergies as a specific objective. In the next 2021-2027 MFF knowledge dissemination, related to nuclear decommissioning will be introduced on a larger scale.

Kozloduy programme (BG)

The Kozloduy programme progressed satisfactorily. The dismantling of equipment in the turbine hall was completed and the first operational campaign of the plasma melting facility (PMF) was finalised. The technical and financial evaluation of the PMF operational campaign will be held in 2020. The decontamination of the primary circuit was confirmed on the basis of experience from the Bohunice programme. The transportation of decontamination equipment used at Bohunice to Kozloduy was prepared with a view to decontaminating the primary circuits in 2020.

Bohunice programme (SK)

The Bohunice programme progressed well and reached an important milestone in the decommissioning programme by starting the dismantling of large components in the reactor building. Overcoming the technical and contractual challenges to reach this step is a good performance. However, the procurement procedure of major contracts caused a 10 months delay that potentially affected the programme’s end date. Far-reaching mitigating measures were taken to maintain the programme’s end date at 2025. The most important measure consists of optimizing the planning of the demolition of the different buildings on site, which is the final stage in the decommissioning process

General objectives

General Objective 1: To assist the Member States towards the decommissioning end state of Kozloduy units 1 to 4 (Bulgaria) and Bohunice VI units 1 and 2 (Slovakia), whilst maintaining the highest level of safety

Indicator 1: Number of major components and systems dismantled in all the concerned nuclear reactors in accordance with the respective decommissioning plans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Kozloduy programme - Preparatory works have started for the decontamination and dismantling activities in turbine halls and auxiliary buildings. - dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings not yet started. - Facilities for the treatment and conditioning of waste are being put in place.	Decommissioning Licence for Units 1-2		Decommissioning Licence for Units 3-4					Ref. Detailed Decommissioning Plan 2014 The planned completion date for the decommissioning of Kozloduy units 1 to 4 is 2030.
	Actual results							
	Licence issued		Licence issued					
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Bohunice programme - Dismantling of V1 turbine hall has started. - Dismantling of external buildings (Phase 1) has started. - Preparation of decontamination of V1 primary circuits has started. - Stage 1 decommissioning waste management has started		Decommissioning licence 2nd (final) stage						Ref. Detailed Decommissioning Plan 2014 The planned completion date for decommissioning of Bohunice V1 units 1 and 2 is 2025.
	Actual results							
	Licence issued							

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: (Kozloduy) Performing dismantling in the turbine halls of units 1 to 4 and in auxiliary buildings

Performance

The total quantity to be dismantled equipment in the turbine hall has been re-evaluated to 33 216 tons of metals (instead of 40 400 tons). In the period between January 2014 and December 2019 the amount of dismantled metal was 29 448t, i.e. 89% of the target value by 2020.

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems dismantled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Systems dismantled out of 160 main and auxiliary systems	28	55	82	110	135	141		100%
	Actual results							
				60%	83%	100%		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Metal dismantled	5 772	11 544	17 316	23 088	28 088	29 326	33 216	33 216
	Actual results							
	4 854	10 901	16 697	18 968	27 430	29 448		

Narrative: At end of 2019, 141 systems were dismantled and the overall objective has been achieved (Units 1-4 turbine hall fully dismantled).The initial target value was updated (141 instead of 160) as 19 support systems have to remain in operation to support decommissioning operation.

Specific Objective 2: (Kozloduy) Dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4

Performance

Dismantling activities inside the reactor building Units 1-2 have started. In the period between January 2014 and December 2019 the amount of dismantled metal was 723 t, i.e. 60% of the cumulative planned amount in 2020.

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems and equipment dismantled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
	0	200	400	600	800	1 000	1 200	1 200
	Actual results							
	0	147	299	326	525	723		

Specific Objective 3: (Kozloduy) Safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan

Performance

As of December 2019 the quantity of material released from regulatory control (free release) has reached 34 678t. i.e. 79% of the target in 2020.

At the same date, the production of final waste packages (i.e. Reinforced-Concrete Containers) for legacy waste and decommissioning waste was about 88% of the target in 2020.

Indicator 1: Quantity and type of safely conditioned waste								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Free release of materials start	5 762	11 318	19 998	23 998	31 054	38 054	43 860	43 860
	Actual results							
	4 791	7 923	15 954	18 827	28 725	34 678		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Treatment of historical radioactive waste	30	51	231	249	290	320	370	370
	Actual results							
	30	51	231	249	289	324		

Unit of measurement: Tonne

Specific Objective 4: (Bohunice) Performing dismantling in the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings of reactor V1

Performance

Dismantling in the turbine halls and auxiliary buildings completed.

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems dismantled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Auxiliary Circuit System for Secondary Circuit – Phase 1 dismantled	Auxiliary Circuit System for Secondary Circuit - Phase 2	Electricity production system Auxiliary Circuit System for Secondary Circuit – Phase 1. Electric Power Supply System and Emergency Electric Power Supply System	Secondary Circuit Cooling System				Control System for Consumption of Electricity	All systems in the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings of reactor V1 dismantled
	Actual results							
	Auxiliary Circuit System for Secondary Circuit - Phase 2 dismantled	Electricity production, Auxiliary Circuit, Normal and Emergency Electric Power Supply Systems dismantled	Secondary Circuit Cooling System dismantled				Control System for Consumption of Electricity dismantled	

Specific Objective 5: (Bohunice) Dismantling of large components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings

Performance

The project to achieve the 2019 milestone has been merged with the project 'Nuclear Steam Supply System' (original target date 2020) which is now expected to be implemented by the end of 2022.

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems and equipment dismantled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Dismantling in reactor building not started			Primary Circuit Equipment Insulation		Auxiliary Building Systems / Parts of Spent Fuel Pools and Other Contaminated Tanks–Part 1		External Pipeline Systems	
	Actual results							
			Primary Circuit Equipment Insulation dismantled		Auxiliary Building Systems / SFP and contaminated tanks dismantled			

Comment: The completion of the dismantling of all components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings is planned for 2025.

Specific Objective 6: (Bohunice) Safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan

Performance

At the end of 2019 the quantity of material released from regulatory control (free release) has reached 131 736 t., i.e. 88% of the target 2020.

Indicator 1: The quantity and type of safely conditioned waste								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Conventional waste produced	23 151	74 632	74 752	86 298	146 152	147 617	149 297	149 297
	Actual results							
	23 151	74 093	74 751	86 298	130 624	131 736		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Hazardous waste produced	54	180	183	4 608	4 611	4 618	4 813	4 813
	Actual results							
	54	174	182	4 608	4 617	4 617		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Radioactive waste produced	387	909	1 440	1 608	2 003	4 026	6 474	6 474
	Actual results							
	387	909	1 440	1 608	1 953	3 331		

Unit of measure: Tonne

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Nuclear decommissioning assistance programme in Lithuania****Lead DG: ENER****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

When Lithuania was a candidate country to join the European Union, the closure and subsequent decommissioning of two Soviet-designed, first generation nuclear reactors at Ignalina was made a condition for their accession. As part of the agreement the Union declared its willingness to continue to provide adequate additional Community assistance to Lithuania's decommissioning effort and the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme was established to assist Lithuania in implementing the decommissioning of Ignalina units 1 and 2 in accordance with an approved decommissioning plan, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety.

EU added value of the programme

Being confronted to early closure of its plants, it was not possible for Lithuania to accumulate sufficient funds from operation of the plants.

It is therefore in the interests of the Union to provide further financial support for the seamless continuation of decommissioning in order to progress towards the so-called decommissioning end state, in accordance with approved plans, while keeping the highest level of safety. This will contribute to provide substantial and durable support for the health of workers and the general public, preventing environmental degradation and providing for real progress in nuclear safety and security.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is managed under the indirect management mode through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Central Project Management Agency, a public law body in Lithuania.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

The Commission adopted the 2019 work programme and associated financing decision, allocating EUR 66.9 million for the implementation of the actions in Lithuania. These funds sum up to EUR 382.4 million allocated from 2014 to 2019.

The removal of spent-fuel assemblies from the reactor buildings (units 1 and 2) resumed in September 2016. Both reactors are now completely defueled. The removal and decontamination of equipment in the turbine hall is coming to an end.

The dismantling of the Ignalina reactors is a first-of-a-kind challenge: never before has a large power reactor with a graphite core been dismantled. In a first phase (2020 to 2027), Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP) will remove all equipment around and on top of the reactor shaft. The subsequent removal of the graphite from the shaft is being prepared with an optioneering study and detailed design of the preferred solution and a facility for the temporary storage of irradiated graphite waste.

The construction of the landfill facility for very low level waste was completed and the preparations were made for the procurement procedure of the near surface repository for low-level waste. With those two facilities, INPP will have all the tools it needs for the management, storage and disposal of the radioactive waste under the decommissioning plan.

In accordance with the updated performance baseline, the programme completion date remains 2038.

Key achievements

The spent nuclear fuel remaining in the reactor building represents the largest source of radioactivity to be handled by the decommissioning programme. It is being transferred to the new dedicated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility (ISFSF), where it will stay for several tens of years until being disposed of. By the end of 2019, over 78% of spent-fuel assemblies were safely transferred and preparations were on-going for the handling of heavily damaged fuel elements and the cleaning-up, emptying and decontamination of the spent-fuel pools. The transfer of the nuclear fuel into the safe ISFSF is contributing to a substantial decrease in the level of radiological hazard and risk to decommissioning operators and to the general public.

With 50 000 tons of material dismantled from the turbine hall, the removal and decontamination of equipment is now coming to an end. The building is being used as temporary storage for material undergoing clearance before regulatory control can be lifted and for low-level radioactive waste before it can be transferred to a final disposal facility.

The construction of the landfill facility for very low level waste was completed in 2019 and the first loading campaign is scheduled for the second half of 2020. The procurement procedure for the construction of the near surface repository for low-level waste has been launched in the first quarter of 2020.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest (mid-term) evaluation (SWD(2018)344 final) have been presented in the Programme Statements 2020.

Internal audit (IAS)

The Commission’s Internal Audit Service completed its audit on the implementation of DG ENER’s control strategy for the delegated bodies implementing the NDAP in November 2019 (audit report IAS.C2-2018-ENER-003). It concluded that the strategy is implemented effectively, thus providing overall reasonable assurance on the effective implementation of decommissioning work financed by the programmes.

Ex post evaluation of energy projects

Until 2013, the assistance programmes allocated funds to energy-sector projects in line with the respective Member States’ accession treaties and national energy policies. The impact assessment prepared in advance of the current (2014-2020) programmes concluded that those measures would achieve their objectives with the existing funding and should then be discontinued. Therefore, the current programme is limited to implementation of the decommissioning plans, so that it is the focus of the resources and governance structures.

In 2019, the Commission finalised an *ex post* evaluation of the energy-sector projects financed in 2007-2013. Over €947 million had been committed in support of 58 projects seeking to achieve:

- environmental upgrading (including energy efficiency);
- modernisation of conventional energy production;
- restructuring and modernisation of electricity transmission and distribution;
- enhanced security of supply;

The *ex post* evaluation concluded that action under the programme was both instrumental and timely in the three countries (Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania), as no other programmes could match the scope and number of projects covered. The programme gave effective support to mitigation measures along the energy value chain, according to national needs. It contributed to the building and modernisation of energy networks, facilitating connections and diversifying the energy mix. On the consumption side, it supported the refurbishment of hundreds of public and private buildings and thousands of households, the modernisation of district heating networks, greater energy efficiency in industry and better street lighting in 35 cities.

Forthcoming implementation

The forthcoming implementations for commitments appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA) for the year 2020:

- Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility: continuation of Units defueling and transfer of loaded spent fuel casks to the safe storage;
- First loading of the very low-level waste disposal facility;
- Near Surface Repository (NSR) for Low and Intermediate Level Short-Lived Radioactive Waste: tender for main construction works, contracting of construction works;
- Detailed design for dismantling and decontamination of equipment in Unit 1 reactor upper and lower zones;
- Detailed design for optioneering and Environmental Impact Assessment on dismantling and decontamination activities of Units 1 and 2 reactors central zone;
- Continuation of equipment isolation, dismantling and decontamination of equipment in Units 1 and 2.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

- the transfer of spent-fuel casks to the dedicated storage facility will continue;
- the continued loading of the very low-level waste disposal facility;
- the start of the construction of the low-level waste disposal facility;
- the preparations for dismantling the irradiated graphite core will move to concrete actions with expert support.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
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Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1369/2013 of 13 December 2013 on Union support for the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme in Lithuania, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1990/2006	2014 - 2020	450,8
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	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	60,6	61,9	63,1	64,4	65,6	67,0	68,3	450,8
Total	60,6	61,9	63,1	64,4	65,6	67,0	68,3	450,8

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	66,953	99,99 %	32,916	99,99 %	68,290	0,00 %	68,050	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	66,953	99,99 %	32,916	99,99 %	68,290	0,00 %	68,050	0,00 %

(*) 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 progress against the programme's objectives is generally satisfactory. The transfer of spent-fuel assemblies (objective 1) ahead of schedule, the operation proceeds safely (objective 2) and the output material flow (objective 3) is closely following plans. The programme end-date is maintained but delays are acknowledged in several projects outside the critical path. Maintaining a rigorous application of procurement rules and contractual arrangements has sometime resulted in unanticipated delays.

The removal of spent fuel assemblies from the Unit 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds has progressed well and over 75% of spent-fuel assemblies were safely stored in this new dedicated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility. The dismantling of the Ignalina reactors is a first-of-a-kind challenge: with the dismantling of the graphite core, the biggest challenge lies ahead.

The Commission measures the progress and performance of the decommissioning programmes against the objectives set out in the relevant Council Regulations. Additionally, they have been monitored through the detailed target and schedules provided for in the implementation procedures and the Earned Value Management (EVM) system. In 2019, the Commission launched a call for tender for a study on the EVM systems already implemented in each of the decommissioning programmes. The main objective of this study is to further improve the existing earned value management systems. The analysis work started in January 2020.

As the nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes progress, knowledge dissemination and synergies are becoming more important, resulting in higher efficiencies and hence substantial time and cost savings in decommissioning projects. The two proposals on decommissioning programmes introduce knowledge dissemination and developing synergies as a specific objective. In the next 2021-2027 MFF knowledge dissemination related to nuclear decommissioning will be introduced on a larger scale.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To assist Lithuania towards the decommissioning end state of units 1 and 2 of the Ignalina nuclear power plant

Indicator 1: Number of major components and systems dismantled in all the concerned nuclear reactors in accordance with the respective decommissioning plans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
- Unit 1 reactor core is defueled, unit 2 reactor core is partially defueled. - The spent fuel ponds in units 1 and 2 are loaded to maximum capacity. - Facilities for waste management treatment and storage are being constructed. - Start of dismantling works in turbine hall of unit 1.				Start commissioning Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility	Unit 2 reactor core fully defueled		Start of transferring damaged fuel from Unit 1	Ref. Detailed Decommissioning Plan 2014 The planned completion date for the decommissioning of Ignalina units 1 and 2 is 2038.
	Actual results							

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Defueling of the reactor core of unit 2 and the reactor fuel ponds of units 1 and 2 into the dry spent fuel storage facility

Performance

Both reactors Units 1 and 2 are now completely defueled. The removal of spent fuel assemblies from the Unit 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds has progressed well and reached up to 12 255 assemblies i.e. 87% of the cumulative planned amount in 2020 and 78% of the total amount planned for 2022 (15 555 assemblies).

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of unloaded fuel assemblies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Removal of spent fuel assemblies from Units 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds: Unit 1 reactor core defueled	0	0	0	3 519	7 159	10 799	13 984	13 984
	Actual results							
	0	0	267	3 519	7 796	12 255		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2019
Removal of spent fuel assemblies from Unit 2 reactor core: Unit 2 reactor core partially defueled into the spent fuel ponds; in the ponds there are used and unloaded fuel assemblies	0	0	0	454	908	1 134	1 134	1 134
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	887	1 134	1 134		

Comment: No removal of spent fuel assemblies is planned before the commissioning of the Spent Fuel Storage Facility.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Removal of spent fuel assemblies from Units 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds	F			0	3 519	7 159	10 799	13 984
	P			267	3 519	7 796	12 255	
Removal of spent fuel assemblies from Unit 2 reactor core	F			454	908	1 134	1 134	
	P				887	1 134	1 134	

Specific Objective 2: Safely maintaining the reactor units

Performance

The installation has been maintained with the highest level of safety as indicated by the absence of registered incidents in 2014.

Indicator 1: Number of registered incidents								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Safe maintenance performed without incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Specific Objective 3: Performing dismantling in the turbine hall and other auxiliary buildings and safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan

Performance

The overall performance was satisfactory. The amounts of equipment dismantled and the overall quantity of radioactive waste processed and stored were slightly below the planned amounts of 2019 and reached respectively 84% and 80% of the cumulative planned amounts in 2020.

Indicator 1: Type and number of auxiliary systems dismantled and the quantity and type of safely conditioned waste								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Dismantled equipment (tonne):	5 650	12 669	25 916	29 268	34 900	40 658	47 277	47 277
	Actual results							
	5 790	14 335	21 384	30 294	35 397	39 767		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Primary processed waste (m3):	4 700	5 800	14 872	15 372	25 392	35 234	42 314	42 314
	Actual results							
	6 250	7 414	12 179	19 614	26 969	33 894		

Comment: Quantitative milestones for waste production are fine-tuned in annual work programmes in function of the latest estimations of material inventories in installations to be dismantled. The values for 2015, 2016 and 2017 have been correspondingly updated.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)****Lead DG: RTD**

Associated DGs: EAC, CNECT, HOME, ENER, AGRI, GROW, MOVE, JRC, DEFSI

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

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever. It aims at improving EU citizens' life through more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. Investment in research and innovation is essential for Europe's future and so they are at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science and technology, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering solutions to big challenges facing the EU citizens and more globally our society.

Horizon 2020 is made up of three main pillars:

- Industrial leadership – boosting the EU's economic competitiveness;
- Excellent science – producing and promoting world-class science in Europe;
- Societal challenges – finding solutions to the big challenges facing our society.

It should be noted that research is an area where projects last several years, and the results often only emerge even after a project has been closed. Therefore, although some exciting results from Horizon 2020 have already been published, the vast bulk of them are expected to be delivered only after year 2020.

EU added value of the programme

In accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, there is compelling evidence that Member States acting alone will not be able to make the required public intervention in the research domain in terms of achieving an appropriate, 'critical mass' level of investment and battling fragmentation.

Horizon 2020 plays a central role in the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by providing a common strategic framework for the Union's research and innovation funding, thus acting as a vehicle for leveraging private investment, creating new job opportunities and ensuring Europe's long-term sustainable growth and competitiveness.

The added value of investing in Research & Innovation at EU level is very large. Research & Innovation are public goods with a strong European dimension (Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances.). EU investments in R&I leverage additional funds at the national level (without evidence of substitution).

Due to their scale, speed and scope, EU-funded projects would not have gone ahead with national funding alone (As shown in the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020, 83 % of projects would not have gone ahead without EU funding.). Below is a list of the benefits (The quantifications listed below come from a rigorous counterfactual analysis comparing R&I teams that received EU funding with those who did not. See PPMI study on EU added value of EU Framework Programmes, 2017) of investing at the EU level, compared to the national and regional level, together with concrete examples:

- boosting EU competitiveness through the creation of trans-national and multidisciplinary networks and markets, which lead to positive knowledge spillovers and technology transfers across the Union, and result in new products and services:
 - EU-funded R&I teams are 40 % more likely than non-EU funded teams to be granted patents;
- pooling public and private resources / knowledge to achieve the critical mass needed to tackle global challenges:
 - the work of the UN's IPCC on climate change relied extensively on EU-funded research;
 - only EU-level action can overcome the thin distribution of patients affected by rare diseases (6 000 rare diseases, taken together, affect ~20 million EU citizens);
- strengthening scientific excellence through EU-wide competition and cooperation:
 - in the world's top 1 % most cited publications, four times more publications derive from Horizon 2020 projects than from any other source of funding (in relative terms);
 - EU-funded peer-reviewed publications are cited more than twice as often as the world average;
- increasing the EU's attractiveness as a place for education, research, innovation and business:
 - EU funding supports over 300 000 researchers and innovators;
 - the research impact of internationally mobile researchers supported by Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions is up to 20 % higher than for non-mobile researchers;
 - EU-funded teams grow faster and attract twice as many collaborations from outside the EU;

- leveraging private investment:
 - EU R&I projects give the impetus to the private sector to invest more of their own funds than they do under national funding schemes – Horizon 2020 has leveraged EUR 13 billion in private funds and mobilised EUR 29.6 billion via debt financing;
- having a positive structuring effect on the national R&I ecosystems:
 - the European Research Council has become a global beacon of excellence. This has in turn encouraged the national research institutions to evolve and improve in order to attract and retain grantees.

Implementation mode

Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are set out in multiannual work programmes, which cover the large majority of support available. The work programmes are prepared by the European Commission within the framework provided by the Horizon 2020 legislation and through a strategic programming process which integrates EU policy objectives in the priority setting. The main Horizon 2020 work programme is complemented by the separate work programmes for the European Research Council, Euratom, the Joint Research Centre and the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and technology (EIT).

Horizon 2020 supports indirect actions through one or several of the forms of funding, in particular grants, prizes, procurement and financial instruments. Financial instruments are the main form of funding for activities close to market under Horizon 2020. These instruments help companies and other types of organizations engaged in R&I to gain easier access to financing, in the form of risk-sharing (for loans and guarantees) and by providing risk finance (equity). The aim is to stimulate more investment in research and innovation, notably by the private sector.

Horizon 2020 also supports direct actions, which are undertaken by the JRC.

Management and implementation of the Horizon 2020 programme is undertaken by 29 different bodies:

- Ten Commission DGs: RTD, CNECT, GROW, DEFIS, MOVE, ENER, HOME, EAC, JRC, AGRI;
- Four executive agencies: European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA), Research Executive Agency (REA), Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME), Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA);
- Five public-public partnerships (Art. 185 TFEU bodies): Active and Assisted Living (AAL), European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP 2), European Metrology Research Programme (EMPIR), Research and Development Programme aimed at supporting research performing small and medium-sized enterprises (Eurostars 2), Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA);
- Eight public-private partnerships, (Art. 187 TFEU bodies or Joint Undertakings): Bio-based industries (BBI), Clean Sky 2, ECSEL, Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH 2), the new High Performance Computing (HPC), Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI 2), SESAR and Shift2Rail; complemented by ten contractual Public-Private Partnerships (cPPP); Factories of the Future; Energy-efficient Buildings; European Green Vehicles Initiative; Sustainable Process Industry; Photonics; Robotics; High Performance Computing; Advanced 5G networks for the Future Internet; Cybersecurity and Big Data Value.
- The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT);
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF).

The Commission has taken a number of measures to ensure a consistent and harmonized approach amongst the different implementing services. Thus, there is a range of strategic coordination mechanisms, including the strategic programming exercise that leads to the development of the Work Programme. For grant management, a Common Support Centre has been established, which provides common services to all members of the ‘research family’. There are also common rules for participation, with very few derogations, replacing the multitude of rules of the past.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The 2016-2017 Work Programme was flexible and capable of addressing the topical issues that matter most to the European citizens. Important novelties were introduced:

- A new boost to **competitiveness** by accelerating innovation and collaboration, and by improving transparency and openness when it comes to research data, thus avoiding duplication of efforts. The current Open Research Data Pilot programme was extended to cover all the thematic areas of Horizon 2020, *making open research data the default setting*.
- In response to the **migration crisis**, funding was made available to help coordinate research communities and to make policy recommendations to facilitate migrants’ integration into the labour market.
- Key actions **supporting a forward-looking climate change policy**, such as the new ‘*Closing the water gap*’ topic with a budget of EUR 10 million in the ‘Greening the economy’ call. This will reduce the fragmentation of water research and

innovation efforts across Europe and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as to the conclusions of the COP21 Paris Agreement on climate change.

By the February 2020, 228 411 eligible proposals were submitted, requesting a total EU financial contribution of EUR 363.9 billion. Out of these, 27 488 proposals had been retained for funding, bringing the overall success rate of eligible full proposals in the first five years to 12,03 %. These retained proposals resulted in a total of 27 190 signed grant agreements, with a total budget allocation of EUR 50.5 billion in EU funding. This amount is expected to grow even further, as some of the grants from the 2018 call planning will be signed only in 2019.

Key achievements

The Research and Innovation projects funded by Horizon 2020 have already produced many results. Due to the large volume of results, it is impossible to present all 2019 key achievements. Therefore, only a few of them with limited information are presented in this section. The results of all funded projects including all the European Commission's information such as the grant, the funding and participants, the projects' summaries, and links to specific publications and other documents are available on http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html. Furthermore, we would like to emphasise that most of the following key results belong to EU projects funded before 2019. Indeed, it takes a number of months or even many years after the launch of the project to get a reliable result. You will find in this section an extract of the 2019 key achievements sorted by the order of the funding domain.

The European Research Council (ERC) selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects in Europe. For example, on a remote island at the edge of the Aegean Sea, a climate change superstation has been constructed with the support of the ERC, the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) and the Greek government. This remote Ionian island is increasingly coming into the limelight as a main reference point for climate, energy and weather research in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Professors William G. Kaelin Jr, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza 'for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability'. Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe is **the seventh ERC-funded researcher to be awarded a Nobel Prize** to date. The project succeeded in providing a detailed structural and chemical characterisation of human hydroxylase enzymes, and also led to the development of inhibitors of these enzymes. Modulating how cells respond to hypoxia could in the future be of therapeutic use in ischaemic disease and cancer.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) has created an extensive network of researchers from all scientific fields, and intersectoral partnerships, which are able to contribute to the implementation of different EU policies. This is notably the case for the European Green Deal, as **MSCA has been funding about 600 research projects related to climate-change** for a total budget of EUR 310 million since 2014. MSCA is also greatly contributing to the implementation of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, accounting alone for more than half of the total third countries' participations to Horizon 2020, while 38 % of the MSCA fellows are nationals from non-EU countries.

Each year on the last Friday in September, **the European Researchers' Night** brings research and researchers closer to the public at large, to boost public recognition of science and research education and show the impact of research on daily life. It has become the largest research communication and promotion event in Europe. In 2019, the European Researchers' Night (27 September) was implemented in more than 400 cities across Europe and beyond. The events involved more than **36,000 researchers** and attracted **1.65 million visitors**, and stimulated, especially among young people, interest in research and related careers.

The 10th April 2019, the Commission revealed **the first ever image of a black hole** taken by Event Horizon Telescope, a global scientific collaboration involving EU-funded scientists. This major discovery provides visual evidence for the existence of black holes and pushes the boundaries of modern science. The crucial observation was possible because of the state-of-the-art technique was in place. The EU has supporting the upgrade to the technologies needed for some of these research infrastructures, in the past 15 years, through various grants to RadioNet for a total amount of about EUR 30 million, including EUR 10 million from Horizon 2020.

The Euro-ARGO ERIC, (European Research Infrastructure Consortium), has been established to develop a long term European contribution to Argo Programme that uses profiling floats to observe temperature, salinity, currents, and, recently, bio-optical properties in the Earth's oceans. EURO-ARGO project has already deployed **279 new floats that represent more than 25 % of the global contribution**.

Horizon 2020 supports the European Earth Observation Programme, Copernicus, with **five research projects dealing explicitly with climate change and CO₂ monitoring**. Research organisations and public bodies from throughout Europe are working together to provide comprehensive, detailed and reliable climate information. This will not reduce CO₂ or stop climate change per se, but it will give Europe an independent monitoring tool in support of political measures. It is available to all interested parties for free. An innovative use of these services can be found in application projects in various domains: The agricultural sector represents about two thirds of all Horizon 2020 Copernicus downstream projects in the private commercial domain. Many of them aim to solve problems related to climate change, such as the need for irrigation and managing ground water supplies. Another example is applications fostering urban sustainability combining climate change related infrastructure adaptations, energy management and social measures. This can serve both the private and public sector.

EU-funded projects will help transform our economy and society and decouple industrial growth from environmental impacts. Currently, on average, every citizen generates around 5 tonnes of waste per year, of which only a limited amount is recycled, most of the remainder is landfilled or incinerated. Six projects propose innovative solutions that promote waste reduction and improved resource efficiency in the textile, construction, photovoltaic, steel industry, bulky and urban waste sectors. The initiatives focused on Industrial Symbiosis, which is key driver for enabling the next step in a circular economy with a significant reduction in Green House Gas emissions, as well as its contribution to reaching a climate neutral economy by 2050 (zero emissions/zero waste). BAMB, reduces construction and demolition waste through a new standardised circular way of designing buildings, enabling the construction sector to recover, repair and reuse building materials. Meanwhile, CABRISS developed a circular economy for not only the photovoltaic (PV), but also the electronic and glass industries to form new business opportunities through the recovery of high-value materials found in End-of-Life PV panels. URBANREC designed an innovative bulky waste management system to enhance waste prevention and encourage new forms of waste treatment to obtain high benefit recycled products.

The European Innovation Council, (EIC) can help innovators from the stage of idea and invention to investments in various domains such as the environment. The TAPP Water, has received a phase 2 grant from the EIC SME Instrument Program to further **enhance tap quality and reduce plastic bottle waste** with 2 billion bottles per year.

New tools and new solutions to reduce Breast cancer. Breast cancer claims the lives of more European women than any other cancer: one in eight women in the EU will develop breast cancer before the age of 85. Data from the European Cancer Information System (ECIS) indicate more than 400 000 new cases were diagnosed in 2018. By improving the quality of breast cancer services in Europe, the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) aims to help reduce the burden of cancer and decrease the avoidable differences in breast cancer incidence, prevalence, mortality and survival. The European Union is exploring all avenues to save lives. By understanding the molecular characteristics of stem cells, the BRECASTEM project hopes to advance new treatments and more targeted therapies. EpiPredict has mapped systems behaviour of breast cancer cells after hormone treatment. Findings show how tumours change their ‘appearance’ to evade cancer treatments using epigenetic mechanisms. Meanwhile, the INTHER project developed an innovative device to deliver minimally invasive immunostimulating Interstitial Laser Thermotherapy (imILT). The therapy works by attacking the tumour directly and stimulating the patient’s own immune system to attack other (same-type cancer) tumours. Traditionally, breast cancer treatment decisions made by physicians rely on clinical pathology such as the tumour’s hormone receptor status, age, tumour size, grade and lymph node involvement. However, this approach doesn’t determine the risk of cancer recurrence with patients being over- or under-treated. The MammaPrint project, following on from two previous FP6 and FP7 projects, set out to analyse the entire genome of patients and further validate a molecular signature that could be associated with cancer recurrence. The MATADOR project is dedicated to developing a new cell-based test for drug screening capable of identifying the compounds that best interfere with epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition. Finally, ONCOscanner is an innovative solution that enables intra-operative recognition of collected tissues during surgical removal of cancerous breast tissue. By doing so, the scanner can detect breast cancer tissue during an operation, leading to an improved rate of retention of healthy tissue and local treatment outcome.

But still a way to go. The breast cancer mortality rate has dropped by nearly 12 % across the EU over the past decade, the study notes, with 13.36 women per 100 000 expected to succumb to the disease in 2019, down from 16.44 women per 100 000 in the 2005-2009 period. Researchers found that six of the biggest countries in the bloc now have averages hovering from 13-14 deaths per 100 000 women. Cancer is an important priority of the next phase of the EU’s research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe. The programme includes a proposal to establish a ‘Mission on Cancer’ to boost the impact of EU-funded research and innovation by mobilising investment and EU-wide efforts around measurable and time-bound goals around issues that affect citizens’ daily lives.’

Horizon 2020 projects related to ‘Food’ highlight **how our ecosystems contribute to sustainable production, food security, safety and healthy and sustainable nutrition in the EU (and globally) and how they deliver on the main EU policies.** A number of projects have analysed the production dimension from different angles. AquaSpace’s goal is to provide greater space for aquaculture so as to allow increased production while DIVERSIFOOD has evaluated and enriched the diversity of cultivated plants within diverse agroecosystems to increase their performance, resilience, quality and use by studying underutilized and forgotten plant species for organic and low-input agriculture. SUFISA has identified sustainable practices and policies in the agricultural, fish and food sectors that support the sustainability of primary producers in a context of multi-dimensional policy requirements, market uncertainties and globalisation.

Horizon 2020 projects **address technology development, market barriers and accelerate the uptake of renewable energy technologies.** On a regional basis, CoolHeating supported the implementation of small modular heating and cooling grids in south eastern Europe using improved business strategy and innovative financing schemes. The BestRES project explored aggregation of various distributed renewable energy sources. Development of ‘bioenergy villages’ requires bioenergy concepts to be at the investment stage. BioVill developed these villages in Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia and Romania to a point where they could cooperate with established markets in Austria and Germany. LIFES 50plus has delivered two optimized, innovative substructure designs for very large floating offshore wind turbines (10 MW) that have been qualified to TRL (Technology Readiness Level) of 5 through experimental validation in relevant environment. The two Selected Designs have also undergone an industrialization process to guarantee their MRL (Manufacturing Readiness Level). Assuming that this replaces generation from conventional coal fired power plants in the long terms, emissions will be reduced with some several million tonnes of CO₂ for every TWh of offshore wind generation. In a climate-neutral Europe, power generation should be fully decarbonised by 2050, more than

80 % of the EU's electricity will be produced by RESs (Renewable Energy Sources). *Efforts are still required to meet these targets.* The Commission proposed in the next R&I programme Horizon Europe a mission '**Climate neutral and Smart Cities**' to help the EU to meet the goals and targets set out by international policy frameworks such as the COP21 Paris Agreement, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (notably SDG11), the Urban Agenda for the EU and the Habitat III New Urban Agenda as cities play a key role in all of them.

Europe enjoys a rich diversity of flora and fauna, many of which are unique. This natural wealth provides us with clean air and water, productive soils as well as energy and natural resources for economic and social development. Such healthy ecosystems help mitigate the impacts of climate change, while supporting a green economy, creating job opportunities and enhancing biodiversity. Many animal and plant species are seriously threatened by urban sprawl, intensive agriculture, pollution, invasive species and climate change resulting from human activities. The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates that up to 25 % of European animal species are now threatened with extinction. In full awareness of the situation, Horizon 2020 contributes significant financial resources to the conservation of biodiversity. **ECOPOTENTIAL developed tools to connect Earth observation techniques with field measurements to study ecosystems and better manage protected areas** such as National Parks, Unesco World Heritage and Natura2000 sites, and marine ecosystems. **AQUACROSS** advanced knowledge on ecosystem management to **enhance the resilience of aquatic ecosystems and arrest biodiversity loss**. Wetlands are the ecosystems with the highest rate of loss around the world.

Co-creating innovative public services for citizens and businesses. The TOOP project is piloting solutions to help administrators implement the 'once-only principle' by developing a federated technical architecture to connect national registries at the EU level, while SCOOP4C is aiming at simplifying administrative procedures for citizens. RECAP helps both administrators and farmers alike adhere to the technical demands of the Common Agricultural Policy, saving both time and money, while OpenGovIntelligence pilots the use of Linked Open Statistical Data and the active participation of society and businesses in data sharing.

The security of 5G telecommunications networks has become a pressing political issue. An EU toolbox of mitigating measures was published on 29 January 2020, designed to address effectively major risks to 5G networks, such as criminal hacking, espionage and sabotage, in a coordinated way. The project SPIDER (cyberSecurity Platform for vRtualised 5G cybErRange services) aims at providing an innovative cyber range platform with the latest 5G virtualisation, infrastructure management and orchestration technologies. Furthermore, it seeks to utilize state-of-the-art AI/Machine Learning-based technologies capable of assessing the security of critical virtualised communication infrastructures and to integrate improved risk analysis and econometric models that can support organisations in making optimal cybersecurity investment decisions. The SPIDER virtual environment will be also used for training information security professionals to deal with real-world 5G security incidents.

Enhanced situational awareness improves decision-making during extreme weather events – The intensity, frequency and economic costs of extreme weather events are increasing with global climate change. As a result, flooding, droughts, heatwaves and wildfires are expected to be more common and more severe in the future. Currently, emergency management of severe weather events is largely decentralised, leaving local communities responsible to prepare for and deal with disasters. Innovative crisis management tools and technology should enable a fast and effective response, significantly decreasing loss of life and property. The EU-funded beAWARE project developed a comprehensive communications and analysis platform to help decision-makers, first responders and citizens. It includes multilingual verbal and written communication analyses, multilingual report generation and emergency multimedia-enriched communication. Widespread implementation of the beAWARE platform at the local level should enable communities to take charge of crisis management. Community leaders, first responders and citizens alike will be able to address increasingly severe weather events more quickly and effectively, saving lives and livelihoods.

The Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) provides **global past and present day anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants by country and on a spatial grid**. The EDGAR 2019 report produced by JRC shows that global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels combustion and processes further increased by 1.9 % in 2018 compared to the previous year. The world's largest CO₂ emitters in 2018 remain China, the United States, India, the EU28, Russia and Japan. However, **the EU28 and Japan reduced their fossil CO₂ emissions by -1.9 % and -1.7 % respectively**.

In order to achieve the ambition transition to a low carbon economy meeting the 2 % target, global greenhouse gas emissions need to drop to net zero in the second half of the century. The Global Energy and Climate Outlook (GECO) produced by JRC analyses the role of electrification in global transition pathways to a low Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions economy. The 2 °C target could be achieved by simultaneously transforming various elements of the energy system: This report further shows that the 2 °C target is technically possible at relatively low cost for the overall economy (global GDP reduction below 1 % across all sensitivities compared to Reference in 2050). This would also bring along co-benefits for air quality. The role of electricity is examined by large sector (industry, transport, buildings, power generation), with a particular regional focus on the EU and China and a sectoral focus on road transport electrification.

In addition, in support to EU Directives, research activities are carried out at the Vehicle Emissions Laboratory (VELA) testing facilities on a variety of **vehicles' emissions including the measurement of evaporative emissions**.

The EIT has established a trusted network of around 1 650 partners across Europe, making it one of the largest networked innovation communities in the world. Overall, the EIT has supported over 1 250 start-ups and scale-ups (more than EUR 890 million in investments), and creating more than 6 100 high-skilled jobs and also bringing over 600 new products and services to the market. More than 2 300 students have already graduated from EIT-labelled education programmes at Master and PhD level. These

accomplishments are proof that the EIT is an up-and-running innovation engine that delivers tangible results. Some of the companies supported by the EIT at an early stage have now grown into major players in their markets and attracted substantial private sector investments, for example Tado, Konux, Skeleton Technologies, Navya and Lilium Aviation. Among the innovative solutions supported by the EIT KICs that contributing to tackle the climate and environmental-related challenges are unique wave energy converter to efficiently and sustainably harvest energy from oceans, hyperloop – an energy-efficient new mode of tube transportation for large volume of passengers and cargo or robotics technology in waste management to improve the quality of recycled materials and facilitate their reintroduction into the value chain.

Evaluation /studies conducted

The Horizon 2020 interim evaluation was completed and published in May 2017 – see: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/support-eu-research-and-innovation-policy-making/evaluation-impact-assessment-and-monitoring/horizon-2020_en

Forthcoming implementation

The 2018-2020 Work Programme was built on the success of Horizon 2020 so far and lessons learned from the interim evaluation from the programme. For this 2020 work programme five major priorities were identified, themselves founded on the overall policy priorities for the EU, and a significant proportion of the budget of EUR 7.6 billion has been focused on these. Also, the 2018-2020 Work Programme invests **EUR 2.7 billion to kick-start the new European Innovation Council**, which will support break-through innovation in the EU.

The five priorities are the following:

- Increased investment in sustainable development and climate related R&I
- Integrating digitisation in all industrial technologies and societal challenges
- Strengthening international R&I cooperation
- Societal Resilience
- Market creating innovation

Attention is drawn in particular to initiatives in key areas like the Digital Single Market, (High Performance Computing, ICT, SMEs), Energy Union, Mobility (batteries) Space and the Circular Economy including work on plastics.

This new content revitalises and resets the programme in the light of emerging priorities and, very importantly, *connecting with the forthcoming Horizon Europe programme*. This work programme of Horizon 2020 also includes actions, which in terms of their content and structure will help to prepare for the possible research and innovation agendas and structures in Horizon Europe, although not prejudging the outcome of the negotiations on this new programme. These actions have been described as ‘bridging’ towards Horizon Europe. Two pilot topics in the Research Infrastructures work programme part will test some possible Horizon Europe features relating to the opening, integrating and interconnecting of research infrastructures. Relevant also in this context is the piloting of new approaches which are foreseen to be further developed in Horizon Europe, such as the enhanced EIC Pilot (Pathfinder and Accelerator).

Furthermore, this final update of the work programme contains *measures to increase simplification*, e.g. lump sum pilots for funding, which have been extended to the FET-open, LEIT-NMBP, Dissemination, Exploitation and Evaluation and the Societal Challenges 1-6 work programme parts.

Overall, the final Horizon 2020 Work Programme has the potential to make a real and sustainable difference to the quality of life in the EU, as well as the EU’s position in the world, through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with and in order to prepare for Horizon Europe which emphasises *support to synergies with other Union funding programmes and Union policies*, this work programme for Horizon 2020 will seek to support the issue. Project proposers should consider and actively seek synergies with, and where appropriate possibilities for further funding from, other relevant EU, national or regional research and innovation programmes (including ERDF/ESF+ or the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance [IPA II]), private funds or financial instruments (including EFSI).

Building on the additional funding allocated to climate objectives under Horizon 2020 in 2020, a total budget of around EUR 1 billion will be dedicated to ‘Green Deal’ related calls. This amount is over and above the EUR 1,3 billion already foreseen for 2020, providing a total of around EUR 2,3 billion of Horizon 2020 funding allocated to clean-technology research and innovation in 2020. In addition, Horizon 2020 has shown its ability to react quickly to major events. In response to the current COVID19 pandemic, Horizon has in total mobilised in total more than 1 billion EUR (EUR 307 million on-going projects and EUR 715,5 million for new actions). The financing source comes from reprogramming of Research and Innovation activities across all Commission services. This allows the immediate redeployment of significant resources for COVID19 actions, while keeping the level of ambition for the Green Deal call (EUR 1 billion).

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Horizon Europe is the European Union's seven-year research and innovation programme, running from 2021 to 2027, designed to serve the EC headline ambitions. The programme's general objective is to deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from the Union's investments in R&I, to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union, and foster its competitiveness in all Member States.

Horizon Europe is the largest EU's R&I framework programme. Horizon Europe has the potential to generate significant economic, social and scientific returns.

Horizon Europe Structure Horizon Europe has three pillars:

- The Excellent Science pillar supports frontier research projects designed and driven by researchers through the European Research Council (ERC). It also funds fellowships and a mobility of researchers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and invests in world-class research infrastructures.
- The Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar supports research into societal challenges, reinforces technological and industrial capacities, and sets EU-wide missions with ambitious goals tackling some of our biggest problems (health, climate change, clean energy, mobility, security, digital, materials, etc.). It will also support partnerships with Member States, industry and other stakeholders to work jointly on research and innovation. It includes action by the Joint Research Centre that supports EU and national policymakers with independent scientific evidence and technical support.
- The Innovative Europe pillar aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation and SME growth through the European Innovation Council. It will help develop the overall European innovation landscape. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) will continue to foster the integration of business, research, higher education and entrepreneurship.

A fourth component on Widening participation and Strengthening the European Research Area underpins the whole of Horizon Europe. It will support EU Member States in their efforts to unlock their national research and innovation potential and it will especially help low R&I performing Member States to participate better in Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe is not just about grants to enable European R&I. Spending money would deliver few lasting results if the broader framework for R&I is not effective and efficient. Horizon Europe is also a powerful tool to give direction to European R&I and to European policy. It brings together partners from science, innovation and business, to jointly develop agendas, to divide the work, and to focus on framework conditions such as regulation to improve the R&I ecosystem as a whole.

Horizon Europe innovation in governance

Strategic planning is a new way of setting the detailed research and innovation priorities of Horizon Europe, co-created by various Commission services, Member States, stakeholders and civil society. During the Horizon Europe implementation strategy process, two major sets of co-design activities took place between July and October 2019. Firstly, an open web consultation on Horizon Europe co-design implementation that collected 1,549 replies between 31 July 2019 and 4 October 2019. Respondents appreciated the continuity approach taken by the Commission regarding the rules of participation and by extension in a wider sense, to Horizon Europe's implementation. Secondly, through meetings and exchanges at the European Research and Innovation Days (24-26 September 2019), which attracted a large stakeholder community of almost 4,000 participants. The feedback collected will feed into the on-going work on the Horizon Europe Implementation Strategy.

Horizon Europe: Novelties

One of the main novelty on Horizon Europe is the mission-driven approach that are linked to key societal challenges and relevant to a broad range of stakeholders as well as to citizens. They should deliver European public goods on some of the issues that matter most to people. The five mission areas are: adaptation to climate change including societal transformation; cancer; healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters; climate-neutral and smart cities and health soil and food.

The European Innovation Council is another key novelty of Horizon Europe, built on the experience gained with the pilot under Horizon 2020; it is the one-stop shop for innovation to bring the most promising ideas and breakthrough innovations from lab to real-world application and help the most innovative start-ups and companies to scale up.

Under Horizon Europe, all EU access to (risk) finance instruments will be implemented under a single Invest EU Fund. DG Research & Innovation is involved in two windows of InvestEU: the R&I Window and the SME Window.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104). Council Decision 2013/743/EU of 3 December 2013 establishing the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014 – 2020) and repealing Decisions 2006/971/EC, 2006/972/EC, 2006/973/EC, 2006/974/EC and 2006/975/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, m. 965). Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments (OJ L 169, 1.7.2015, p. 1).	2014 – 2020	74 828,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	496,3	489,9	497,6	494,6	496,8	506,5	513,8	3 495,6
Operational appropriations	7 575,3	7 620,9	7 754,0	8 618,7	9 075,4	10 118,7	10 941,2	61 704,1
Executive Agency	99,9	114,2	124,5	138,3	145,1	155,5	164,6	942,2
Joint undertaking	625,2	1 060,6	916,7	872,0	1 103,6	1 154,6	1 369,6	7 102,4
Other bodies	226,4	253,8	249,6	300,4	396,2	456,1	496,7	2 379,3
Total	9 023,1	9 539,4	9 542,5	10 423,9	11 217,2	12 391,5	13 485,9	75 623,6

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	12 391,501	100,00 %	10 503,099	99,22 %	13 485,949	32,82 %	11 649,542	25,92 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	14 933,711	92,44 %	14 109,548	79,25 %	15 470,408	32,33 %	15 321,731	22,12 %

(*) 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

By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth 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.

To reinforce and facilitate knowledge sharing and evidence-based policy-making, the Common Support Centre of DG RTD has developed a dashboard that provides reporting on 18 out of the 23 Horizon 2020 KPIs. For example, it shows numbers of patent applications and patent awarded per specific objective. It allow to gauge exactly how well Horizon 2020 is performing. The dashboard is open to all. It answers to the need for more transparency in the spending of the EU research and innovation budget.

[<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>].

The method to set KPIs baseline depend on the maturity of KPI. Wherever possible the historic data from previous R&I programmes were used to set the baseline. When the data were not available, the ‘new approach’ is mentioned in the performance tables.

Some KPIs such as peer reviewed publications, patents and number of prototypes and testing activities have been set to evaluate the research and the innovation productivity of various funded activities. Even, in the performance tables some results are already given they are not yet representative at this stage of the implementation of the Horizon 2020 programme. Most of the first results from projects are available only from the 3rd year after the implementation. The final figures will be collected after all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020. The reference for their target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished.

Concerning the milestones, notwithstanding our intention to report on these, again it turned out that there is no sufficient data at this stage to underpin any serious reporting.

Concerning the number of patent applications per EUR 10 million, the performance results are underestimated, as the ratio is calculated based on the budget that covers the period 2014-2019 while the patent applications being taken into account come from projects funded mainly over the 2014-2017 period. The patent applications originating from 2018-2019 R&I projects are not taken into account in the calculation as they are not yet filed.

As regard the Joint Undertakings set up under Horizon 2020 (SESAR, IMI2, CS2, FCH2, ECSEL, S2R, BBI), their performance is in general be considered to be positive, as reported by the ECA. Nevertheless, some measures will be taken to improve their performance such as the dissemination and exploitation of the JU projects results and the coordination with other EU and national research programmes.

Performance results

Horizon 2020 is making progress towards delivering scientific impacts through the reinforcement of R&I capabilities, scientific excellence and reputation, and through the integration of R&I efforts.

The pillar '**Excellence Science**' is progressing towards the targets and is likely to meet them. Horizon 2020 is succeeding in attracting and involving the EU's and world's best research institutions and researchers.

- From 2014, 5522 high quality research projects have been funded by the ERC via Horizon 2020. The share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited remains high, about 7 %, considerably exceeding the target of 1.8 %.
- From 2014, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) has supported the mobility and training of around 58 000 researchers at all stages of their careers, including more than 20 000 PhD candidates. It has funded more than 900 excellent international doctoral programmes involving universities, research centres, enterprises including SMEs. It is well on track to achieve its target of 65 000 researchers, including 22 000 PhD.
- Thanks to Horizon 2020 support, many national research infrastructures have been made accessible to all researchers in Europe and beyond: 49 645 researchers have had access to e-research infrastructure; 8 534 researchers have had remote or physical access to research infrastructure. It clearly exceed the agreed target of 20 000.
- Over 30 years the EU has invested more and more in future technologies, whether for economic, social or environmental reasons, including through the Future and Emerging Technologies programme with a budget under Horizon 2020 over EUR 2.5 billion. Although the FET have already generated more than 2 300 publications and more than 70 patents, Horizon 2020 had to do much better in terms of market-creating innovation. Therefore, it was decided to create a European Innovation Council Pilot, offering new opportunities for exploring the deep-tech of the future.

The actions of the programme as far as the pillar '**Industrial leadership**' is concerned are progressing well.

- LEIT projects already produced numerous outputs, such as patents (308 applications and 212 awarded); more than 5 700 public-private publication and 15 434 firms have introduced innovations with the potential to generate scientific breakthroughs.
- Under the access to risk finance programme, more than 23 000 organisations have been funded – which is above the target of 5 000; with EUR 29 billion amount of private funds leveraged. Total investments mobilised via debt financing and Venture Capital investments is of EUR 54 billion, which is above the target of EUR 15 billion.
- The SME instrument is producing more close-to-market outputs compared to other types of action, followed by innovation actions. So far, about 1 000 SMEs have introduced innovations new to the market and about 1 300 new to the company or the market. The SMEs instruments have generated around 430 jobs and a growth of EUR 9 million.

Horizon 2020 is succeeding in boosting Europe's industrial leadership and competitiveness through stimulating leadership in enabling and industrial technologies, improving access to risk finance, and stimulating innovation in SMEs. However, the interim evaluation report [http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/pdf/book_interim_evaluation_horizon_2020.pdf] stated that closing the innovation gap and boosting industrial leadership is still a valid key objective for the EU and Horizon 2020, although the importance of supporting breakthrough, market-creating innovation is now more clearly recognised than when designing Horizon 2020. Following the 'call for ideas' in 2016 and advice from the high level group of innovators, a pilot European Innovation Council (EIC) was created within Horizon 2020. To further support innovation, between 2018 and 2020, the Commission has mobilised EUR 2.7 billion from Horizon 2020 to support high-risk, high-gain innovations to create the markets of the future. Moreover, Horizon 2020 will use EIC 'crack the challenge' prizes to deliver breakthrough technology solutions to pressing problems faced by our citizens. The EIC pilot will bring together different schemes supporting innovators to make them easier to understand and access. The EIC pilot provides funding and support to Start-ups and SMEs for breakthrough innovation projects with a market-creating potential. The pilot provides grant-only support along with blended finance (grant in combination with equity investment). The EIC Accelerator Pilot supports close-to-market activities, with the aim to give a strong boost to breakthrough innovation with a market-creating potential.

The progress of the pillar '**Societal Challenges**' is encouraging. Horizon 2020 projects have already produced numerous results such as publications, patents, prototypes, products, processes and methods in societal relevance domains.

- From the information available so far, the societal challenges pillar have already generated more than 6000 peer-reviewed publications; about 5200 public-private publications; 700 patent applications (not yet awarded) and 344 patents awarded and already 44 000 innovations that include prototypes and testing activities.

Considering the remark mentioned above on the productivity of publications and patent, the indicators are only interim, and it is too early to draw final conclusions on the performance of this pillar. Nevertheless, the interim evaluation of the programme has already proposes that, to improve the impact of research, a mission-oriented approach should be considered in order to deliver impact on global challenges at a scale, speed and scope that adds value compared to what can be done at the national or regional level. The next R&I programme Horizon Europe will address five missions oriented as described in the section II.

In 2018, 338 tangible specific impacts on European policies resulting from technical and scientific support have been provided by the Joint Research Centre and 538 peer reviewed publications in high impact journals have been generated by the JRC. These results show that **JRC** has exceeded its targets of 330 and 500 respectively.

As far as the **European Institute of Technology** is concerned, 1 650 organisations from universities, business and research are integrated in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), above the target of 1 200. The performance results show also that the collaboration inside the knowledge triangle, leading to the development of innovative products, services and processes, is on track to achieve its innovation target and slightly behind in meeting the ‘start-up and spin-off’ target.

As regards the Joint Undertakings set up under Horizon 2020, their performance is in general be considered to be positive, as reported by the European Court of Auditors in the annual report on the EU Joint Undertakings for the financial year 2018. However, it has been reported that they can improve the link between research and societal growth, and bring innovation closer to the market. As regards the financial matters, the ECA confirms that their management is healthy, but in-kind contributions, internal control, grant management and staff turnover need to be improved.

The results of tracking Horizon 2020 expenditure for climate change show that the sums spent have fallen behind the expected expenditure for this objective as of 1 January 2020. For climate action, expenditure was 30 % compared to the target of 35 % applicable to the whole period of Horizon 2020. However, compared to FP7, the programme represents a considerable increase in research in those areas. The major difficulty in reaching the expected investments comes from the bottom-up parts of Horizon 2020 (especially ERC and MSCA), since their content is unpredictable by nature, and even difficult to assess at the moment of the research. Nevertheless, to support the Green deal priority a call with a budget of 1bn EUR dedicated to the Green Deal will be launched in 2020. This will considerably raise the level of expenditure on climate action.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to build a society and an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the whole Union, while contributing to sustainable development

Indicator 1: The Europe 2020 R & D target (3 % of GDP)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
2.02 %			2.50 %				3.00 %	3.00 %
	Actual results							
	2.03 %	2.04 %	2.03 %	2.07 %				

Indicator 2: Innovation Output Indicator								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
102.1								The composite nature of this indicator is not particularly suited to establishing a target
	Actual results							
	103.6			103.1				

Indicator 3: Share of researchers in the EU active population								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1.14 %			1.21 %				1.33 %	1.33 %
	Actual results							
	1.17 %	1.20 %	1.23 %					

Comment: The General Objective contributes to the following Europe 2020 headline targets: By stimulating the generation of more sustainable

growth and the creation of new jobs in the EU, it helps to raise the share of population employed. By contributing directly to R & D expenditure and leveraging public and private funds towards this sector, it helps raising the R & D investment in the EU. Finally, in order to promote sustainable development, support is provided to climate change and energy research. This has an impact on the reduction of emissions, the promotion of renewable energy sources and the increase of energy efficiency, thus making progress towards the 20/20/20 climate/energy targets. So far, only one of these indicators is making steady progress towards reaching its target. The share of researchers in the EU active population is on track towards the 1.33 % target by year 2020. This is a positive development, in that it meets one of the basic conditions necessary for increasing the research and innovation activities in the EU. On the other hand, there is no significant progress towards reaching the spending target (3 % of GDP). Member States and private enterprise have not increased their R & D budgets as expected, at least partly because of the difficult economic climate. It was expected that Horizon 2020's focus on financial instruments for R & D actions will have a significant impact on this indicator in the medium to long term, but even this element was not sufficient to reach the 3 % target by year 2020.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Excellent science – European Research Council (ERC) – strengthening frontier research

Indicator 1: Share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited per field of science								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none					1.5 %		1.8 %	1.8 %
	Actual results							
					7.0 %	7.0 %		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 01 01 (RTD)		
Grants	1185	2150,3
Prizes		
Procurement	1	0,1
Financial instruments		
Experts	1	18,2
Others	1	1,4
Total		2170,0
of which, Climate-related expenditure		324

Specific Objective 2: Excellent science – Future and Emerging Technologies – strengthening research in future and emerging technologies

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals per EUR 10 million funding: none				2			25	25
	Actual results							
				7	10	14		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals: none								
	Actual results							
				590	1 397	2 317		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies per EUR 10 million funding: none	Actual results							1.0
					0.2	0.4		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies: none	Actual results							
				3	7	73		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 01 02 (RTD)		
Grants		
Prizes		
Procurement		
Financial instruments		
Experts		
Others ⁽¹⁾		
Subtotal		p.m
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 09 04 01 01 (C-NET)		
Grants	168	431,3
Prizes		0
Procurement		0,2
Financial instruments		0
Experts		1,5
Others		20,0
Total of the Specific Objective		453,0
of which, Climate-related expenditure		60,0

Specific Objective 3: Excellent science – Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions – strengthening skills, training and career development

Indicator 1: Cross-sector and cross-country circulation of researchers, including PhD candidates (cumulative number)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Researchers: 50 000	7 500	16 500	25 000	34 000	43 500	53 500	65 000	65 000
	Actual results							
	7 700	15 400	25 000	36 000	48 000	58 200		
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
PhD: 10 000	3 000	6 000	10 000	13 000	17 400	21 400	25 000	25 000
	Actual results							
	3 400	6 800	11 000	14 000	18 000	22 200		

⁽¹⁾ For example: grants to named beneficiaries, Public-Public Partnership based on Article 185 TFEU.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 15 03 01 01 (EAC)		
Grants	1900	1029,4
Prizes		
Procurement	5	2,2
Financial instruments		
Experts	360	1,0
Others		
Total of the Specific Objective		1032,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		197,4

Specific Objective 4: Excellent science – Research infrastructures – strengthening European research infrastructures, including e-infrastructures

Indicator 1: Number of researchers who have access to research infrastructures through Union support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
22 000					12 000		20 000	20 000
	Actual results							
		41 475 (+ 5 086)	42 265 (+ 6 764)	49 645 (+ 7 922)	49 645 (+ 8 008)	49 645 (+ 8 325)		

Comment: In brackets are presented the figures for Number of researchers who have access to research infrastructure

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 01 03 (RTD)		
Grants	37	246,9
Prizes		
Procurement		
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,4
Other		
Subtotal		247,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		52,6
Budget line 09 04 01 02 (C-NECT)		
Grants	9	73,2
Prizes		0
Procurement		
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,4
Others (SGA for the GEANT FPA)		
Subtotal		73,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		0
Total of the Specific Objective		320,9
of which, Climate-related expenditure		52,6

Specific Objective 5: Industrial leadership – boosting Europe’s industrial leadership through research, technological development, demonstration and innovation in the following enabling and industrial technologies (information and communication technologies; nanotechnologies; advanced materials; biotechnology; advanced manufacturing and processing; space)

Indicator 1: Patent applications and patents awarded in the different enabling and industrial technologies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Patent applications in the different enabling and industrial technologies per EUR 10 million funding: ICT (FP7: 0.9) NMBP (FP7: 2.0) Space (FP7 Cooperation projects: 0.3)	Actual results							3.00
				0.30	0.30	0.49		

Number of patent applications:	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
				136	210	308		
Number of patent awarded:	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
				52	55	212		

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 2: Share of participating firms introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
none	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
					11 609	15 434		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Total number of firms introducing innovations.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 3: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
none	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
				620	3 340	5 747		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 02 01 (RTD)		
Grants	100	593,3
Prizes	1	3,0
Procurement	0	0
Financial instruments	0	0
Experts	0	0
Others	0	0

Subtotal		596,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 08 02 07 33 (BBI JU) – Support expenditure ^(?)		1,3
Budget line 08 02 07 34 (BBI JU) ²		9,8
Subtotal		11,1
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 09 04 02 01 (C-NECT)		
Grants	180	807,1
Prizes		0
Procurement		13,0
Financial instruments		
Experts		6,5
Others		50,8
Subtotal		893,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 09 04 07 31 (ECSEL JU) – Support expenditure		6,8
Budget line 09 04 07 32 (ECSEL JU)		199,1
Subtotal		205,9
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 02 04 02 01 (GROW)		
Grants	53	187,4
Prize	1	5,0
Procurement	5	3,2
Financial instruments	1	7,0
Experts		1,8
Other (Delegation Agreement ESA)	1	10,0
Subtotal		214,4
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Total of the Specific Objective		1921,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		433,4

Specific Objective 6: Industrial leadership – enhancing access to risk finance for investing in research and innovation

Indicator 1: Total investments mobilised via debt financing and Venture Capital investments

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none				8			15	15
	Actual results							
		17	22	32	47	54		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Availability of Data: 2019: As of 30/06/2019 in last reports available for indirect debt financing, actual results are based on the portfolio volume made available to financial intermediaries.

Indicator 2: Number of organisations funded and amount of private funds leveraged

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of organisations: none				2 000			5 000	5 000
	Actual results							
		793	4 051	10 484	19 107	23 774		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Amount of private funds leveraged: none				15.0			35.0	35.0
	Actual results							
		7.2	10.5	15.5	24.4	29.0		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

^(?) Part of the line is also included under Specific Objective 9.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 02 02 (RTD)		
Grants	1	0,3
Prizes	6	30
Procurement	0	0
Financial instruments (InnovFin EIB, SMEG & IFE – including EIC blending instrument)	4	360,0
Experts		
Others	0	0
Total		390,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		2,0

Specific Objective 7: Industrial leadership – increasing innovation in SMEs

Indicator 1: Share of participating SMEs introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none				20 %			50 %	50 %
	Actual results							
						2 913		

Narrative: the figure given for 2019 is the total of: 1 616 innovations to the market and 1 297 innovations to the companies

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Indicator 2: Growth and job creation in participating SMEs

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							
						SME Growth: EUR 9 million; SMEs Job creation: 431		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Draft Budget 2019	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 02 03 (RTD)		
Grants	1	0,3
Prizes		
Procurement	0	0
Financial instruments		
Experts	0	0
Others (mainly Eurostars 2)	1	58,4
Subtotal		58,7
Budget line 02 04 02 03 (GROW)		
Grants	117	49,2
Prizes	4	0,2
Procurement	2	1,2
Financial instruments	0	0
Experts	0	0
Others	0	0
Subtotal		50,6
Total of the specific objective		109,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		12,3

Specific Objective 8: Societal challenges – improving the lifelong health and wellbeing of all

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of health and wellbeing

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of health and wellbeing per EUR 10 million funding: 42							20.0	20.0
	Actual results							
				2.8	3.9	6.0		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publication in peer-reviewed in the area of health and wellbeing:								
	Actual results							
			130	722	1 331	2 854		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of health and wellbeing

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Patent applications in the area of health and wellbeing per EUR 10 million funding: 2.00							2.00	2.00
	Actual results							
					0.13	0.32		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent applications in the area of health and wellbeing:								
	Actual results							
			14	28	42	63		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent awarded in the area of health and wellbeing:								
	Actual results							
				19	29	58		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of prototypes: none								
	Actual results							
				237	972	1 384		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020

none							
	Actual results						
				620	3 340	5 747	

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 01 (RTD)		
Grants	80	473,2
Prizes	0	0
Procurement	10	1,5
Financial instruments (Fast-track to innovation)	2	34,8
Experts		2,0
Others (EDCTP2: 98,2, subscription to HFSPO: 5,3 + grant to identif. benef: 50; RIA grants without call / in case of Public Health Emergencies: 10)		163,5
Subtotal		675,0
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 08 02 07 31 (IMI 2JU) – Support expenditure		27,2
Budget line 08 02 07 32 (IMI 2JU)		249,9
Subtotal		277,1
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 09 04 03 01 (CNECT)		
Grants	35	184,4
Prizes	0	0
Procurement	4	2,0
Financial instruments		
Experts		1,5
Others5		
Subtotal		187,9
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Total of the Specific Objective		1140
of which, Climate-related expenditure		67,9

Specific Objective 9: Societal challenges – securing sufficient supplies of safe, healthy and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive, sustainable and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services and the recovery of biological diversity, alongside competitive and low-carbon supply, processing and marketing chains

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of food security								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of food security per EUR 10 million funding: 23	Actual results							20.0
				1.2	1.5	3.3		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publication in peer-reviewed journals in the area of food security:	Actual results							
				180	292	822		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of food security								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020

Number of patent applications in the area of food security per EUR 10 million: 1 (Number of patent applications in this area:)						2	2	2
	Actual results							
			(10)	(12)	0.29 (30)			
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent applications awarded in the area of food security:								
	Actual results							
			2	3	23			

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.
 Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of prototypes: none	Actual results							
				237	972	1 384		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of testing activities: none	Actual results							
				327	3 059	3 745		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							
				620	3 340	5 747		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 02 (RTD)		
Grants	36	236,1
Prizes	0	0
Procurement		7,0
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,3
Others (includes EUR 40 million to Art. 185 initiative PRIMA implemented under Specific Objective 12)		45,3
Subtotal		288,7
Budget line 08 02 07 33 (BBI JU) – Support expenditure ⁽³⁾		7,3

⁽³⁾ Part of the line is also included under Specific Objective 5.

Budget line 08 02 07 34 (BBI JU) ⁽⁴⁾³		55,5
Subtotal		62,8
Budget line 05 09 03 01 (AGRI)		
Grants		281,6
Prizes		0
Procurement		0
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,6
Others – PRIMA		40
Subtotal		358,4
Total of the Specific Objective		709,9
of which, climate-related expenditure		423,4

Specific Objective 10: Societal challenges – making the transition to a reliable, affordable, publicly accepted, sustainable and competitive energy system, aiming at reducing fossil fuel dependency, in the face of increasingly scarce resources, increasing energy needs and climate change

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy per EUR 10 million funding: 14						20.0	20.0	20.0
	Actual results							
				0.8	1.2	2.2		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy:								
	Actual results							
				183	347	815		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Patent applications in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy per EUR 10 million funding: 2						2.0	2.0	2.0
	Actual results							
					0.2	0.6		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patents applications in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy:								
	Actual results							
				66	69	119		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent awarded in the area of secure, clean and efficient energy:								
	Actual results							
				19	19	102		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Prototypes: none	Actual results							
				237	972	1 384		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							
				620	3 340	5 747		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 5: Share of the overall Energy challenge funds allocated to the following research activities: renewable energy, end-user energy-efficiency, smart grids and energy storage activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							85.0 %
			85.0 %				85.0 %	
	91.0 %	94.0 %	94.0 %	87.9 %	90.9 %	89.2 %		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 03 (RTD)		
Grants	60	384,9
Prizes	3	1,7
Procurement	4	0,8
Financial instruments	1	50,0
Experts		0,2
Others		0,2
Subtotal		437,8
Budget line 08 02 07 37 (FCH 2 JU)– Support expenditure		
		8,0
Budget line 08 02 07 38 (FCH 2 JU)		
		51,2
Subtotal		59,2
Budget line 32 04 03 01(ENER)		
Grants	50	308,5
Prizes	0	
Procurement	50	38,1
Financial instruments		0
Experts		0,6
Others		50,7
Subtotal		457,0
Total of the Specific Objective		776,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		954

Specific Objective 11: Societal challenges – achieving a European transport system that is resource-efficient, climate- and environmentally-friendly, safe and seamless for the benefit of all citizens, the economy and society

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of smart, green and integrated transport								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of smart, green and integrated transport per EUR 10 million funding: 2	Actual results							2.0
				0.2	0.5	0.7		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of smart, green and integrated transport:	Actual results							
				55	149	306		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of smart, green and integrated transport								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent applications in the area of smart, green and integrated transport per EUR 10 million funding: 1 (Number of patent applications in this area:)	Actual results							2
				(29)	(34)	0.37 (64)		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patents awarded in the area of smart, green and integrated transport:	Actual results							
				8	8	77		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Prototypes: none	Actual results							
				237	972	1 384		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Testing activities: none	Actual results							
				327	3 059	3 745		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target

none	Milestones foreseen						2020
	Actual results						
				620	3 340	5 747	

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 04 (RTD)		
Grants	70	289,7
Prizes	0	0
Procurement	1	0,2
Financial instruments	0	0
Experts		1,0
Others		0,2
Subtotal		291,1
Budget line 08 02 07 35 (Clean Sky 2 JU) – Support expenditure		20,0
Budget line 08 02 07 36 (Clean Sky 2 JU)		284,1
Subtotal		304,1
Budget line 08 02 07 37 (FCH 2 JU) – Support expenditure		4,4
Budget line 08 02 07 38 (FCH 2 JU)		28,4
Subtotal		32,8
Budget line 06 03 03 01 (MOVE)		
Grants	18	71,3
Prizes		
Procurement	1	1,0
Financial instruments		
Experts		1,0
Others (FTI, EASA, TRIMIS, ELENA, Smart Airports)		29,3
Subtotal		102,6
Budget line 06 03 07 31 (SESAR 2JU) – Support expenditure		16,3
Budget line 06 03 07 32 (SESAR 2JU)		104,5
Subtotal		120,8
Budget line 06 03 07 33 (Shift2Rail) – Support expenditure		5,2
Budget line 06 03 07 34 (Shift2Rail)		74,7
Subtotal		79,9
Total of the Specific Objective		931,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		383,8

Specific Objective 12: Societal challenges – achieving a resource – and water – efficient and climate change resilient economy and society, protection and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems and a sustainable supply and use of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet’s natural resources and ecosystems

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials per EUR 10 million funding: 27	Actual results							20.0
				1.3	2.1	4.4		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of	Actual results							
				167	331	840		

climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials:								
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Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Patent applications in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials per EUR 10 million funding: 0.3	Actual results							2.0
					0.6	0.8		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patents applications in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials:	Actual results							
				9	40	76		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent awarded in the area of climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials:	Actual results							
				22	58	77		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Prototypes: none	Actual results							
				237	972	1 384		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Testing activities: none	Actual results							
				327	3 059	3 745		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							
				620	3 340	5 747		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 05 (RTD)		
Grants	25	298,3
Prizes	0	0
Procurement	0	0
Financial instruments	0	0
Experts	2	1,4
Others (Includes PRIMA Art. 185, 'taxation' for call H2020-EIC-FTI-2018-2020, 2 grants to identified beneficiary, GEO subscription and a SLA with EEA)	5	57,6
Subtotal		357,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Budget line 02 04 03 01 (GROW)		
Grants	11	129,6
Prizes	0	0
Procurement	1	0,6
Financial instruments	0	0
Experts	1	0,1
Others	1	1,0
Subtotal		131,3
of which, Climate-related expenditure		
Total of the Specific Objective		488,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		323,0

Specific Objective 13: Societal challenges – fostering a greater understanding of Europe, provide solutions and support inclusive, innovative and reflective European societies in a context of unprecedented transformations and growing global interdependencies

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of inclusive, innovative and reflective societies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of inclusive, innovative and reflective societies per EUR 10 million funding: 10						20.00	20.00	20.00
	Actual results							
				0.60		2.45		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of inclusive, innovative and reflective societies:								
	Actual results							
				25		196		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 03 06 (RTD)		
Grants	14	112,8
Prizes	6	1,5
Procurement	5	7,0
Financial instruments		

Experts	3	0,7
Others (including 17 million of a Specific Grant Agreement – COST contribution)	1	18,0
Subtotal		140,0
Budget line 09 04 03 02 (C-NECT)		
Grants	20	50,5
Prizes	0	0
Procurement		1,0
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,5
Others (COST Contribution)		2,6
Subtotal		54,6
Total of the Specific Objective		194,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		3,7

Specific Objective 14: Societal challenges – fostering secure European societies in a context of unprecedented transformations and growing global interdependencies and threats, while strengthening the European culture of freedom and justice

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure societies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure societies per EUR 10 million funding: 1	Actual results							20.0
					0.5	1.8		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals in the area of secure societies:	Actual results							
				31	39	87		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in the area of secure societies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patent applications in the area of secure societies per EUR 10 million funding: none (Number of patent applications in this area:)	Actual results							2
				(2)	(1)	0.1 (6)		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of patents awarded in the area of secure societies: none	Actual results							
				3	3	5		

Methodology: Targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

The number of patent application given is the number of patent application not awarded.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020

Number of Prototypes: none	Actual results						2020
				237	972	1 384	
Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Testing activities: none	Actual results						2020
				327	3 059	3 745	

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
none	Actual results						2020	
				620	3 340	5 747		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 09 04 03 03 (C-NECT)		
Grants	16	67,5
Prizes	0	0
Procurement		0,5
Financial instruments		
Experts		0,2
Others		
Subtotal		68,2
Budget line 18 05 03 01 (HOME)		
Grants	28	178,1
Prizes	0	0
Procurement		3
Financial instruments		0
Experts		1,4
Others		3
Subtotal		185,5
Total of the Specific Objective		253,7
Of which, Climate-related expenditure		21,4

Specific Objective 15: Spreading excellence and widening participation – fully exploiting the potential of Europe’s talent pool and to ensure that the benefits of an innovation-led economy are both maximised and widely distributed across the Union in accordance with the principle of excellence

Indicator 1: Evolution of the publications in high impact journals in the relevant research fields								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
none	Actual results						2020	
						17		

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 04 (RTD)		
Grants	127	124,49
Prizes		
Procurement		
Financial instruments		
Experts		
Others (WIRE, COST JPI UE)	37	14,2
Subtotal		138,6
of which, Climate-related expenditure		16,3

Specific Objective 16: Science with and for society – building effective cooperation between science and society, to recruit new talent for science and to pair scientific excellence with social awareness and responsibility

Indicator 1: Number of institutional change actions promoted by the programme								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
none	Actual results							100
				7	16	27	100	
				233	265			

Comment: No Baseline, because of new approach.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 06 (RTD)		
Grants	14	63,1
Prizes	1	0,4
Procurement	5	4,4
Financial instruments		
Experts	2	1,0
Others	6	4,5
Subtotal		73,4
of which, Climate-related expenditure		1,8

Specific Objective 17: Non-Nuclear Direct Actions of the Joint Research Centre – providing customer-driven scientific and technical support to Union policies, while flexibly responding to new policy demands

Indicator 1: Number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on European policies resulting from technical and scientific support provided by the Joint Research Centre

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
248	215±5			330±10			> 330±15	> 330±15
	Actual results							
	275	305	376	339	338	295		

Comment: Milestone and long term target for this indicator reflect two opposing trends: a slightly upward and fluctuating evolution regarding the total number of policy impacts identified on the one hand, and a continuous predictable downward trend in resources on the other hand. Policy support impact indicators count cases where JRC’s support becomes part or even the basis of European policy, i.e. cases where JRC’s work helped putting Commission priorities on a solid and robust scientific evidence base. Impacts are identified in the JRC’s annual evaluation exercise performed by an internal peer group of experts on the basis of an ISO certified evaluation methodology.

Indicator 2: Number of peer reviewed publications in high impact journals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
460	460±10			500±15			> 500±20	> 500±20
	Actual results							
	465	518	553	515	538	522		

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Output (no.)	EUR million
Budget line 10 02 01		
Policy support deliverables	900	38,7
Total		38,7
of which, Climate-related expenditure		11,6

Specific Objective 18: The European Institute of Innovation and Technology – integrating the knowledge triangle of higher education, research and innovation and thus to reinforce the Union’s innovation capacity and address societal challenges

Indicator 1: organisations from universities, business and research integrated in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
200	240	450	500	800			1 200	1 200
	Actual results							
	550	800	1 097	1 238	1 650			

Narrative: Baseline: with 3 KICs

Comment: The KICs will only report the 2019 results in March/April 2020. The validated EIT figures will then not be available before June 2020 at the earliest.

Indicator 2: collaboration inside the knowledge triangle leading to the development of innovative products, services and processes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Start-ups and spin-offs: 33	30	280	400	500			600	600
	Actual results							
	181	250	286	356	359			
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Innovation: 210	300	800	1 500	2 200			6 000	6 000
	Actual results							
	1 184	2 145	3 904	4 471	3 159			

Comment: The KICs will only report the 2019 results in March/April 2020. The validated EIT figures will then not be available before June 2020 at the earliest.

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 15 03 05 (EAC)		
Others		
Subtotal		496,7
of which, Climate-related expenditure		248,3

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
Specific Objective – European Research Council	294,3	324,0
Specific Objective – Future and Emerging Technologies	63,8	60,0
Specific Objective – Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	211,0	197,4
Specific Objective – Research infrastructures	67,4	52,6
Specific Objective – Enabling and Industrial Technologies	377,3	433,4
Specific Objective – Access to risk finance	2,4	2,0
Specific Objective – SMEs	11,1	12,3
Specific Objective – Health	26,2	67,9
Specific Objective – Food	261,3	423,4
Specific Objective – Energy	791,4	954,0
Specific Objective – Transport	440,0	383,8
Specific Objective – Resource efficient and climate change resilient economy	248,1	323,0
Specific Objective – Inclusive, innovative and reflective European societies	2,7	3,7
Specific Objective – Secure European societies	19,2	21,4
Specific Objective – Spreading excellence and widening participation	15,0	16,3
Specific Objective – Science with and for society	1,0	1,8
Specific Objective – Non-Nuclear Direct Actions of the Joint Research Centre	11,5	11,6
Specific Objective – European Institute of Innovation and Technology	228,1	248,3
Total	3 071,8	3 536,9

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
2 387,5	2 709,6	2 623,0	3 245,0	2 608,7	3 071,8	3 536,9	20 182,5

(*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).

Justification

The tracking approach used is based on the OECD ‘Rio Markers’ methodology. It distinguishes actions that have climate-related action as principal objective (marker = 100 %), as secondary objective (marker = 40 %) or that do not target climate change at all (marker = 0 %).

As for the 2019 exercise, please note that the figures for 2020 are estimations based on the history of the previous expenditures in the period 2014-2019. For the latter, we have only taken the operational expenditure into account (Joint Undertakings included, but all administrative expenditure excluded).

It should be noted that the ‘tracking percentages’ mentioned above – as well as all calculations of climate contributions in past years – have been calculated exclusively on the basis of the climate contribution in grant agreements signed. This approach best reflects the reality of the research projects that are being implemented.

The Regulation establishing Horizon 2020 states that climate-related expenditure should exceed 35 % of the overall Horizon 2020 budget. Despite a considerable increase compared to FP7, investment for climate action has not yet reached its target yet. Therefore, targeted action is being taken to address this challenge. A new Green Deal call will be launched that will have a positive impact on the tracking for climate. However, at this early stage, we are not in the position of quantifying the contributions.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific Objective – European Research Council	87,6	96,5
Excellent science – Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions – strengthening skills, training and career development	51,0	44,2
Excellent science – Research infrastructures	33,2	27,9
Industrial leadership – boosting Europe’s industrial leadership through research, technological development, demonstration and innovation in the following enabling and industrial technologies	17,6	21,3
Societal challenges – to secure sufficient supplies of safe and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services, alongside competitive and low carbon supply chains	132,8	231,0

Societal challenges – to achieve a resource efficient and climate change resilient economy and a sustainable supply of raw materials	66,3	83,6
Non-Nuclear Direct Actions of the Joint Research Centre – to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support to Union policies, while flexibly responding to new policy demands	4,2	4,2
Total	392,7	508,7

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
354,7	352,6	392,2	359,6	434,1	392,7	508,7	2 794,6

(*)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 tracking approach used is based on the OECD ‘Rio Markers’ methodology. To obtain estimates for 2020, we have calculated the share of the EU contribution (in %) for each of the programme parts shown above for the period 2014-2019 and we have then applied these percentages to budget figures for 2020. We have only taken the operational expenditures into account (joint undertakings included, support expenditures excluded). A new Green Deal call will be launched that will have a positive impact on the tracking for biodiversity. However, at this early stage, we are not in the position of quantifying the contributions.

Contribution to financing clean air

Horizon 2020 support projects that provide a better knowledge base and innovative, market-oriented solutions to tackle the air quality problem from different angles in many ways.

For instance with a dedicated call on ‘Improving the air quality and reducing the carbon footprint of European cities’, three air quality projects (iSCAPE; CLAIR-City and ICARUS) were funded with a total EU contribution of about 19 million EUR and 20 European cities involved. Citizens are actively engaged in the projects by participating in measurement campaigns and by shaping local strategies for emission reduction.

Another example is the SME Instrument that provided more than 43 million EUR in grants to clean tech companies. Just to name two of them:

- Amminex deployed the technology in London’s buses to reduce NOx emissions under real-world driving conditions;
- Plume LABS developed an app (Android and iOS) that brings air quality forecasts to every city on Earth.

Air quality, being a very cross-cutting issue, also benefits from impacts generated by other projects funded by the EU, for example those targeting topics such as water treatment and management, climate change mitigation, waste management, resource efficiency, green infrastructure and health. Some of the air quality projects showcased their activities and results at the European Clean Air Forum, a forum that brings together decision-makers at different governmental levels.

The following table provides the Air Quality expenditure per relevant objective for the full 2014-2020 period, in order to make possible future comparison with subsequent multiannual financial framework Horizon Europe. A high-level tracking methodology has been applied based on the so-called ‘Rio markers’ which were developed and convened in the OECD.

More precisely, this means that the climate related expenditure can be calculated in accordance with three categories:

- *Expenditure-related outputs where Air Quality is the principal (primary) objective are those for which air quality objectives can be identified as being fundamental in the design and impact of the activity, and are an explicit objective of the activity; to be counted as 100 % Air Quality related.*
- *Expenditure-related outputs where Air Quality is a significant, but not predominant, objective are those for which – although important – air quality objectives are not one of the principal reasons for undertaking the activity; to be counted as 40 % Air Quality related.*
- *Expenditure not targeted to Air Quality objectives; to be counted as 0 % Air Quality related.*

Relevant objective/output	Draft (2014-2020)
Specific Objective – European Research Council	(1)
Specific Objective – Future and Emerging Technologies	0 (2)
Specific Objective – Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	(1)
Specific Objective – Research infrastructures	(1)
Specific Objective – Enabling and Industrial Technologies	0 (2)
Specific Objective – Access to risk finance	0
Specific Objective – SMEs	0 (2)

Specific Objective – Health	0
Specific Objective – Food	0 (2)
Specific Objective – Energy	1 987 707
Specific Objective – Transport	1 143 909
Specific Objective – Resource efficient and climate change resilient economy	1 087 895
Specific Objective – Inclusive, innovative and reflective European societies	0
Specific Objective – Secure European societies	0
Specific Objective – Spreading excellence and widening participation	0
Specific Objective – Science with and for society	0
Specific Objective – Non-Nuclear Direct Actions of the Joint Research Centre	0 (2)
Specific Objective – European Institute of Innovation and Technology	0 (2)
Total	4 219 511

- (1) For Bottom-up activities such as ERC and MSCA no value can be set for this first exercise. This need to be adjusted (upwards) in a tracking exercise. A more accurate estimate of the contribution of these activities to air quality action will be possible in the next MFF.
- (2) Although a number of projects, air quality is a significant, the scoring of '0' has been applied for the overall activity.

Clean air quality, being a very cross-cutting issue, also benefits from impacts generated by other projects funded by the EU, for example those targeting topics such as sustainable transport, climate change mitigation (e.g. energy efficiency), water treatment and management, waste management, resource efficiency, green infrastructure and health. Some of the air quality projects showcased their activities and results at the European Clean Air Forum, a forum that brings together decision-makers at different governmental levels.

The following table provides a rough estimate of the Air Quality expenditure per relevant objective for the full 2014-2020 period. A high-level tracking methodology has been applied based on the so-called 'Rio markers' which were developed and convened in the OECD.

While this table gives indication on the contribution of Horizon 2020 to financing Air Quality, but in view of ensuring more accurate figures, the tracking of Air Quality related expenditure will be tracked up at call or project level through corresponding reporting formats in the next programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

Gender mainstreaming

The 2018-2020 Work Programme includes seven specific calls on gender topics, under Specific Objective 16 ('Science with and for Society'). Examples of the topics for these calls are to support research organisations to implement gender equality plans, and to analyse gender gaps and biases in the allocation of grants.

In Horizon 2020, the strategy on gender equality as a cross-cutting issue focuses on three main objectives:

- Fostering equal opportunities and gender balance in research teams, in order to close the gaps in the participation of women;
- Ensuring gender balance in decision-making, in order to reach the target of 40 % of the under-represented sex in panels and groups and of 50 % in advisory groups;
- Integrating the gender dimension in Research & Innovation (R&I) content, taking into account as relevant biological characteristics as well as social and cultural features of both women and men in research content (through sex and gender analysis).

These objectives are implemented through a series of Commission provisions which are integrated, as relevant, at various stages of the Research and Innovation cycle.

Gender balance in research teams

In the Work Programmes, applicants are encouraged to promote equal opportunities in the implementation of the action and to ensure a balanced participation of women and men at all levels in research and innovation teams. Up to January 2020 of Horizon 2020 the share of women participants in Horizon 2020 projects was **41 %** of the total workforce, including non-researchers, while women represented **27 %** of projects coordinators.

Gender balance in decision-making

The share of contracts signed with women experts participating in evaluation panels was 41 %, while in Horizon 2020 advisory groups women's participation was 55 %.

Gender dimension in research and innovation content

The gender dimension in research content continues being explicitly mentioned in several topics across the parts of the Work Programme and applicants' attention is drawn to the relevance of taking into account the biological characteristics and/or the social/cultural features of both women and men in the content of their planned research. In the Work-Programme 2020, **119 out of 337 topics** for call for proposal had integrated an explicit gender dimension in their content.

Gender equality in R&I in the European Research Area (ERA).

Gender Equality in R&I, as one of the key priority in the European Research Area (ERA), addresses the same objectives as in Horizon 2020. In collaboration with Member States and research institutions, the focus is put on institutional change at the level of research performing organisations (RPOs) and research funding organisations (RFOs), including universities to:

- a) Remove cultural and institutional barriers that generate direct or indirect discrimination in scientific careers;
- b) Ensure gender balance in decision-making and;
- c) Integrate the gender dimension in research content.

As reported in the 2018 ERA Progress Report, while parity in the earliest stages of the research career seems at hand, the levels of parity diminish as researchers move up the ladder of career progression stages; furthermore, these decreases at more senior career stages show no signs of substantial change in recent years. Regarding gender dimension in research content, European research takes into account the biological characteristics as well as the social and cultural features of both women and men, and integrates a gender dimension about as often as the global average. The increasing integration of the gender dimension in research in Europe is essentially moving in parallel with increases at the world level, and at a slightly lower rate.’

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The EU is committed to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. A life of dignity for all within the planet’s limits that reconciles economic prosperity and efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility is at the essence of sustainable development. To create from these challenges opportunities for new businesses and new jobs, a strong engagement in research and innovation is necessary. Research and innovation policy sets the direction of travel, creates knowledge and solutions for the transformation towards sustainability, while improving our well-being and ensuring long-term prosperity. It also promotes systemic approaches beyond disciplines, sectors, conversations and policy areas.

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020, addresses several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is expressed in the expectation that, overall, at least 60 % of the programme’s budget should contribute to sustainable development. Ten SDGs have been identified as of particular relevance to guide present and future R&I work. They can be grouped in **six focus areas**:

- ‘Climate change and energy’ (SDG7, 13),
- ‘Natural resources and biodiversity’ (SDG 6, 11, 14),
- ‘Food and nutrition security’ (SDG 2, 15),
- ‘Circular and bio-economy’ (SDG 12, 15),
- ‘Health’ (SDG 3),
- ‘Enabling technologies’ (SDG 9).

In the programme’s budget, the following **Specific Objectives** are the biggest contributors to the respective focus areas:

- Focus area ‘Climate change and energy’ – Specific Objective 10 (transition to a sustainable energy system);
- Focus area ‘Natural resources and biodiversity’ – Specific Objective 12 (protection of natural resources and ecosystems);
- Focus area ‘Food and nutrition security’ – Specific Objective 9 (high quality food);
- Focus area ‘Circular and bio-economy’ – Specific Objective 9 (bio-based products);
- Focus area ‘Health’ – Specific Objective 8 (improving lifelong health);
- Focus area ‘Enabling technologies’ – Specific Objective 2 (future and emerging technologies) and Specific Objective 5 (industrial leadership).

In addition, the specific objectives not mentioned above also contribute to several of the focus areas.

The tracked expenditure of the Horizon 2020 budget for signed Grant Agreements indicates **an overall contribution of 66 % to Sustainable Development**. Within the Societal Challenges pillar, this contribution rises to 75 % overall, with some of its programme parts being close to 100 % (SC 1 ‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing’, SC 2 ‘Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy’, SC 3 ‘Secure, clean and efficient energy’ and SC 5 ‘Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials’).

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial instruments	Debt		Equity	Total
	Loans	Guarantees		
Horizon 2020 Budget (EUR billion)	1,7	1,4	0,8	3,9
EFSD & EIF Contribution (EUR billion)	0	1.1	0,4	1,5

Expected amount of financing leveraged (EUR billion)	13,6	20	6	39,6
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Horizon 2020 funds contribute to a number of Financial Instruments under the ‘InnovFin’ label. The Instruments are managed by the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF). The Commission’s maximum financial exposure is limited to the amounts paid to the EIB group.

In 2014, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group (EIB and EIF) launched a new generation of EU financial instruments and advisory services to help innovative firms access finance more easily. It is expected that the ‘InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators’ products will in Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) make available more than EUR 39 billion of financing for research and innovation (R&I) to small, medium and large companies and the promoters of research infrastructures. The final investments in R&I should reach more than 1,5 times the total amount invested.

‘InnovFin – EU Finance for Innovators’ consists of a range of tailored products – from guarantees to intermediaries that lend to SMEs, to direct loans to enterprises – helping support from the smallest up to the largest R&I projects in the EU and countries associated to Horizon 2020. InnovFin guarantees and loans will be backed by funds set aside under Horizon 2020 and by the EIB Group for the purpose of supporting R&I investment, which by nature is riskier and harder to appraise than tangible investments. All are demand-driven instruments, with no prior allocations between sectors, countries or regions. These debt instruments are complemented by a suite of equity instruments managed by the EIF. In total, some EUR 3.9 billion out of Horizon 2020’s nearly EUR 77 billion budget support these financial instruments.

The EIB Group consists of the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF). The European Investment Bank provides loans to medium-size and larger companies, as well as guarantees to banks that lend to them. The EIF provides guarantees to banks that lend to small and medium-sized firms and – at a later stage – will invest in venture capital funds, which provide startups and fast-growing firms with equity.

1. Debt finance (*Loans Service for R&I; SME & small midcaps R&I Loans Service; SME Initiative*)

Loans are provided through the EIB to large and mid-size companies, and to research infrastructures. In addition, products for energy and infectious diseases have been developed to address specific needs in these areas. The total foreseen budget for loans in Horizon 2020 amounts to around EUR 1,7 billion. This is expected to generate around EUR 13,6 billion of loans.

Guarantees provided to local financial intermediaries (mostly banks) through the EIF are specifically designed for innovative SMEs and small mid-caps. The overall budget in Horizon 2020 is about EUR 1,4 billion. Because of the high demand for this type of support, the EFSI fund has stepped in with a ‘top-up’ of EUR 1,1 billion, which allows a faster implementation. More than 170 financial intermediaries are currently implementing these guarantees. With the leverage effect, they are expected to generate over EUR 20 billion of financing to innovative SMEs and small mid-caps.

2. Equity finance (*Early stage finance for innovative enterprises; Pilot facility for technology transfer, the Pan-European VC Fund-of-Funds*)

On the **equity** side (i.e. financing own capital for companies), the financial instruments make available venture capital (VC) for the early stages of R&I-driven SMEs & small mid-caps. The overall budget for Horizon 2020 amounts to EUR 0,8 billion. This is done through the EIF, which supports risk capital funds that invest, on a predominantly cross-border basis, in individual enterprises.

Within the equity financial instrument, the **Pan-European VC Fund-of-Funds** is a priority action under the Commission’s Capital Markets Union (CMU), and complements other actions to boost VC in Europe, notably proposed expansion of the European VC Funds (EuVECA) regulation and proposals to address the bias in the tax system towards debt over equity. The EU will provide cornerstone investments of up to EUR 300 million in one or more independently managed VC Fund-of-Funds, up to a maximum budget of EUR 400 million for all Fund-of-funds. The selected fund manager(s) must raise at least three times as much from other sources (the EU investment is capped at 25 %). This means additional potential investments to VC of around EUR 1.6 billion, which is a major boost, as the total of VC funds raised last year in the EU was EUR 11 billion. The EU investment combines resources from Horizon 2020’s InnovFin Equity scheme (up to EUR 200 million), EFSI (up to EUR 100 million) and COSME (where up to EUR 100 million is foreseen). The 2016 call for managers interested in applying to run the Pan-European VC Fund-of-Funds can be found on the EIF’s website. This call is now closed. All applications have been assessed by the Commission and the EIF. The Funds-of-Funds are under due diligence. Three agreements have been signed for a target size of 0.9 billion.

7. Programme related additional information

Expenditure related outputs not linked to a specific objective

Output	Budget 2020	
	Number	EUR million
Budget line 08 02 05 (RTD)		
Others (e.g. Dissemination and EMPIR)		115,4
Total		115,4

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Euratom Research and Training Programme****Lead DG: RTD**

Associated DGs: JRC

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

The Euratom Research and Training Programme 2019-2020 ⁽¹⁾ ('the Euratom Programme') is an extension of the 2014-2018 Euratom Programme ⁽²⁾ in terms of research objectives and scope of supported activities. Its primary aim is to enhance the safety of nuclear technologies by supporting research on all aspects of nuclear safety. The Euratom Programme also supports research on the assessment and demonstration of the safety aspects of future fission technologies. Euratom-funded research should also reduce the risks associated with radiation exposures from industrial or medical applications and support emergency preparedness in relation to accidents involving radiation.

Furthermore, the Euratom Programme contributes to advancing solutions for the management and disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste and for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The Euratom Programme provides scientific and technical support for the implementation of EU policies and strategies in the field of nuclear safeguards, non-proliferation and nuclear security. Funding is also provided for the basic research necessary for the development of reference measurements, materials and data.

The substantial increase in the deployment of nuclear fission technologies worldwide requires collaboration with and technical support to the main international institutions, such as IAEA, in the field of nuclear safety and, particularly, in the field of nuclear safeguards by developing techniques and methods aiming at reducing nuclear security risks and for supporting nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

The Euratom Programme focuses also on the development of fusion energy, a possible future option for low carbon electricity production. Its feasibility must be demonstrated and, if found to be a viable energy source, it could contribute significantly to the well-being of future generations. Fusion research is a long-term endeavour, and the potential deployment of fusion power plants cannot be realistically foreseen until the latter part of the century. However, fusion science and technology development has now reached a stage where one can plan the design of a demonstration reactor (a DEMO). Consequently, the Euratom Programme funds research on fusion electricity production, which includes exploiting existing and future fusion facilities, especially ITER, to assess the viability of fusion. Furthermore, the funding covers development of new materials, technologies and conceptual design activities, which are required to prepare for future fusion power plants.

EU added value of the programme

The European added value of the Euratom Programme is the mobilisation of a wider pool of excellence and multi-disciplinary expertise in fission and fusion research than is possible at the level of individual Member States. This added value has also been underlined by its stakeholders. Through cooperative research and innovation, the Euratom Programme enables a Europe-wide approach to the improvement of nuclear safety and radiation protection in all areas of application. The Euratom programme also enables a broader coordination throughout Europe of education and training, the use of research infrastructures and international cooperation. This is of particular benefit to smaller Member States that can take advantage of the economies of scale afforded by the Europe-wide pooling effect.

Through the JRC, the Euratom Programme also provides services which are not available elsewhere. The JRC provides support for standardisation, open access for EU scientists to unique nuclear facilities, training activities in nuclear sciences (including safeguards, forensics and decommissioning) and the operation of the Clearinghouse on Operational Experience Feedback.

The JRC provides the Commission with scientific and technical support in preparing, implementing and monitoring EU policies in several areas:

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 of 15 October 2018 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019-2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013 (OJ L 262/1, 19.10.2018).

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013 of 16 December 2013 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 948).

- nuclear safeguards (supporting nuclear inspections of Member States' facilities in compliance with international treaties);
- nuclear safety and waste management (monitoring the technical implementation of the Nuclear Directives – Safety, Waste and spent fuel, Basic Safety Standards);
- and radiation protection (monitoring and measuring of radioactivity on our environment).

In addition, via the Euratom membership in the Generation IV International Forum, the JRC coordinates the European research effort on safety of advanced reactor technology, with contributions coming from the Euratom programme as well as from Member States.

Implementation mode

The Euratom Programme is implemented through two different modes:

- 'Indirect actions': Research and innovation activities carried out by the beneficiaries of grants, prizes, procurement and financial instruments (all these instruments are managed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation);
- 'Direct actions': Research and innovation activities that are directly carried out by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

Indirect actions (grants for collaborative projects):

In fission research, four calls had been concluded by Autumn 2019, with 192 eligible proposals submitted, requesting a total Euratom financial contribution of EUR 726 million. Of these, 62 were selected for funding, with a Euratom contribution of EUR 271 million. In the end of 2019, a fifth call was concluded (closing date for applications was 25 September). In response to this call, 62 eligible proposals were submitted requesting a total Euratom financial contribution of EUR 265 million. At the end of the evaluation 31 proposals were put on a ranking list with Euratom contribution of EUR 133 million. Signature of grants is foreseen during 2020.

For fusion research, following an independent evaluation, in 2014 the Commission awarded a 5-year grant to the EUROfusion consortium ⁽³⁾ of national fusion laboratories and institutes ⁽⁴⁾ to implement a European Joint Programme based on the fusion roadmap ⁽⁵⁾. In 2019 the EUROfusion grant was prolonged until the end of 2022 following adoption by the Council of the regulation on the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2019-2020. The extension of duration beyond 2020 provides a smooth transition to the future Euratom Programme.

Direct actions (research carried out by JRC)

The work programme of the JRC covered research and training on the following areas defined by the specific objectives of the programme:

- nuclear safety (specific objective 9), including safety of reactor, fuel and fuel cycle, nuclear waste management, environmental monitoring and emergency preparedness and response. About 40 % of the available resources were allocated to this working area;
- nuclear safeguards non-proliferation and security (specific objective 10), including combatting illicit trafficking and nuclear forensics. About 25 % of the resources were allocated to this working area;
- basic science knowledge and standards and reference materials essential for nuclear safety, security and safeguards (specific objective 11), including research on non-energy applications of nuclear science as medical and space applications. This consumed around 13 % of the available resources;
- The research performed, and the experience accumulated, in the areas of nuclear safety, safeguards and non-proliferation, security and the provision of standards and references, bring the necessary capacities to deliver cross-cutting activities related to knowledge management tasks and to provide education and advanced training in nuclear fields (specific objective 12). The resources allocated to these activities were around 10 %.
- Moreover, the JRC provided the requested scientific and technical support to the EU related policies (Specific objective 13); 12 % of the available resources were allocated directly to providing the requested support.

⁽³⁾ Euratom programme contributes 55 % of the EUROfusion consortium funding.

⁽⁴⁾ EUROfusion consortium, for more information see <https://www.euro-fusion.org/>

⁽⁵⁾ 'Fusion Electricity – A roadmap to the realisation of fusion energy', <https://www.euro-fusion.org/eurofusion/the-road-to-fusion-electricity/>

Key achievements**Indirect actions (grants for collaborative projects)**

All EU Member States generate radioactive waste, with national inventories ranging from single sources or small inventories, up to large and high activity inventories from those Member States with extensive nuclear programmes, some of them including spent nuclear fuel or large stockpiles of nuclear material from reprocessing activities. Regardless of size, they all have to manage radioactive waste safely in the long term. While the greater part of radioactive waste comes from nuclear power plants, nuclear medicine, agriculture and industrial activities produce also nuclear wastes. The new European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management, EURAD, supported with Euratom funding of EUR 32.5 million (54 % of total costs, 5 years duration) represents a step change in European collaboration towards safe radioactive waste management, including disposal. The EURAD consortium, gathering Waste Management Organisations, Technical Support Organisations and Research Entities (REs) from 21 Member States and Ukraine and Switzerland, addresses key challenges in radioactive waste management. EURAD will support the implementation of the Waste Directive in EU Member-States, taking into account the various stages of advancement of national programmes. EURAD aims at supporting Member-States in developing and implementing their national RD&D programmes for the safe long-term management of their full range of different types of radioactive waste through participation in the Joint Programme. It also develops and consolidates existing knowledge for the safe start of operation of the first geological disposal facilities for spent fuel, high-level waste, and other long-lived radioactive waste, and supporting optimization linked with the stepwise implementation of geological disposal. Therefore, knowledge management and transfer between organisations, Member States and generations will be enhanced.

The project HARMONIC' ('Health Effects of Cardiac Fluoroscopy and Modern Radiotherapy in Paediatrics') was launched in 2019 with Euratom support of EUR 7 million. A total of 24 partners from 11 Member States and Ukraine and Switzerland are working to investigate the long-term health consequences of radiological and radiotherapeutic procedures for children and adolescents. The increasing use of radiation-associated diagnostic and therapeutic procedures have contributed to the improvements of early diagnosis and survival of paediatric patients. While benefits to the patient outweigh the radiation associated risk, the late effects of exposure of children are particularly important to understand in populations undergoing radiological and radiotherapeutic procedures. The HARMONIC project focuses on two distinct and complementary populations: (1) Paediatric patients undergoing modern radiotherapy (including proton therapy); (2) Paediatric patients undergoing interventional cardiology. The study will use an integrated approach of conventional epidemiology, based on state-of-the art dosimetry, complemented by non-invasive imaging and molecular epidemiology. Ultimately, HARMONIC will develop tools and allow definition of guidelines on optimization techniques to guide treatments toward reduction of patient doses in paediatric cardiology and oncology.

In fusion research, **the EUROfusion consortium had achieved 82 % of its project milestones foreseen in the work plan by 2018**. Particular examples of progress include: completion of the installation and initial operation of the shattered pellet injector (SPI) in JET; theoretical studies (computer simulations) complemented by experiments on TCV provided the first systematic assessment of possible power exhaust options for a fusion demonstration power plant (DEMO); tests of ITER type mono-blocks in EUROfusion devices dedicated to studying plasma wall interaction (PWI).

Operation of the SPI on JET has yielded crucial information for ITER, which has SPI as its baseline tool for mitigation of plasma disruptions. Unless mitigated, disruptions could induce harmful vessel forces and so-called runaway electrons in ITER (runaway electrons can be accelerated to the multi MeV range and can cause serious damage to plasma facing components when they eventually impact on material surfaces). The new data from JET are important for the finalisation of the design of the ITER SPI system. In addition, the SPI experiments on JET have yielded unexpected positive results regarding mitigation of runaway electrons.

A key issue identified in the EU fusion roadmap is the power exhaust of DEMO. It is possible that an alternative divertor geometry than used for ITER is needed for DEMO. A number of possibilities exists. **A comprehensive assessment of the main alternatives was carried out by computer simulations and with input from the experiments carried out on the TCV tokamak.** The picture is now clearer and the obtained results should be valuable for a future gate review aimed at narrowing down to options for a DEMO design.

ITER type mono-blocks, which will make up the components of the ITER divertor, were successfully tested in the linear MAGNUM-PSI facility in conditions mimicking those during planned full power operation in ITER. Furthermore, testing of such mono-blocks also took place in the WEST device under real tokamak plasma conditions. **The obtained results are highly relevant for ITER.**

In the area of **fusion technology development**, the focus of activity has been on the DEMO department, which has been preparing for a design gate review to down select technologies that will pass to the Conceptual Design Activity in Euratom Programme 2021-2025. As input to the gate review, many design reviews have been carried out using external experts. This has been a very important exercise at this stage in the project as it gives a very clear state of play of the work and provides input and steering for the design teams. Another major achievement has been the completion of the preliminary safety report for the Early Neutron Source (DONES) for which a coordination and support action has been launched for preparatory activities to inform on a construction decision in the first period of future Euratom Programme 2021-2025. The DONES materials test facility is an important milestone in the fusion roadmap and has been included in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap.

Through EUROfusion more than 1300 researchers have had access to advanced research infrastructures. Support from the Euratom programme has led to the publication of more than 800 articles in peer-reviewed, high impact journals and over 750 PhDs in fusion physics and technology.

Direct actions (research carried out by JRC):

The direct actions of the programme contribute to the development of codes, standards and test methods for the safety analysis of nuclear reactors and provides reference data, software tools and knowledge on the behaviour of nuclear fuel in normal and accidental conditions. An example is the *operation of the Clearinghouse website and database* and issue of periodic reports (supported by French and German Technical Support Organisations) to disseminate the operating experience of nuclear power plants to nuclear safety authorities, in 2019 the quarterly reports analysed 16 selected events. Using the experience gained, the JRC participated in drafting the new IAEA nuclear safety guideline on Operating Experience Feedback for Nuclear Installations.

The direct actions have been contributing to the OECD and IAEA nuclear data libraries; certified reference materials for determination of radioactivity in metals were produced and spikes for determination of Uranium and Plutonium were delivered to Euratom safeguards.

The JRC provides technical support to the implementation of the *Council Directive establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations* ⁽⁶⁾, *Council Directive on Responsible and Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste* ⁽⁷⁾ and *Council Directive on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel* ⁽⁸⁾. It also supports the assessment of *ageing nuclear power plants for their long-term operation*, contributing to ensuring the same level of safety: JRC staff members participated in the Nuclear Safety Directive's Topical Peer Review on ageing management of nuclear power plants. The national reports of all participating countries of the TPR covering the different sub-topics were reviewed and the results were discussed at the TPR Workshop in May 2018. In 2019, a post-Fukushima Stress test Peer Review took place in Armenia and the preparation of works for coming review in Turkey was started.

The direct actions in the nuclear safeguards area *support the EU's strategic objective to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation*. JRC provides new safeguards technologies, such as laser verification systems to facilitate the IAEA and DG ENER inspection of nuclear installations. To support the safeguards system in Europe, JRC *develops analytical techniques and operated the Euratom safeguards laboratories* and supported the yearly Physical Inventory Verifications in European fuel fabrication plants. *Training courses for Euratom inspectors to ensure an effective implementation of EU safeguards systems are also organised*. Similar support is provided to the IAEA through the Commission's safeguards support programme, 5 projects were finalised in 2019 and 40 projects are still ongoing.

The direct actions of the Euratom programme *support the EU nuclear security strategies, providing training* at the EU nuclear security training centre (EUSECTRA) and contributing to the enhancement of capacities in the EU Member States and neighbouring countries. In 2019, 14 one-week trainings and two additional workshops with experts from EU Member States were organised. JRC provided nuclear forensics support to EU Member States, in 2019 samples from three incidents in two Member States were analysed. In the framework of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence network, JRC in collaboration with US Department of Energy and Kiev Institute for Nuclear Research developed nuclear security education & training activities for Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova participants, to enhance nuclear security in the Black Sea region.

In 2014-2019 JRC scientists *published 1083 articles and conference contributions in peer-reviewed periodicals, 304 articles in monographs or other periodicals, 26 books with JRC editorship and 20 PhD theses*. The JRC organised 219 training courses for professionals and students from Member States and Commission services. In addition, JRC delivered reference methods and measurements, technical systems and scientific databases. Moreover, the JRC opened access to its nuclear research infrastructures and offers complementary research possibilities to external users from EU Member States.

JRC is a partner in 28 projects supported by the Euratom indirect actions. The knowledge and results provided by the related direct actions are obtaining synergies in benefit of the programme:

- In the context of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the European Sustainable Nuclear Energy –Technology Platform (SNE-TP), JRC contributed to the PELGRIMM: PELlets versus GRANulates: Irradiation, Manufacturing & Modelling project addressing Minor-Actinide (MA) bearing fuel developments for Generation IV Fast Reactor Systems.
- A second example is the JRC contribution to the MYRRHA project. MYRRHA is the very first prototype in the world of a nuclear reactor, driven by a particle accelerator with a significant thermal output. Safety relevant properties of highly radioactive materials for experiments on transmutation of fuels were investigated at JRC. The data obtained by JRC are fundamental for the safe operation of MYRRHA.

Evaluation/studies conducted

⁽⁶⁾ Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014 amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations

⁽⁷⁾ Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste

⁽⁸⁾ Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom of 20 November 2006 on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel

The key findings of the latest evaluation (Commission Report COM(2017) 697, (SWD (2017) 426 and 427) have been presented in the Programme Statement for 2020.

The interim evaluation of the Euratom programme concluded that the programme is highly relevant and it is achieving its results avoiding duplication, while providing added-value and coordination. The possible areas of improvement for indirect actions include: increasing synergies between direct and indirect actions, as well as between the Euratom programme and other thematic areas of the EU Framework Programme in order to address cross-cutting aspects such as medical applications of radiation, climate change, security and emergency preparedness; reinforcing Euratom education and training actions for developing competencies in the nuclear field which underpin all aspects of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection. The evaluation recommendations are already being addressed: JRC continues providing training courses (243) and opening the access to its research facilities to EU Institutions. Other actions have been taken, as briefly described in the section ‘Programme Performance’.

Forthcoming implementation

Indirect actions (grants for collaborative projects):

In 2020 the Commission will finalise checks and preparations for a signature of grants for research projects selected following the 2019-2020 call for proposals (31 proposals with Euratom contribution estimated at EUR 133 million). The Commission will also continue implementation of other actions planned in the Euratom Work Programme 2019-2020 such as a pilot actions supporting knowledge management in the area of nuclear safety and open access to JRC research infrastructure.

Direct actions (research carried out by JRC):

The Euratom research & training programme 2019-2020 has the same specific objectives as the previous one. The JRC will thus continue the research on the fields of nuclear safety, safeguards and security, providing dedicated reference measurements and materials, delivering education and training and managing the generated knowledge to provide sound scientific and technical support to the EU policies in the nuclear field.

Euratom direct actions will seek to further develop knowledge management, education and training and to continue exploiting efficiently synergies with indirect actions in the area. To explore other ways of collaboration that increase the efficiency and effectiveness, three pilot projects are being developed together with nuclear fission indirect actions: JRC’s management of knowledge obtained by indirect actions in nuclear safety selected field; open access to JRC nuclear facilities; and road map of the access rights of the Jules Horowitz reactor. At the same time, JRC will seek for synergies between both the nuclear and the non-nuclear parts of its activities in areas as security of supply of medical radioisotopes and non-energy applications of nuclear science.

To improve the impact and tackle the challenges associated with nuclear safety and security, including training to maintain and develop the necessary skills, JRC will continue reinforcing the coordination with European research efforts, being in close liaison with stakeholders, to avoid duplication and ensuring the most efficient use of resources.

For the period starting as of 2021, the ‘Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Management of Radioactive Waste’⁽⁹⁾ programme has the additional objective of enhancing the EU added value of the programme through dissemination of knowledge (thereby generated) to all EU Member States. The Euratom research & training programme will seek for obtaining synergies between both programmes in managing the knowledge obtained during the decommissioning processes and providing education & training on the field.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

In 2018 the Commission adopted its proposal (COM(2018) 437) for the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

Built largely on the success and the experience gained from previous Euratom Programmes, this programme is part of the legislative package for the ‘Horizon Europe’ Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. It is designed to implement the EU’s next long-term financial framework for 2021-2027, the priorities set out in the Commission’s Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change, and the Commission’s overall policy priorities (Horizon Europe).

The next Euratom programme, supporting nuclear research and training activities, will have an increased focus on non-power applications such as healthcare and medical equipment. It will also support the mobility of nuclear researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and access to fission and fusion research infrastructure.

Pending adoption of the regulation by the Council, the Commission will continue preparations for the implementation of the new programme, including drafting of the work programme in consultation with Member States and preparing new call for proposals.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2018) 467 final Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing a dedicated financial programme for decommissioning of nuclear facilities and management of radioactive waste, and repealing Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1368/2013

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 of 15 October 2018 on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2019–2020) complementing the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013	2019 – 2020	770,2

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	115,8	114,7	115,1	114,5	112,4	132,8	138,9	844,1
Operational appropriations	169,0	187,4	202,0	226,3	240,5	240,8	258,8	1 524,8
Total*	284,8	302,1	317,1	340,8	352,9	373,6	397,7	2 368,9

* From 2014 to 2018 included, Euratom is implemented under Regulation (Euratom) No 1314/2013. The total Programme in the table above is adding the years from 2014 to 2020.

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	373,575	99,25 %	365,910	90,26 %	397,665	41,19 %	416,691	8,42 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	415,206	92,62 %	427,293	83,48 %	428,703	38,48 %	485,399	9,61 %

(*) 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 indirect activities are progressing towards the objectives. Five out of the 10 KPIs have already achieved their target and three KPIs are on track and one indicator presents slight delay. For one indicator the results will be delivered by the end of the year. Therefore, it is not possible to report on the performance for this specific objective, at this stage.

Data available for the on-going nuclear safety projects launched since 2014 indicate that progress is generally as expected with most deliverables and milestones being achieved. Output from projects in the other technical areas also indicates that the Euratom programme is delivering, even though delays were encountered in the case of a few projects. These were delays due to the nature and unpredictability of cutting-edge scientific research, in particular the unavailability of key and often unique research infrastructures.

In 2014-2020 the Euratom programme has made substantial scientific and technological progress in all roadmap missions aimed at demonstrating the feasibility of fusion as a future energy source. The first priority of the programme in this area was to provide scientific support for ITER construction and its future exploitation. This progress has been achieved thanks to the new organisational structure established in 2014, involving all national fusion labs in Europe, for implementing a joint programme in line with the European fusion roadmap, based on shared planning and exploitation of research infrastructures, mobility of researchers, and competitive allocation of funds. This is a Europe-wide endeavour with strong international cooperation links, especially in view of the importance of the global ITER project. Since commercialisation of fusion energy is not expected until the second half of the century, most of the financial support today currently comes from public funds.

From the information available so far, the results achieved for the direct actions of the Euratom programme, in accordance with the objectives, are encouraging. Two out of the 10 KPIs have almost achieved their target and four KPIs are on track. Four indicators present some delay and will have difficulties to achieve their targets. It should be noted that the milestones 2020 indicated in the tables are calculated on yearly average and the 2019 figures are preliminary. However, some actions to improve the results to be obtained have already been taken, in line with the recommendations received on the interim evaluation of the Euratom programme. To fulfil the specific objective 12, foster knowledge management, education and training in the nuclear field on the EU, enhancing the impact of the activities carried out, an agreement was reached to combine resources from direct and indirect actions. An arrangement was signed to make possible the financial support to the external users of the JRC open access project. It is expected to increase the number of applicants and therefore the quality of proposals to use the JRC facilities. Another example is the agreement to improve the management of the knowledge obtained by the programme actions; JRC will use existing tools and will develop new ones with support of the RTD indirect actions, to optimise the use of the results of both direct and indirect actions of the programme.

To increase the synergies between direct and indirect actions as well as between nuclear and non-nuclear, several working groups have been established and are working to deliver results that will be implemented under Euratom Programme 2021-2025. The non-energy application of nuclear sciences are becoming more relevant in the programme obtaining a high number of scientific publications in its medical applications; they are getting special attention in a dedicated working group.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To pursue nuclear research and training activities with an emphasis on continuous improvement of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, notably to potentially contribute to the long-term decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

Indicator 1: 1.1 Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at EU level compared to 1990

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							
			20 %					21 %
	Actual results							
	23 %	22 %	22 %	22 %	23 %			

Source: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emission-trends-6/assessment-3>

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Supporting the safety of nuclear systems (societal challenges, excellent science, industrial leadership).

Indicator 1: 1.1 The number of projects (joint research and/or coordinated actions) likely to lead to a demonstrable improvement in nuclear safety practice in Europe

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
41		7				29	44	44
	Actual results							
		9		23	28		47	

Comment: Target increased from 14 projects planned for 2018 due to extension of the Euratom programme (from 2014-2018 to 2014-2020) and an increased focus on the improvement of nuclear safety.

Specific Objective 2: Contributing to the development of safe, longer-term solutions for the management of ultimate nuclear waste, including final geological disposal, partitioning and transmutation.

Performance

Regarding the indicator ‘The number of projects contributing to the development of safe long term solutions for the management of ultimate nuclear waste’, since establishment of a European Joint Programme in Radioactive Waste Management (EURAD <https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/>), encompassing most of stakeholders in Europe and providing funding for a comprehensive research in this field, there is no need to launch medium-size projects addressing specific issues. Consequently, due to the joint programming the target of 14 cannot be reached.

Indicator 1: 2.1 The number of projects contributing to the development of safe long term solutions for the management of ultimate nuclear waste

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
15		5				12	14	14
	Actual results							
		5		10	11		12	

Comment: Target increased from 8 planned for 2018 due to the extension of the programme from 2014-2018 to 2014-2020.

Specific Objective 3: Supporting the development and sustainability of nuclear expertise and excellence in the Union.

Performance

At this stage, it is not possible to report on the number of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers supported through the Euratom fission projects. Estimation of number of PhDs supported by Euratom will be possible after projects are finished. However, it should be highlighted that all actions funded by Euratom have made effort to encourage career development of young physicists and engineers. Indeed, 5 % of projects' budget was devoted to education and training, mainly at PhD level or above. This helps preservation of knowledge and improves its transfer between generations and across national programmes in nuclear fission.

As regards fusion, EUROfusion actions supported by the Euratom Programme ensure the availability of appropriate human resources in the fusion research, in particular in view of the need to train an 'ITER generation' of scientists and engineers to operate and exploit ITER, and to ensure the right balance and competences of physicists and engineers for fusion technology development. Fusion research and technology development requires also staff with skills going beyond PhD level, therefore EUROfusion also supports post-doc grants to scientists and specialised engineering grants to encourage excellence and career development of young engineers. EUROfusion Researcher Grants & Engineering Grants provide funding for around 10 Post-doc and about 20 engineers, respectively. Support for these grants is constantly adjusted to the expected shortage of skills in specific missions of the fusion roadmap. This explains why the target of 50 will be not reached. However, it should be pointed out that to maintain the manpower of the fusion programme the EUROfusion consortium supports PhD students in the research institutions working on fusion-relevant thesis subjects, i.e. mainly on fusion plasma physics and engineering. Preliminary data shows positive trend in number of PhDs (about 650 in 2014 and 750 in 2019).

Indicator 1: 3.1 Training through research – the number of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers supported through the Euratom fission projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
200		500					1 000	1 000
	Actual results							

Comment: Data will be available after release of final reports from all fission projects, expected after 2020.

Indicator 2: 3.2 The number of fellows and trainees in the Euratom fusion programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
27		30					50	50
	Actual results							
	17	28	31	33	32	32		

Comment: Fellows (at post-doc level) and trainees (engineers) are selected on the basis of applications submitted following a call for proposals. Number and suitability of candidates varies from year to year.

Specific Objective 4: Supporting radiation protection and the development of medical applications of radiation, including, inter alia, the secure and safe supply and use of radioisotopes.

Indicator 1: 4.1 The number of projects likely to have a demonstrable impact on regulatory practice regarding radiation protection and on development of medical applications of radiation

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
33		1				4	6	6
	Actual results							
		1		2	3		6	

Comment: Target reduced from 25 planned for 2018, due to the establishment in 2015 of the European Joint Programme (EJP) in radiation protection research (<http://www.concert-h2020.eu/>) with a Euratom contribution of EUR 20 million. It should be noted that research projects launched within the framework of the EJP programme are not included in the statistics for this indicator, but only projects launched directly by the Commission are counted.

Specific Objective 5: Moving towards demonstrating the feasibility of fusion as a power source by exploiting existing and future fusion facilities.

Indicator 1: 5.1 The number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
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2010	Milestones foreseen						2020
800			800	800		800	800
	Actual results						
	200	450	325	700	680	822	

Comment: The baseline figure for the fusion peer reviewed articles published under Euratom FP7 (2007-2013) cannot be directly compared to the target, nor can it be compared to the actual figures produced by the EUROfusion consortium. The new indicator shows only the peer reviewed articles resulting directly from the implementation of the fusion roadmap, while the old indicator (the baseline) covered all peer reviewed articles published by any fusion association.

Source: Data from the Horizon 2020 impact assessment, SEC(2011) 1427, Annex 6, page 84.

Specific Objective 6: Laying the foundations for future fusion power plants by developing materials, technologies and conceptual design.

Indicator 1: 6.1 The percentage of the Fusion Roadmap’s milestones established for a period 2014-2018 reached by the Euratom Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
	13 %	31 %	54 %	75 %			90 %	90 %
	Actual results							
	10 %	28 %	47 %	66 %	82 %			

Comment: The Fusion roadmap was adopted by the members of the European Fusion Development Agreement (EFDA) in 2012.

Availability of Data: Data not available yet – the Eurofusion report for 2018 will be submitted in 2019.

Specific Objective 7: Promoting innovation and industry competitiveness.

Performance

Technology transfer increases the involvement of industry in fusion research by allowing industry to further the research already performed in public laboratories. It also helps the research Community to retain scientific and technological leadership and excellence. Euratom Programme supports specific actions on technology transfer from fusion research labs to industry. This provides the short-term return on investment in fusion R & D by using, in other areas, the knowledge generated by fusion research, so-called spin offs. The EUROfusion consortium actively promotes technology transfer (FUTTA 2 project), which may also result in a higher number of spin-offs in the future. Research activities supported by the Euratom Programme resulted in about three patents on average per year.

Research by its nature, can create spin-offs or generate patent mainly toward the end of the projects. This is why the deadline for the target of six is not set for 2020 but to the end of Euratom projects. Consequently, we could consider that the indicators are on track.

Nevertheless, to strengthen promotion of innovation and industrial competitiveness, the Commission has launched recently a framework contract, which will allow the main European industrial partners to respond quickly to requests from EUROfusion for industrial expertise needed in the design of fusion power plant.

Indicator 1: 7.1 The number of spin-offs from the fusion research under Euratom Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
4			5				6	6
	Actual results							
	1	2	2	2	3			

Comment: The target has been reduced from 10 planned for 2018. The new target is based on updated data on actual spin-offs from fusion research during 2014-2016. All actual figures are cumulative. The spin-offs from research are unpredictable – per definition they are a by-product of the main research activities.

Indicator 2: 7.2 The patents applications generated and patents awarded on the basis of research activities supported by the Euratom Programme (average number per year)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	

3		3	4				4	4
	Actual results							
	1	2	1	3	2			

Comment: No sufficient amount of meaningful data is expected for ‘patents awarded’ before 2020, because of the time necessary for a patent to be awarded.

Availability of Data: Data not available yet – the Eurofusion report for 2018 will be submitted in 2019.

Specific Objective 8: Ensuring the availability and use of research infrastructures of pan-European relevance.

Indicator 1: 8.1 The number of researchers having access to research infrastructures through Euratom Programme support

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2008	Milestones foreseen							2020
800		800					1 200	1 200
	Actual results							
	872	958	1 039	909	1 350			

Comment: The 2008 figure concerns researchers using mobility scheme under the Fusion Programme. The target and milestones are based on the assumption that exploitation of the Joint European Torus (JET) will continue until 2020.

Availability of Data: the Eurofusion report for 2019 will be submitted in 2020.

Specific Objective 9: Improving nuclear safety including: nuclear reactor and fuel safety, waste management including final geological disposal as well as partitioning and transmutation; decommissioning, and emergency preparedness. The JRC will contribute to the development of tools and methods to achieve high safety standards for nuclear installations and fuel cycles relevant to Europe.

Performance

The programme is evolving to address innovative fields as accident tolerant fuels, small modular reactors or materials ageing for the long-term operation of nuclear power plants. These areas need to build new and reinforce existing competences and skills; this causes the temporary reduction of the results obtained, mainly in the number of publications that has a longer time cycle.

Indicator 1: 9.1 JRC policy support indicator – The number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on Union policies resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
13		12±1	12±1	12±1	12±2	14±2	15±3	15±3
	Actual results							
	14	16	15	9	10	8		

Indicator 2: 9.2 The number of peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
average 2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
72		72±4	72±4	72±4	72±8	60±8	50±8	50±8
	Actual results							
	90	80	45	62	72	36		

Specific Objective 10: Improving nuclear security including: nuclear safeguards, non-proliferation, combating illicit trafficking, and nuclear forensics.

Indicator 1: 10.1 JRC policy support indicator – The number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on Union policies resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
15		14±1	14±1	14±1	14±2	18±3	22±4	22±4
	Actual results							
	16	22	19	11	12	11		

Indicator 2: 10.2 The number of peer reviewed publications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
average 2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
16		16±1	16±1	16±1	16±2	19±3	22±4	22±4
	Actual results							
	20	16	21	20	11	10		

Specific Objective 11: Increasing excellence in the nuclear science base for standardisation.

Performance

The results obtained in the JRC policy support indicator for this objective are below the expectations. The number of outputs delivered having an impact on the policies are mainly related to the provision of standards, which have a longer period to be accepted. It is expected that the number of standard measurements delivered and accepted will increase, as it is a cyclic process, reaching a higher percentage of the planned number of impacts. Considering the increasing importance of non-energy applications of nuclear science, it is worthy to highlight the high number of publications related to non-energy applications, mainly Targeted Immunotherapy against cancer.

Indicator 1: 11.1 JRC policy support indicator – The number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on Union policies resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
15		14±1	14±1	14±1	14±2	13±2	12±2	12±2
	Actual results							
	10	9	6	12	11	7		

Indicator 2: 11.2 The number of peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
average 2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
58		58±4	58±4	58±4	58±8	57±8	55±8	55±8
	Actual results							
	118	63	50	56	57	40		

Specific Objective 12: Fostering knowledge management, education and training.

Performance

The programme is providing training to EU students and professionals in the field of nuclear safety, (as fuel modelling and decommissioning), nuclear safeguards and security (as training for nuclear safeguards inspectors, nuclear security for front-line officers), nuclear science for standardisation (metrology, reference materials). Training course are being developed, although the impact on the EU policies presents some delay related to the target; one reason is that the training for professionals in nuclear security and nuclear safeguards depends on the needs of the JRC partners, as DG ENER, IAEA or Member States. The collaboration between direct and indirect actions of the programme will enhance the impact of the JRC programme on open access to its nuclear research infrastructures, optimising its use and fostering education & training activities and developing better tools and systems for knowledge management.

Indicator 1: 12.1 JRC policy support indicator – The number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on Union policies resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
13		12±1	12±1	12±1	12±2	12±2	10±2	10±2
	Actual results							
	12	13	9	9	6	6		

Indicator 2: 12.2 JRC scientific productivity indicator – The number of peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

average 2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
35		34±2	10±2	10±2	10±4	14±4	18±4	18±4
	Actual results							
	20	7	15	16	19	10		

Specific Objective 13: Supporting the policy of the Union on nuclear safety and security.

Performance

The JRC’s expertise obtained through the research programme allows providing support to the related EU policies. It includes support to the implementation of the nuclear Directives on safety, waste management and waste shipment, to instruments as the Instrument for nuclear safety cooperation as well as the Instrument contributing to security and peace through the implementation of the CBRN-E action plan. JRC is collaborating in the related scientific areas with key partner countries (USA, Japan) and is the Euratom implementing agent in the Generation IV International Forum. Important support was provided to the Euratom nuclear safeguards system and to the implementation of the EC support programme to IAEA. For both indicators, the milestones are almost achieved.

Indicator 1: 13.1 JRC policy support indicator – The number of occurrences of tangible specific impacts on Union policies resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
7		6±1	6±1	6±1	6±1	12±2	18±2	18±2
	Actual results							
	11	7	13	7	11	10		

Indicator 2: 13.2 JRC scientific productivity indicator – The number of peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			10±5	10±5	10±5	9±4	7±3	7±3
Actual results								
	15	7	8	4	5			

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

Justification

While the Euratom Programme aims at pursuing nuclear research and training activities with an emphasis on the continuous improvement of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, it potentially contributes to the long-term decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

Gender mainstreaming

The Commission implements and monitors the gender dimension as follows:

Indirect Actions:

The Commission aims at improving gender balance in decision-making, in order to reach the target of 40 % of the under-represented gender in panels and groups and of 50 % in advisory groups. To date, women make up 19 % of experts in call evaluation panels and 52 % in advisory groups.

Direct Actions:

JRC manages the European Human Resources Observatory for the Nuclear Energy Sector (EHRO-N) in order to ensure the availability of data on human resources, including gender balance. In its Strategy 2030, the JRC declares itself as an equal opportunities employer committed to the objective of being fully gender balanced. This has been further developed in 2017 by issuing a gender balance strategy. The JRC has set-up a talent management programme developed taking into consideration the specificities of JRC and the female colleagues needs.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)**

Lead DG: GROW

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

COSME is the EU programme for competitiveness and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a total budget of EUR 2.3 billion over 2014-2020. It has four main objectives:

1. Access to finance (at least 60 % of the budget)
2. Access to markets (indicatively 21.5 % of the budget)
3. Promoting a favourable environment for businesses and competitiveness of enterprises (indicatively 11 % of the budget)
4. Promoting entrepreneurship (indicatively 2.5 % of the budget)

EU added value of the programme

The additional value for action at the Union level relies on the following four main sources:

- Strengthening the Single Market, by overcoming market fragmentation in areas such as venture capital investment, cross-border lending and credit enhancement as well as informational and organizational constraints which prevent SMEs from taking advantage of the opportunities that the Single Market offers.
- Demonstration and catalytic effects through the dissemination of industrial and policy best practices.
- Economies of scale in areas where it would be difficult for individual Member States to achieve the required critical mass. For instance, in the field of support to SMEs abroad, European added value is created by the bundling of national efforts and, by establishing services that would lack critical mass if provided at national level, like for intellectual property rights enforcement). Union intervention can also contribute to avoid duplication of effort, promote cooperation between Member States and coordination with relevant non-Member States.
- Coherence and consistency in national measures through the exchange of best practices at European level and benchmarking.

The European Investment Fund, entrusted with the implementation of the financial instruments, has a long experience in designing and implementing SME-friendly financing schemes. The Enterprise Europe Network has achieved tangible results by putting emphasis on promoting the internationalisation of SMEs (in the Internal Market and beyond) through providing information on Union matters as well as the possibility to feed into the decision-making process.

Implementation mode

The COSME financial instruments are implemented by the European Investment Fund on behalf of the European Commission. The Delegation Agreement, signed with the European Investment Fund in 2014, ensures that the COSME financial instruments are accessible to a broad range of financial intermediaries. The European Investment Fund is responsible for evaluating and selecting the financial intermediaries in line with the Delegation Agreement based on a continuous call for expression of interest. The two related calls are published by the European Investment Fund.

Actions in the other three objectives are implemented via calls for proposals, ad hoc grants and all forms of procurement.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation status (2017-2019)******The financial instruments***

The calls for expressions of interest launched by the European Investment Fund in 2014 in accordance with the COSME Delegation Agreement attracted great interest from financial intermediaries across the EU and non-EU countries participating in COSME, especially for the Loan Guarantee Facility. Since 2015, as part of the Investment Plan of the Commission, funding opportunities under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility has been enhanced with the support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (i.e. additional risk-taking capacity has been added). By end of 2019, an additional risk bearing capacity of EUR 1.3 billion has been foreseen, including for transactions related to a digitalisation pilot launched in the course of 2019. Therefore, thanks to the European Fund for Strategic Investments, it will be possible to support twice as many SMEs throughout the programming period than could have been supported by the Loan Guarantee Facility resources alone. As of 31 December 2019, the Loan Guarantee Facility provided more than 553,000 SMEs with almost EUR 32 billion financial support in 32 countries.

Signing agreements for the Equity Facility for Growth continued to take longer, as equity entails more complex due diligence and fund-raising processes. As of 31 December 2019, the European Investment Fund invested through the Equity Facility for Growth in

17 funds, for a total amount of EUR 242 million. Of these, six were multi-stage funds combined with the InnovFin Equity Facility for Early Stage set up under Horizon 2020. Two out of the six multi-stage funds were fund-of-funds under the VentureEU programme ⁽¹⁾. Almost all of these funds are now in their investment period, i.e. fund managers are screening potential companies for investments. In the case of the fund-of-funds programme, it means that fund managers are screening the market for potential investments into venture capital funds.

As of 31 December 2019, these Equity Facility for Growth funds had already invested EUR 660 million into more than 100 companies in 13 countries.

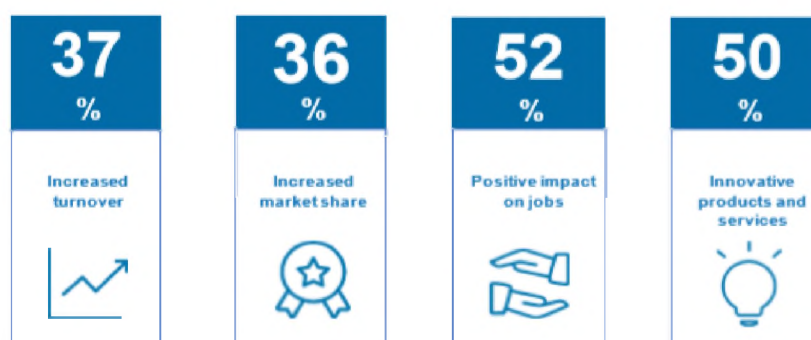
The Enterprise Europe Network

About two thirds of the yearly budget for access to markets has been devoted to the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) since the start of the COSME programme. The EEN helps SMEs to internationalise in particular with advisory services and by finding business, technology and innovation partners abroad. The EEN is present in 66 countries with 603 partner organisations. A total of 535 partner organisations grouped in 94 consortia cover 39 countries from EU Member States and countries associated to the COSME programme. Additionally, 6 Network partners covered 4 countries only associated to the Horizon 2020 programme ⁽²⁾. They signed seven-year framework partnership agreements and specific grant agreements for which the last one covers the activities for the years 2020-2021. These ‘core Network partners’ worked with 67 EEN Business Cooperation Centres grouped in 29 consortia covering 27 third countries.

Enterprise Europe Network partners actively contribute to the visibility of the COSME programme with their involvement in the Open4Business campaigns and further enhanced their regional integration, for example with the organisation of business-to-business events on DG Regio macro-regional events. This is when EEN organisations cooperate with regional stakeholders (organizing these macro-regional events) to mobilize SMEs participation, especially for the business and matchmaking events.

EEN partner’s contribution on the implementation of the new European Innovation Council is much appreciated by SME beneficiaries, for which they provided 1.215 assessments. EEN Key Account Managers (KAMs) provide an assessment (gap analysis) of the needs for SMEs that need to select a coach as beneficiary of an EIC grant (former H2020 SME Instrument), to help implement their innovation project and prepare for the market. Feedback information received from the SMEs showed that these EEN services were much appreciated by SMEs.

The analysis of impact on SME’s shows that nearly 90 % of them expect their market situation to improve thanks to Network support; the actual impact on different business aspect is shown below ⁽³⁾:



Earlier findings on the impact evaluation of the Network (2008-2014) ⁽⁴⁾ concluded that the average net of effect for SMEs participating in the Network was approximately three percentage points increased annual growth (compared to SMEs not receiving EEN services).

Based on the positive results from its 12 years of experience with providing support to SMEs, the EEN continues its efforts to improve the quality, the efficiency and the relevance of its services for European SMEs. The definition of the new EEN strategic vision will be finalized in the course of 2020. The overall objective is to adapt its services to changing business needs and to further increase the concrete positive impact on its SME clients’ businesses. ‘EEN Scale-Up Advisors’ are operational in all regions of the EU, building on the results from a pilot phase. It inspired many Network partners to further tailor their services to the specific needs of scale-ups, for example with tailored advice on access to finance and organising pitching events with investors.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) holds annual calls for proposals resulting in EASME signing 24-month grant agreements and framework partnership agreements as of 2016. Not all projects that passed the evaluation could be funded in recent years due to

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_18_2763

⁽²⁾ Activities co-funded by Horizon 2020

⁽³⁾ These numbers are calculated by EASME based on surveys of EEN client SMEs where the questionnaire addresses different aspects of possible impacts (in particular for partnership services and specialised advisory services).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d4cf03ed-972c-11e5-983e-01aa75ed71a1>

budget constraints. In 2014 the budget was EUR 6.5 million, in 2015 EUR 7.8 million, in 2016 EUR 7.6 million, in 2017 EUR 9.4 million, in 2018 EUR 10 million, and in 2019 EUR 16 million. Currently there are 194 local contact points in 37 countries (in 26 EU Member States and 11 other COSME countries). In order to strengthen the scheme, a longer-term Framework partnership agreement (2016-2021) was signed with experienced intermediary organisations (99) of the programme. This offers a longer term stability for the intermediary organisations which results in better use of promotion of the programme done and increase of matched entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs benefit from longer support by the same experienced organisation without need to change every two years.

Other actions (including SME Policy, clusters, tourism)

The 2019 SME Performance Review reports were published and contributed to the Commission's analyses of SME relevant issues at European and national level in the context of the European Semester. Different events were organised to discuss and share information on the SME situation in Europe and on the best initiatives to support entrepreneurs. They included the annual SME Assembly, held in Helsinki on 25-27 November 2019, the Single Market Forum workshops and closing event, held in Bucharest in June 2019, and the SME week events.

The 'Cluster excellence programme', enabled the establishment of 13 EU cluster partnerships in 2019 supporting 69 clusters from 21 EU and COSME participating countries to raise their capacity in supporting their SME members.

The European Cluster Collaboration Platform includes 1112 industrial cluster organisations. They reach out to 120 000 SMEs, ca. 8,000 large firms and 11,000 research organisations or technology centres. The Platforms act as multipliers and bridge-builders to connect industrial ecosystems actors and serve as policy accelerators for Europe's industrial strategy. For instance, there are 400 digital clusters and 250 green-tech clusters registered on the platform that are ready to team and help implement the European Green Deal.

The projects implementing the Start-up/Scale-up initiative have been continued with the aim to link startups and more traditional mid-size companies through matchmaking, and to foster collaboration among regional ecosystems (based on the European Entrepreneurial Label of the Committee of the Regions), in order to build bottom up single market for start-ups and especially scale-ups.

COSME funded capacity building amongst SMEs in the tourism sector (i.e. by increasing their ability to adapt more sustainable business models, or to come up with more sustainable products). Exchange of best practice also encouraged the EU tourism industry to adapt to challenges and emerging global trends. In particular, six cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation and capacity building schemes will now work with SMEs on innovative solutions for sustainable tourism and foster the capacities and skills of companies (more than 360 SMEs) to improve their sustainable management practices and increase the standards. The results of the COSME support to tourism SMEs, and best practices developed under specific projects, were showcased to more than 200 stakeholders in a dedicated conference in March. The European-wide campaign for awareness raising and promotion of European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) will result in increased business opportunities for SMEs operating in these more than 350 lesser-known tourist destinations in Europe.

The work in the context of Blueprint for Skills Cooperation in tourism continued with specific stakeholders' and industry workshops. The European Tourism Forum, held in October in Helsinki, was an opportunity for over 200 stakeholders to discuss the potential of digitalisation for the EU tourism industry and the ways tourism companies can rely on data for growing their businesses. The March meeting of the Digital Tourism Network looked into framework conditions enabling tourism SMEs' digital transformation and framed the areas for future cooperation of the stakeholders in this informal forum.

The European Capitals of Smart Tourism initiative (promoting cities' excellence and innovation in tourism) continued with the award of the 2020 title to two outstanding cities, Gothenburg and Malaga, and grew into a network of associated metropolis sharing their best practices and expertise.

The programme also continued to support other activities such as the Intellectual Property Rights SME Helpdesks and helping SMEs improve their access to public procurement.

Key achievements

Thanks to the reinforcement of the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility resources from the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments ⁽⁵⁾ (doubling the available resources), it was possible to achieve the targets set for the overall programming period (2014-2020) already in the course of 2018. In 2019, the high performance continued to benefit SMEs in need of finance. As of 31 December 2019, more than 553,000 SMEs in 32 countries already received financing for almost EUR 32 billion ⁽⁶⁾. Especially start-ups and smaller SMEs which find it hardest to access finance due to their perceived higher risk or lack of sufficient collateral, continued to benefit from the enhanced Loan Guarantee Facility. It continues making financial support available to SMEs with more than 88 % of SMEs having less than 10 employees and almost 50 % being start-ups with an operational history of less than 5 years.

⁽⁵⁾ Since 2015, as part of the Investment Plan of the Juncker Commission, funding opportunities under the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility have been enhanced with the support of the SME Window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. In 2019, this enhancement can provide up to EUR 1.3 billion of additional risk taking capacity from the European Fund for Strategic Investments guarantee.

⁽⁶⁾ http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/single_eu_debt_instrument/cosme-loan-facility-growth/implementation_status.pdf

The Enterprise Europe Network's services range from information on EU matters, company visits and awareness-raising campaigns to specialised advisory services, company missions and matchmaking and technology brokerage events. Numbers for 2019 are not available yet, however it is expected that about 250 000 SMEs received support in 2019. Some 3 000 network staff have been active in local events, provided specialised advisory services to 70 000 SMEs on access to finance, intellectual property rights, business and technology, resource efficiency services individual partnering support etc., about 80 000 meetings between SMEs were organized in matchmaking events. Since its renewal in 2015, the Enterprise Europe Network reached 13 953 partnership agreements between SMEs thanks to Network partnering services. The new Network advisory support services gave 7 580 clients a significant impetus to improve their competitiveness and innovation at European level; nearly 90 % of SMEs served expect their market situation to improve thanks to Network support and 92 % would recommend its services to others.

At the end of 2019 about 8,300 matches have taken place under the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs mobility scheme, involving over 16,500 entrepreneurs. 95 % of host entrepreneurs consider their exchange successful, while the satisfactory rate of new entrepreneurs reaches 97 %. New entrepreneurs participating in the programme between 2014 and 2016 have created 251 new companies so far, and over 1 000 new jobs. Host entrepreneurs also confirmed the positive effects – as well as over 1 100 new jobs created on their side, 58 % of experienced entrepreneurs have seen an increase in turnover and 41 % in increased employment (7).

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest programme evaluation based on the supporting study have been presented in the programme statement 2019, and the Staff Working Document is now available (8).

An evaluation of the COSME cluster support actions will be launched in 2020 to identify the best practices, but also synergies with other upcoming programmes, with a view to the scaling-up of the best performing actions in the future Joint Cluster initiatives, especially to support the sustainable green transition of European SMEs. An assessment will be carried out of the overall EU Open for Business communication campaign.

The reported findings of the Executive Agency evaluation are summarised in the Annual Activity Report of DG Internal Market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs.

Forthcoming implementation

The work programme adopted for 2020 has a total budget of EUR 406 million of which some 60 % is allocated to financial instruments and some 20 % to activities promoting enterprises' access to markets – the two main priorities of the programme. The work programme is structured according to the four action areas and linked to the Commission's policy priorities, in particular on promoting jobs, growth and investment, upgrading the single market and digital single market and implementing better regulation.

The financial instruments

The 2020 budget for the financial instruments (EUR 269 million) could potentially be allocated to the Loan Guarantee Facility. The market demand for the Loan Guarantee Facility remains high and it is expected that available budget resources (including the current European Fund for Strategic Investments enhancements) may not be enough to fully cover the demand until the end of the implementation period. The allocation of budgetary resources between the Loan Guarantee Facility and the Equity Facility for Growth will be carefully calibrated in the course of the year based on market demand and in strong coordination with the European Investment Fund. Request for payment appropriations is expected to increase in 2021 as the rate of guarantee calls under the Loan Guarantee Facility is increasing exponentially.

The Equity Facility for Growth is expected to continue meeting market demand from geographical areas such as the Western Balkans. Demand from Member States is largely allocated (i.e. committed) to the Equity product set up under the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Furthermore, the implementation of the budgetary contribution towards the Pan-European Venture Capital Funds-of-Funds started in 2018, with the signatures of agreements with selected Funds-of-Funds managers. In terms of payment appropriations, fund managers are only moderately increasing their drawdowns for investments into portfolio companies under the Equity Facility for Growth, which results in a slightly increased need for payment appropriations in 2021.

Enterprise Europe Network

More than two-thirds of the COSME budget for access to markets will be devoted to the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). The specific grant agreements for the EEN for the fourth and last operational period (years 2020-2021) were signed with a continued focus on advisory services bringing real added value to SMEs, and the full implementation of the scale-up advisors. The preparation of new strategic vision for the EEN will be finalised by mid 2020. The objective is to ensure that EEN delivers services that address SME's future needs in areas such as internationalisation, innovation services, regional integration, access to finance, single market and SME capacity building. Initial testing of some new concepts defined in the new EEN vision is already planned for the last operational period 2020-2021.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

(7) According to COSME evaluation study – <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/28084>

(8) <http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?documentDetails&DocRef=SWD/2019/374&ComCat=SPINE>

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs scheme (EYE) has signed longer term Framework partnership agreements (2016-2021) using specific grant agreements (2017-2019 and 2019-2021) with 99 experienced intermediary organisations of the programme in order to allow EYE experienced implementing organisations to realise full potential and outreach in matching interested entrepreneurs.

The COSME budget also continues to support the most successful actions such as the European Cluster Collaboration Platform with 1039 registered European cluster organisations (that reach out to 109.741 SMEs, ca. 12.000 large firms and 10.000 research organisations) and the Cluster Go International action that supports EU cluster partnerships in jointly accessing international markets beyond the EU. These also pave the way for the launch of Joint Cluster Initiatives envisaged under the Single Market Programme.

Further support is envisaged in tourism actions, procurement and access to markets. The networks of SME Envoys and the input to SME policy development continues in particular linked to the SME Strategy ⁽⁹⁾.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission has proposed the establishment of a single European Investment Programme, InvestEU, which will have four distinct policy windows, including a dedicated window for SMEs. The successor facilities to the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility and the Equity Facility for Growth will be established under the SME window of InvestEU ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The Commission has also proposed the Single Market Programme ⁽¹¹⁾, and as part of its overall proposed budget, an amount is earmarked for COSME follow up activities, which will enable the continuation of actions of concern to SMEs, such as the access to markets, competitiveness, improvement of business environment, modernisation of industry and promotion of entrepreneurship. Successful actions to maintain include those such as the Enterprise Europe Network, the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs scheme, clusters actions, and tourism.

The text is still in the legislative process for adoption by the Council and Parliament, and it is foreseen to continue the most successful actions, following the orientations of the SME Strategy.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 – 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC	2014 – 2020	2 298,2

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	4,2	3,9	2,8	2,6	3,5	2,8	3,1	22,9
Operational appropriations	243,4	292,2	302,2	337,9	341,3	354,5	404,5	2 275,8
Executive Agency	6,5	8,0	7,0	8,8	9,5	9,9	10,5	60,3
Total	254,1	304,1	311,9	349,4	354,2	367,2	418,1	2 359,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	367,177	100,00 %	244,221	99,07 %	418,102	66,69 %	371,514	58,05 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	413,244	96,40 %	331,631	89,37 %	433,574	64,43 %	407,039	53,47 %

(*) 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

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0103>

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/investeu-programme_en

⁽¹¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/single-market-programme-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en

The COSME interim evaluation, covering the period from 2014 to 2016, found that COSME actions are highly relevant in addressing the challenges related to fostering economic growth and jobs. The Programme has a good proximity to SMEs thanks to an extended network of intermediaries, has a high multiplier effect and shows EU added-value. It supports all types of SMEs (e.g. LGF and EEN). The programme is small but has shown flexibility in adapting quickly to new priorities.

However, 20 % of the budget is fragmented in a number small actions with a low potential for effectiveness and cost-efficiency. In relation to monitoring, the evaluation points out to a lack of centralised data about implementation and indicators are mostly based on outputs rather than on long-term effects. Some efforts are still needed to centralise the data that at present is dispersed between the coordinating team, the units managing individual actions and the delegated entities. The programme delivers in terms of jobs and growth creation but it does not address directly global and societal challenges. The programme is coherent and works without big overlaps with other EU programmes and national/regional SMEs' support schemes, however there is scope for improving synergies, mainly at national and regional level. It is noted that the implementation of the COSME actions during 2014-2016 were on track to reach the milestones.

The COSME programme addresses the challenges of SMEs in their entirety. For example, the objective related to access to finance does not just provide financial support to numerous SMEs that have difficulties in finding such support. The implementation of this objective related to access to finance is found to positively affect also the SMEs' assets, share of intangible assets, sales, employment rates and even to lower SMEs' probability of default. This is empirically demonstrated by the econometric work carried out from various studies ⁽¹²⁾ on the COSME predecessor activities related to access to finance.

Regarding the objectives, it is noted that under the general objective of 'strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs' several activities of the COSME programme indirectly contribute. Looking at the time and cost to establish a business, the baseline of 5.4 working days to set up a business is now measured online at 2.7 days, which puts it below the target of the Industrial Policy Communication of 2012. On cost, there is a marked decrease from EUR 372 to EUR 271 (online), but still above the target in the Communication target of EUR 100, showing that there is still work to do on improving the business environment.

The work of the SME envoys and SME Performance Review ensure a flow of information for businesses and policy-makers, contributing indirectly to improve the business framework and the competitiveness of SMEs.

The second general objective to encourage entrepreneurial culture and to promote the creation and growth of SMEs

EU-28 SMEs have followed a solid growth path in recent years in the 'non-financial business economy'. In 2014-2018, SME value added increased by 16.2 %, and SME employment increased by 8.2 %. The main drivers of growth in SME value added were micro firms, generating value-added growth of 18.3 % in this period. Nevertheless, the growth in value added of large firms was even higher, at 19.5 %. Most recently, in 2017-2018, SMEs in all EU Member States generated growth in both value added and employment, of 4.1 % and 1.8 % respectively. Micro firms grew fastest in 2017-2018, with a rise of 5.4 % in value added and 2.6 % in employment. This meant they outperformed the growth in all other business size classes, including that of large firms. (EU-28 fact sheet, p.3)

SMEs have made a much stronger contribution to the growth in value added in recent years (i.e. from 2016 to 2018) compared to the longer period of 2013 to 2018. The increase in the SME contribution is almost entirely due to micro SMEs. The contribution of medium-sized SMEs has declined during this period. (Annual Report, p. 11).

SME value added and employment grew in all Member States in 2018 for the first time in years. Overall, in 2018, EU-28 SME value added grew by 4.1 % and EU-28 SME employment by 1.8 %. Micro SMEs have driven this recovery – they recorded by far the strongest value added and employment growth of all SME size classes. (Annual Report, p. 11). The employment growth remain above the 1 % annual target at 1.7 % in 2017 and 1.8 in 2018.

Promoting entrepreneurial culture and related actions still have strong demand from stakeholders which has nevertheless proved challenging to measure ⁽¹³⁾. Using the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, we can see that the choice of an entrepreneurial career for example varies across the EU, with 16 EU countries falling between 40-60 %, and only 2 above 80 %.

The continuing success of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs mobility scheme (active since 2009 as a pilot action, and continued under COSME) demonstrates the need for entrepreneurial exchange whereby would-be or newly established entrepreneurs receive practical support from experienced entrepreneurs. Experienced entrepreneurs in return increase their knowledge and access to other markets as well as gain new ideas and techniques for their business. It has a broad geographical spread, implemented by a network of 194 local intermediary organisations in 37 countries (out of 39 participating), and as of 1.2.2020 it is expected that there will be local intermediary organisations present for the first time in Kosovo* and in Martinique (EU outermost region).

General objectives

General Objective 1: to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs

⁽¹²⁾ https://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/EIF_Working_Paper_2019_56.pdf

⁽¹³⁾ New Eurobarometer with input on entrepreneurial questions takes place in 2020

Indicator 1: Performance of SMEs as regards sustainability								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
26 %							Increase	Increase
	Actual results							

Narrative: Share of EU SMEs producing green products (goods and services): 2013 = 20.5 %

Comment: Data from the Flash Eurobarometer 456 on SMEs, Resource Efficiency and Green Markets, December 2017. Next Eurobarometer scheduled for Q2/2020.

Unit of measure: Share of Union SME producing green products

Indicator 2: Changes in unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens on both new and existing SMEs								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
days: 5.4	3.5			4.0			Marked reduction of number of days to set-up a new SME	Marked reduction of number of days to set-up a new SME
	Actual results							
	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.1				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUR: 372	313			300			Marked reduction of number of days to set-up a new SME	Marked reduction of number of days to set-up a new SME
	Actual results							
	335	339	320	311				

Comment: In some countries there is a possibility to have a simplified or online registration to set up an SME under certain conditions. Taking electronic/simplified registration into account, the results are 2.7 days, EUR 271.

Availability of Data: Data for 2018 will be available by end March 2019, 2019 data not yet available.

Unit of measure: Days and EUR respectively

Indicator 3: Changes in the proportion of SMEs exporting within or outside the Union								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009	Milestones foreseen							2020
within EU: 25 %					0		Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
	0							
2009	Milestones foreseen							2020
outside EU: 13 %					0		Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
	0							

Comment: Eurobarometer data will be available in 2020. Current figures (Eurostat) 16.56 % intra EU and 9.8 % extra-EU. SAFE survey (39 % exporting SMEs in 2019).

Source: 2015 Eurobarometer survey on the internationalisation of SME, based on figures for 2014.

Unit of measure: Share of SMEs exporting and increase in the share of SMEs exporting outside the Union

General Objective 2: to encourage entrepreneurial culture and to promote the creation and growth of SMEs

Indicator 1: Changes in SME growth: Total EU turnover (Gross Value Added)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020

5.8 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	Increase of SME output (value added)	Increase of SME output (value added)
	Actual results							
	4.0 %	5.3 %	2.0 %	3.8 %	4.1 %	4.1 %		

Methodology: Data is based on forecasts, figures updated according to current data.

Indicator 2: Changes in SME growth: Employees								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total number of employees in SMEs: 87.50	Actual results							95.50
	90.35	90.84	94.37	95.96	97.74	99.27		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
The annual growth of employees in SMEs: -0.4 %	1.00 %	1.00 %	1.00 %	1.00 %	1.00 %	1.00 %	0.00 %	
	Actual results							
	2.10 %	0.54 %	2.30 %	1.97 %	1.50 %	1.60 %		

Narrative: The annual growth of employees in SMEs: 2011: 0.2 %

Comment: Data from the SME Performance Review 2018 based on figures for 2016/17. SME's value added grew in 2015 by 5.5 % and employment by 0.54 %. NB: data has been revised back in time by Eurostat.

Source: Figures from the SME performance review 2015: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/performance-review/index_en.htm

Indicator 3: Changes in the proportion of Union citizens who wish to be self-employed								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
37 %	Actual results							Increase in share of EU citizens
				0				

Comment: No Eurobarometer on Entrepreneurship has been performed since 2012. To note that the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor measures every year the percentage of the adult population between the ages of 18 and 64 years who believe that entrepreneurship is a good career choice. According to the GEM report (2018) EU countries have in general a low belief in entrepreneurship as a good career with a few exceptions such as Cyprus, Poland and the Netherlands where more than 70 % of adults interviewed considered entrepreneurship as a good choice.

Source: <http://www.gemconsortium.org/report> – please note that no aggregated results for the EU as a whole are available.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to improve framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector

Performance

As mentioned in the overall performance comment, while the programme has been successful in fostering economic growth and helping to create employment opportunities, there is scope for strengthening its responsiveness to EU objectives (such as sustainable and inclusive growth). The programme's main instruments address all SMEs regardless of sector, and only indirectly address challenges such as climate change, gender mainstreaming or youth unemployment.

Within actions, SME policy activities have encouraged the use of the SME test, where the 2017 results showed an increase from 15 Member States prior to the start of the programme, to 27 Member States in 2017. Continuous support (such as that from the Enterprise Europe Network) has contributed to the information and education on sustainable business practices and specific COSME projects such as those in the construction sector seek to ensure a more sustainable use of materials. The 2017 Eurobarometer results on resource efficiency measured 90 % of SMEs taking at least one action to be more resource efficient, and 81 % planning additional actions in the following two years. The 2019 COSME project on a sustainable and circular fashion industry aims to have 40 partnerships, while the 2016 WORTH project aimed to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs in the fashion/lifestyle sector and increase their innovation capacities successfully created 150 partnerships.

Tourism projects have continually increased their participation, such as the number of destinations using sustainable tourism development models from a baseline of 98 to 158 in 2018.

Indicator 1: Activities to improve competitiveness – Number of simplification measures adopted								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
3	4						At least 7	At least 7
	Actual results							
	5	4						

Comment: The indicator refers to the number of simplification measures adopted and accompanied by an impact assessment, and in 2018 this was carried out for Supplementary Protection Certificates in the area of patents and intellectual property.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/intellectual-property/patents/supplementary-protection-certificates_en

Indicator 2: Activities to improve competitiveness – Making the regulatory framework fit for purpose								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
5	6	8	6	4	5		20	20
	Actual results							
	8	6	6	4	5			

Indicator 3: Activities to improve competitiveness – Number of Member States using the competitiveness proofing test								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	1			7			Marked increase	Marked increase
	Actual results							
	6							

Comment: Data from SBA Fact sheets and DG GROW internal sources, Q1 2015.

Unit of measure: Number of Member States using the competitiveness proofing test.

Indicator 4: Activities to improve competitiveness – Resource efficiency (which may include energy, materials or water, recycling, etc.) actions taken by SMEs								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
At least one action: 93 %							Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
		87 %		90 %				
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Planning additional resource efficiency: 80 %							Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
		71 %		81 %				

Narrative: Target: Increase in the share of Union SMEs that are taking at least one action to be more resource efficient (which may include energy, materials or water, recycling, etc.) compared to baseline (initial measurement).

Comment: Flash Eurobarometer 456 on SMEs, Resource Efficiency and Green Markets, December 2017. Next Eurobarometer scheduled for late 2019 or 2020.

Indicator 5: Developing SME policy – Number of Member States using SME test								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
15	18			19			Marked increase in the number of Member States using SME test	Marked increase in the number of Member States using SME test
	Actual results							
	20			27				

Availability of Data: No new report is foreseen at the current time.

Source: 2015 Report 'EU Member States reporting about their SME test', May 2015, http://www.eurochambres.eu/custom/Report_-_EU_member_states_reporting_about_their_SME-test-2015-00224-01.pdf; 2017 Report 'EU Member States about their SME-test 2017', December 2017, <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupMeeting&meetingId=2270>

Unit of measure: Member states

Indicator 6: Tourism – Participation in transnational cooperation projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Countries covered: 3	4			5	4	4	Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
	4	5		4	5			
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Projects awarded:				5-7	5-7	2-10	Increase	Increase
	Actual results							
				6	7			

Narrative: Target: Increase in the number of Member States participating in transnational cooperation projects and in the number of the transnational projects funded by the Programme

Comment: Complementary information for the above indicator:

Baseline target in 2013 of 33 projects support under calls for proposals for transnational partnerships.

In 2014, 42 transnational cooperation projects supported involving SMEs, 52 in 2015, 58 in 2017 and 65 in 2018.

2020 target will also aim for better integration of SMEs in transnational tourism products funded by COSME.

Unit of measure: Countries covered per project and number of projects

Indicator 7: Tourism – Number of destinations adopting the sustainable tourism development models promoted by the European Destinations of Excellence

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
98	119						> 200	> 200
	Actual results							
	120	140	140	158	158			

Narrative: Baseline: On average 20 per year

Comment: From 2011 the selection of EDEN destinations takes place every second year in alternation with a year dedicated to the promotion of the awarded destinations.

2019: planned +/-176 awarded EDEN destinations (ie +/-18 destinations expected to be awarded under the theme Health and well-being tourism)

Indicator 8: New Business Concepts – Number of new products/services in the market

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
				5	15		Increase	Increase
Actual results								
		10 projects under the call for proposals design-based consumer goods (published twice)	150 partnerships under the call for tender WORTH	40 start-ups under call for proposals European Incubator Networks for Creativity-driven innovation				

Methodology: Cumulative number of new products/services (initial measurement)

Comment: For 2018 30 partnerships planned under the call for tender ‘Light industries (textile/clothing, leather and footwear sectors) Innovation and Technology project’

For 2019 40 partnerships planned under the call ‘Accelerate and scale-up innovation applications for a sustainable and circular fashion industry’

Expenditure related outputs

1.Activities to improve European Competitiveness – Studies, impact assessments, evaluations, conferences	F	44	51	55	60	65	70	75
	P	70	*	*				
2.Activities to develop SME policy and promote SMEs competitiveness -Meetings, reports, databases	F	102	115	120	122	128	130	132
	P		*	*				

3.Tourism – Projects, prizes, surveys, events	F	10	16	16	18	20	22	25
	P	27	52	28	37	34	Planned: 35	
4.New business concepts for consumer goods – Market replication-type projects	F	8	11	12	12	14	15	15
	P		10	150 partnerships	40	30	Planned: 40 partnerships	

Beyond launching financial instruments under COSME, the Commission took action in 2014 to support SMEs’ access to finance (e.g., by monitoring national policies, raising awareness on the Late Payment Directive and disseminating information on how best using the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to support SMEs).

In addition, several reports on the competitiveness of enterprises across Europe, the SME Performance Review and the SBA Factsheets have been published.

Under the Green Action Plan for SMEs adopted on 2 July 2014, the Commission announced new specific actions to be implemented as from 2015 to boost resource efficiency in SMEs, in particular a guide on how to support resource efficiency in SMEs through ESIF and a resource efficiency self-assessment tool for SMEs which will be used to monitor the achievement of the related result indicator.

3. Tourism data:

2014: 22 projects under calls for proposals, 1 Eurobarometer survey, 1 tender, 1 contract under framework contract, 2 events

2015: 44 project under calls for proposals, 1Eurobarometer Survey, 2 ad-hoc grants, 1 direct contract, 1 tender, 3 events

2016: 18 projects (under EDEN ad-hoc grant scheme), 1 tender, 2 contracts under framework contracts, 1 ETC ad-hoc grant agreement, 6 events

2017: 18 projects (under EDEN ad-hoc grant scheme-selection), 7 projects (under calls for proposals), 5 contracts under framework contracts (two studies/reports, organisation of three events), 1 ad-hoc grant agreement with ETC, 6 workshops on collaborative economy and tourism.

2018: 14 projects under EDEN ad hoc grant scheme-promotion7 projects under call for proposals, 3 contracts under framework contracts (org. of ETD EDEN awards, EDEN Network meetings, 1 workshop, 1 conference (European Tourism Forum), 6 events and 2 actions in the framework of the EU-China Tourism Year

2019: Planned: 18 projects (under EDEN ad hoc grant scheme-selection), 2-10 projects to be awarded under call for proposals, 4 contracts under framework contracts (EDEN evaluation, awareness raising & promotion campaign), 3 events (Digital Tourism Network meetings; European Tourism Forum)

4. Consumer goods

2014: n/a

2015: 10 projects under the call for proposals consumer-based goods (published twice)

2016: 150 partnerships under the call for tender WORTH

2017: 40 start-ups under call for proposals European Incubation Networks for Creativity-driven Innovation

2018: 30 partnerships under call for tender ‘Light industries innovation and technology project

2019: Planned: 40 partnerships under the call ‘Accelerate and scale-up innovation applications for a sustainable and circular fashion industry’

Specific Objective 2: to promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture

Performance

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs mobility scheme (launched in 2009 as a pilot action, and continued under the COSME programme) has provided a solid focus for acquisition of entrepreneurial skills and exchange of experience throughout Europe. Over 25,000 registrations have been received in the scheme with 61 % of those declared as new entrepreneurs, wishing to take part. Over 8,000 exchanges have taken place, covering a wide range of business sectors.

However, the scale of the activities within the mobility scheme has imposed limits to its growth.

Measuring results within other actions is challenging as surveys and projects do not necessarily provide breakdown of interest groups.

Indicator 1: Number of Member States implementing entrepreneurship solutions based on good practice identified through the programme								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target

2010	Milestones foreseen						2020
22				25		28	All MSs
	Actual results						
	28	28	28	28	28	28	

Comment: All EU Member States have specific measures in place to increase the number of entrepreneurs and new companies, with most also having a strong focus on entrepreneurial education for both teachers and students. During 2018-Q1/2019, over 60 policy measures were adopted/implemented under the entrepreneurship principle. This is a lower level of policy activity compared with the previous reference period (2017-Q1/2018). As in previous years, most of the measures aimed to promote an entrepreneurial mind-set.

Indicator 2: Number of Member States implementing entrepreneurship solutions targeting potential, young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
12 Member States in the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs 6 Member States and 2 regions have a specific strategy for Entrepreneurship Education 10 Member States have incorporated national objectives related to entrepreneurship education in broader lifelong learning strategies and in 8 Member States entrepreneurship strategies are currently under discussion		New data on entrepreneurship education anticipated in 2015		12 MS implementing new initiatives in this area (potential, young, new and female entrepreneurs)			Marked increase in number of Member States	Marked increase in number of Member States
Actual results								

Comment: 2015: Member States (MS) and 1 region have a specific strategy for Entrepreneurship Education

14 MS and 2 regions have national objectives related to entrepreneurship education in a broader strategy

2 MS have a specific strategy in development

All MS implement specific actions for women entrepreneurs. Croatia has a national strategy for women entrepreneurship.

The Women Entrepreneurship network (WES) is a policy network from national government or agencies working on women entrepreneurship and includes the 28 EU MS plus 3 COSME countries.

All MS will join the European e-platform that the Commission is currently preparing by providing links to national/ regional one stop shops to assist women to start-up and grow their enterprises as well as to mentor and network.

18 MS took part at the European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors plus 4 COSME associated European countries

12 MS took part at the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs plus 5 COSME associated European countries

2016: 6 COSME countries and 4 regions have a specific strategy for Entrepreneurship Education while 18 countries/regions have a broader strategy that is related to entrepreneurship education. All MS join the European e-platform for women entrepreneurs that the Commission launched in 2016, providing links to national/ regional one stop shops to assist women to start-up and grow their enterprises as well as to mentor and network.

The new EU Women Business Angels Network covers 14 MS.

2017: Data on entrepreneurship education and on women entrepreneurship for 2016 remain valid

In addition, 11 MS participate in projects to improve and extend support programmes for migrant entrepreneurs

2018: Data on entrepreneurship education and on women entrepreneurship for 2016 remain valid

12 MS participated in projects on migrants entrepreneurs.

The main focus of EU action in entrepreneurship is on support to entrepreneurship education, as this is one of the areas showing the best return on investment and on Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE). This programme gives new entrepreneurs know-how on starting and running a business through exchanges with experienced entrepreneurs in another Member State. It offers a unique opportunity for cross-border mobility with the goal of strengthening the business skills and knowledge of both new and experienced entrepreneurs. EYE has been evaluated positively in 2014 and is now being ramped up.

2019: Data on entrepreneurship education and on women entrepreneurship from 2016 remain valid & data on migrants entrepreneurs from 2018 remain valid.

Expenditure related outputs

		Number	EUR million
Studies, campaigns, events	02 02 01		
Number of exchanges	02 02 01		
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014(*)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.Studies,campaigns, events	F	6	10	11	11	12	12	12
	P	17	10	11	6			
2.Number of exchanges	F	663	800	1241	1398	1635	1806	1993
	P					1422+746		

* currently there has been an overall total of 8300 exchanges. Cycle 9 (implemented between 1/2/2017-31/1/2019) has delivered 2844 exchanges, cycle 10 (running from 1/2/2018-31/1/2020) has delivered 1584 matches. Cycle 11 (running from 1/2/2019-31/1/2022) has delivered 2078 out of 5643 planned matches. Cycle 12 is running from 1/2/2020-31/12/2023 with 1969 matches planned.

Specific Objective 3: to improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt

Performance

The COSME financial instruments continued to improve access to finance for SMEs.

As of 31 December 2019, the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility as enhanced by the European Fund for Strategic Investments provided more than 553,000 SMEs with almost EUR 32 billion financial support. These two indicators surpassed already in 2018 the initially foreseen long-term targets for 2020. Some of the drivers behind that performance were:

Even though overall access to finance concerns eased on average in Europe, access to finance remained a major concern for SMEs in a number of Member States, and continued to be a challenge especially for those viable businesses that were considered more risky by potential lenders, such as very small businesses and start-ups.

The market demand for the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility continued to be high and the European Investment Fund signed a number of transactions in jurisdictions previously not covered.

As of 31 December 2019, the funds supported by the COSME Equity Facility for Growth had invested EUR 660 million into more than 100 companies. More than EUR 400 million – from those EUR 660 million – was invested in more than 50 SMEs in their growth and expansion stage out of those 100 companies. The latter two indicators (EUR 400 million and 50 SMEs) were below the initially foreseen long-term targets for 2020. Some of the drivers behind that performance were:

- Signing agreements for the COSME Equity Facility for Growth continued to take longer, as equity entails more complex due diligence and fund-raising processes.
- The COSME Equity Facility for Growth prioritised funds focused on investments in COSME third countries participating in the programme. These third countries cannot be supported under the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments, however, demand from these jurisdictions continues to be limited.

In 2019, the European Court of Auditors published its special report on the implementation of EU centrally managed venture capital instruments (17/2019). The audit encompassed all EU equity financial instruments initiated over the past 20 years. The COSME Equity Facility for Growth was also part of the scope of that performance audit. The European Court of Auditors made a number of recommendations for the Commission to improve the added-value of EU interventions in the venture capital market.

Based on lessons learned from that audit and also other assessments highlighted in the Programme Statements of operational expenditure for the financial year 2020 (COM(2019)400-June 2019), the Commission proposed to set up one single programme (InvestEU Programme 2021-2027) establishing one single fund (InvestEU Fund). It builds on the successful model of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. The InvestEU would ensure a streamlined approach towards the management and reporting on financial instruments/budgetary guarantees. Under the InvestEU fund, financial products catering towards the Commission’s policy priorities, including the financing of SMEs, will be established.

Indicator 1: Number of firms benefiting from debt financing									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Expressed in volume: Loan Guarantee Facility: 16.1								14.3 to 21.5	14.3 to 21.5
	Actual results								
		1.3	5.5	12.8	22.9	31.7			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Expressed in numbers: Loan Guarantee Facility:								220 000 to 330 000	220 000 to 330 000
	Actual results								

312 000		53 433	143 344	274 964	414 739	553 925		
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Methodology: The European Investment Fund collects the data from the financial intermediaries and transmits it in aggregated format to the Commission.

Narrative: See Programme Statement 2021

Comment: The data for the baseline is based on the latest EIF quarterly report as of 31 December 2013 for the SME Guarantee Facility (SMEG) under the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

No results were available for 2014, because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014 and the Call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014.

The result data for 2015-2019 is based on the latest European Investment Fund (EIF) quarterly operational report for the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility as of 31 December for the respective reporting year.

Source: The European Investment Fund

Unit of measure: billion EUR and number of SMEs financed respectively

Indicator 2: Number of venture capital investments from the COSME programme and overall volume invested								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
COSME Equity Facility for Growth: 2.80	Actual results							2.60 to 3.90
			0.06	0.20	0.30	0.40		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
SMEs financed COSME Equity Facility for Growth: 334	Actual results							360 to 540
			12	28	38	51		

Methodology: The European Investment Fund collects the data from the financial intermediaries and transmits it in aggregated format to the Commission.

Narrative: See Programme Statement 2021

Comment: The data for the baseline is based on the latest EIF quarterly report as of 31 December 2013 for the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF) under the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). No results were available for 2014 and 2015 because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014, the call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014 and the first fund agreements were signed end of 2015.

The result data for 2016-2019 is based on the latest European Investment Fund (EIF) quarterly operational report for the COSME Equity Facility for Growth as of 31 December of the respective reporting year.

Source: The European Investment Fund

Unit of measure: Equity Facility for Growth: EUR Billion

SMEs financed: Natural numbers

Indicator 3: Leverage ratio								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Leverage COSME Loan Guarantee Facility: 1:32	Actual results							1:20 – 1:30
			1:9	1:15	1:18	1:20		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Leverage COSME Equity Facility for Growth: 1:6.7	Actual results							1:4 -1:6
			1:0.4	1:0.5	1:1	1:1.1		

Methodology: The European Investment Fund collects the data from the financial intermediaries and transmits it in aggregated format to the Commission.

Narrative: See Programme Statement 2021

Comment: Loan Guarantee Facility: No results were available for 2014 and 2015, because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014 and the call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014. The result data for 2016-2019 is based on the latest European Investment Fund (EIF) quarterly operational report for the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility as of 31 December for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The result data is the expected actual leverage. It is the actual amount of financing made available to SMEs divided by the total amount of guarantee agreements signed. However, the total amount of guarantee agreements signed is higher than the total EU Contribution Committed, because the latter is increased by the actual European Fund for Strategic Investments exposure (the enhancement of the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments).

Equity Facility for Growth: Target from the legal basis: EUR 1 from the Union budget will result in EUR 4-6 in equity investments over the lifetime of the COSME programme. No results were available for 2014 and 2015, because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014, the call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014 and the first fund agreements were signed end of 2015. The result

data for 2016-2019 is based on the latest European Investment Fund quarterly operational report for COSME Equity Facility for Growth as of 31 December for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The result data is the achieved leverage. It is the actual amount invested into eligible final recipients divided by the total EU Contribution Committed towards the Equity Facility for Growth.

Source: The European Investment Fund

Unit of measure: Natural numbers

Indicator 4: Additionality of the EFG and LGF								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Additionality COSME Loan Guarantee Facility: 64 %							Increase share	Increase share
	Actual results							
			63 %					
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Equity Facility for Growth and GIF: 62 %							Increase share	Increase share
	Actual results							

Methodology: Contractor performed anonymised survey with some of the final recipients within the mid-term evaluation.

Narrative: See Programme Statement 2021

Target for both sub-indicators: Increase in the share of final beneficiaries that consider the Equity Facility for Growth or the Loan Guarantee Facility to provide funding that could not have been obtained by other means compared to baseline.

Comment: COSME additionally will be measured in the context of the COSME final evaluation.

Source for 2016: COSME mid-term evaluation (December 2017)

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020						
		Number	EUR million*					
No. of SME beneficiaries (loan guarantees)	02 02 02							
Loan volume (EUR million)								
No. of SME beneficiaries (equity)	02 02 02							
EUR million leveraged (equity)								
Total								
Outputs	Cumulative number of outputs foreseen (F) ⁽¹⁴⁾ and produced (P)							
		2014(*)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.No. of SME beneficiaries (loan guarantees)	F	25,905	51,952	78,136	106,501	139,198	176,195	220,649
	P	0	53,433	143,344	274,964	414,739	553,925	
Loan volume (EUR million)	F	1,684	3,377	5,079	6,923	9,048	11,453	14,342
	P	0	1,292	5,547	12,802	22,862	31,747	
No. of SME beneficiaries (equity)	F	42	85	128	175	228	289	362
	P	0	0	12	28	38	51	
EUR million leveraged (equity)	F	311	623	938	1,278	1,670	2,114	2,648
	P	0	0	64	157	300	403	

(*)The 2014 financial year focused on a smooth transition between the financial instruments under the former Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and the COSME programme. Financial instruments under the former CIP demonstrated their European added value over 2007-2013.

Specific Objective 4: to improve access to markets, particularly inside the Union but also at global level

Performance

The Enterprise Europe Network currently provides support services to 250,000 SMEs annually⁽¹⁵⁾. The partnership results have continually exceeded the target since the start of the programme, and it also has 16.2 million SMEs using digital services (such as the electronic information services). The network also provides advice on international growth and targeted support. The Enterprise

⁽¹⁴⁾ The cumulative numbers related to ‘outputs foreseen’ are computed on the basis of the adopted 2014-2020 MFF figures for BL 02.0202, with an allocation of 52 % towards the LGF and 48 % towards the EFG, in accordance with the legislative financial statement accompanying the Commission proposal for the establishment of the COSME programme.

⁽¹⁵⁾ The Network has reduced administrative burden by only reporting on high value added services, therefore the total number of information services provided would be higher.

Europe Network is also present in 27 third countries through Business Cooperation Centres to facilitate the access of European SMEs to international growth markets.

SME Policy Dialogues are carried out to share best practices and develop framework conditions, which are conducive for the development of small businesses. Actions to support SMEs protecting their intellectual property in international markets were continued through the SME IPR Help Desks (and will continue with the foreseen expansion to India).

The EU-Japan centre for industrial cooperation continues to provide a wide variety of activities including innovation, business services and training. Clusters go international calls are very successful, providing a way for clusters to work together across sectoral boundaries and exploit synergies, improve collaboration across borders and encouraging SMEs to internationalise. However, as pointed out in the interim evaluation of the programme, fragmentation of actions and limited budget has an impact on further growth of successful actions.

Indicator 1: International Industrial Cooperation – Number of cases of improved alignment between Union and third countries’ regulations for industrial products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
2			Regulatory cooperation with 3 of our main trading partners (China, Japan and USA) an average than 2 relevant areas of significant alignment of technical regulations.	3 relevant areas	More than 4 relevant areas		4	4
Actual results								

Narrative: Baseline: It is estimated that in regulatory cooperation with main trading partners (US, Japan, China, Brazil, Russia, Canada, India) there is an average of 2 relevant areas of significant alignment of technical regulations

Comment: The indicator ‘Number of cases of improved alignment between Union and third countries’ regulations for industrial products’ should be measured with caution as we cannot require a third country – US, Japan, China, Canada – to align with our EU technical regulations. Actually, neither party can impose its system on the other. What we do with some of these countries is to have a regulatory cooperation/dialogue in view of seeking more convergence or compatibility in technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. With respect to standards we promote greater acceptance of international standards.

Thus when it comes to specific results requested by the indicator there are not any specific achievements. Regulatory cooperation with trade partners have been more relevant with China, Taiwan, Japan.

In the case of Japan, our regulatory dialogues have contributed, in addition to previous sectors such as automotive, medical devices, cosmetics and chemicals to further alignment of technical regulations in the sector of robots and regulations related to the circular economy. In the case of China regulatory dialogues have been conducted to progress on the areas of industrial policy, conformity assessment, standardisation, motor vehicles’ safety and emissions, pressure equipment, medical devices, cosmetics, SME policy, raw materials, energy efficiency and emissions reduction in industry, tourism and public procurement. We also have an industrial dialogue with Taiwan, covering digitalisation of industry /ICT, circular economy, SMEs internationalisation and cluster cooperation since 2015.

Unit of measure: Relevant areas of significant alignment of technical regulations

Indicator 2: Enterprise Europe Network – Number of partnership agreements signed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
2 295				7500 in three years			2500/per year	2 500
Actual results								
	2 636	2 924	2 924	2 397	2 611	2 722		

Methodology: Encoding partnership agreements in EASME database

Narrative: 2012: 2 475

Target: 2 500 per year

Source: EEN final reports submitted by the 92 consortia that have signed a framework partnership agreement

Unit of measure: Number of SMEs per year

Indicator 3: Enterprise Europe Network – Recognition of the Network amongst SME population

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015-2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
		Milestone to be determined once baseline has been set in 2015-2016					Increase in the recognition of the Network amongst SME population compared to baseline.	Increase in the recognition of the Network amongst SME population compared to baseline.
Actual results								

		0	0					
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Unit of measure: Percentage of SMEs

Indicator 4: Enterprise Europe Network – Clients satisfaction rate (% SMEs stating satisfaction, added-value of specific service provided by the Network)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
86 %				80 %			> 82 %	> 82 %
	Actual results							
				86 %		88 %		

Availability of Data: Surveys are organized every 2-3 years only.

Source: Survey amongst SMEs that received EEN services

Unit of measure: Percentage of SMEs who rated services as Good/Very good

Indicator 5: Enterprise Europe Network – Number of SMEs receiving support services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
435 700							500 000/year (original calculation method) 275 000/year (revised calculation method)	500 000/year (original calculation method) 275 000/year (revised calculation method)
	Actual results							
	522 725	254 057	254 057	226 908		250 000		

Methodology: The revised calculation method follows the Network request to reduce the administrative burden, and asks the Network to report on high-value-added services only. Network partners keep on providing information services to large numbers of SME clients, but no longer need to record them.

Narrative: 2012: 490 000, 2011: 435 000

Availability of Data: Numbers for 2018 are not available yet because of the final reports are still to be received and processed, however it is expected that about 250.000 SMEs received support in 2018. The result is lower than the originally target value because of a new method for calculating this indicator (and not because of lower service level from the Network).

Source: EEN final reports submitted by the 92 consortia that have signed a framework partnership agreement; final numbers for 2019 to be received when final reports are received and evaluated by EASME (May 2020)

Unit of measure: Number of SMEs

Indicator 6: Enterprise Europe Network – Number of SMEs using digital services (including electronic information services) provided by the Network

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
2.0				2.2			2.3	2.3
	Actual results							
		10.5	15.5	16.2		8.4		

Methodology: Encoding partnership agreements in EASME database.

Source: EEN final reports submitted by the 92 consortia that have signed a framework partnership agreement; final numbers for 2019 to be received when final reports are received and evaluated by EASME (May 2020)

Unit of measure: Number of SMEs

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Enterprise Europe Network – Partnership proposals	02 02 01	6671	-
Enterprise Europe Network – SMEs receiving support services (per 1000 SMEs)	02 02 01	230	54.5*
SME business support in markets outside the EU – Studies	02 02 01		
SME business support in markets outside the EU – SME centres; SME helpdesks	02 02 01		
SME business support in markets outside the EU – Platforms,	02 02 01		

events, promotion activities			
International Industrial Cooperation –Workshops, meetings	02 02 01		
Total			

*Total amount of EEN grants for 2020

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014(*)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.Enterprise Europe Network – Partnership proposals	F	5 697	5 793	5 901	6 041	6 122	6 337	6 576
	P	9169	7500	7750	6672	6 302	6671	
2.Enterprise Europe Network – SMEs receiving support services (per 1000 SMEs)	F	403	250	250	260	265	270	275
	P	522	254	254	255	227	230	
3.SME business support in markets outside the EU – Studies	F	10	12	15	14	15	18	20
	P	11						
4.SME business support in markets outside the EU – SME centres; SME helpdesks	F	5	6	7	9	10	12	14
	P	5						
6.International Industrial Cooperation – Workshops, meetings	F	5	8	8	9	7	7	7
	P	6	7	7	7			

The actual final numbers for 2019 for the EEN will become available with the final reporting in April 2020.

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
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Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Equity facility for Growth	10,5	11,5
Enterprise Europe network	15,0	15,0
Total	25,5	26,5

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
21,2	21,6	21,1	23,9	23,8	25,5	26,5	163,6

(*)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

Contribution to mainstreaming

As of 31 December 2019, COSME Equity Facility for Growth has invested EUR 6.7 million in a Venture Capital fund focusing its activities on clean technologies

[https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/single_eu_equity_instrument/cosme_efg/intermediaries.pdf].

Overall, the COSME Equity Facility for Growth has facilitated EUR 19 million of investments in SMEs operating in the ‘Energy and Environment’ sector [https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/equity/single_eu_equity_instrument/cosme_efg/cosme-efg-implementation-update.pdf].

Some examples:

- Scale-up of intelligent energy efficiency services: https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/case-studies/efsi-cosme-enerigus-lithuania.htm
- energy-efficiency: https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/case-studies/efsi-cosme-bul-greece.htm
- energy efficiency sustainability: https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/guarantees/case-studies/cosme_sonnen_germany.htm

Gender mainstreaming

While no specific objective/target is available in the COSME legal basis, COSME actions take the gender dimension into account. For example, this dimension is tracked in the biannual analyses carried out by the European Investment Fund. The latest analyses demonstrate that as of 2018 (i) almost every 4 out of 10 SMEs – that have received a debt financial support thanks to the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility – have either female Chief Executive Officer, General Manager or Company Director and (ii) every 2 out of 10 SMEs – that received an equity investment thanks to the COSME Equity Facility for Growth – have at least one female in an executive position.

Concerning Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, the programme is open equally to men and women. The statistics for applicants shows that since the beginning of the programme:

–New entrepreneurs – 50.49 % of applied NEs are women (49.51 % men)

–Host Entrepreneurs – 27.22 % of applied HEs are women (72.78 men).

Out of 175 active Intermediary organisations (IO), 4 IOs have specific focus on support of women Entrepreneurs.

COSME also supports women entrepreneurs with specific entrepreneurship activities, for example via the WeGate project.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Continuing work to encourage entrepreneurship, provide mentoring and best practice review. Support to the Single Market Strategy and the Single Digital Gateway. Social economy projects work to strengthen the links between traditional and social economy enterprises.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Examples of projects include those improving digital skills, facilitating public procurement of innovation and the co-financing by innovation consortia. Other projects aim to accelerate the take up of sustainable and innovative applications in industry (in 2019 the focus will be on the fashion industry), and results of the previous WORTH partnership projects continue to provide impetus to new applicants ⁽¹⁶⁾. The programme also continues to provide targeting financing for SMEs, and work on Cluster partnerships.

The Enterprise Europe Network advisors have long and rich history in helping SMEs increase their competitiveness and create growth and jobs in a wide range of sectors of activities. As an example, the EEN runs 17 sector groups that organize business matchmaking and R&I partnering events. This is in particular the case for the sector groups on sustainable construction, intelligent energy and environmental technologies. EEN advisors provide innovation management capacity assessments and guidance for about 4.000 SMEs per year. In addition, EEN helps SMEs obtain financing. With regards to the future, the EEN plans to put sustainability advisors in place to help SMEs exploit the opportunities or face the challenges of the Single Digital Gateway.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial Instruments (trust funds n/a)

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/cosme-financial-instruments_en

⁽¹⁶⁾ <https://www.worthproject.eu/zero-waste-productsnew-copy/>

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (Erasmus+)

Lead DG: EAC

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

Erasmus+ is the EU's flagship programme to support and strengthen education, training, youth and sport in Europe. For over three decades, Erasmus+ and its predecessors have been **offering opportunities to young people, students and adults to study, train, gain work experience, and volunteer abroad, in Europe or beyond**. At the same time the programme promotes the understanding of European values and awareness, in particular solidarity and tolerance. What started as a modest mobility scheme for higher education students back in 1987 – with only 3 200 students in its first year – has developed into one of the most successful EU programmes, with a well-known brand name that projects a positive image of the Union, well beyond its borders.

Erasmus+ is aimed at increasing the quality and relevance of qualifications and skills, at improving employability, as well as at supporting the modernisation of education and training, youth and sport systems.

With a budget of EUR 16.2 billion for the 2014-2020 period, the programme helps participants to build resilience, adapt to the changing environment, seize new opportunities and make the most of their talents, reducing the perception of differences. Two-thirds of its budget is dedicated to award grant that allow more than 4 million people to study, train, work or volunteer abroad in the 2014-2020 period (compared to 2.7 million over the period 2007-2013).

In order to achieve its objectives, the Erasmus+ programme implements the following actions:

- In the field of Education and Training, and Youth:
 - Key action 1: Learning mobility of individuals;
 - Key action 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices;
 - Key action 3: Support for policy reform;
- Jean Monnet activities promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies:
 - Jean Monnet actions
 - Operating grants to designated institutions
- Sport activities supporting collaborative partnerships, not-for-profit European sport events, initiatives strengthening the evidence base for policy-making in sport and the dialogue with relevant European stakeholders.

According to the annual report Erasmus + 2017, the programme has enabled almost 3 million mobilities since 2014, broaden their awareness of Europe and its values, and increasing young people opportunities in the labour market.

EU added value of the programme

Education and training are a key driver for innovation, competitiveness and resilience in the global economy in times of rapid technological progress and changes in the world of work.

Within this context, the EU added value of the programme is uncontested. No other programmes funding mobility and transnational cooperation offer comparable scale and scope, efficiency, coverage in terms of sectors and countries as Erasmus+. The stakeholders consulted strongly underlined the EU added value of Erasmus as compared to similar national schemes.

The main positive achievements and effects of the programme encompass the unique combination of actions targeted at the individual, organisation and system levels in education and training, youth and sport, the support for key competences, basic and transversal skills development, active citizenship, increased employability or career development, but also increased opportunities for networking and mutual learning for organisations involved. The programme is perceived as sufficiently flexible to allow for adaptation to emerging policy challenges, while its integrated architecture and management modes are considered appropriate and fit for purpose.

The Erasmus+ mid-term evaluation found that in absence of the programme, learners and staff mobility, as well as European cooperation in the sectors covered by the programme would be substantially reduced. Erasmus+ contributes to social cohesion in the Union. The current programme supports more disadvantaged young people than its predecessors – 11.5 % of the total number of participants and up to one third in the Youth strand. The programme is also actively building positive attitudes towards the European Union and is contributing to the development of European identity across all sectors funded, while improving knowledge and understanding of the EU through the Jean Monnet strand. The mid-term evaluation found that a positive association between participation in the programme and the feeling of belonging to the EU across all sectors and all forms of participations.

In the area of **education and training**, the programme has broadly supported the mobility of learners and teachers in all sectors. It promoted quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning. It also increased the opportunities for all to develop key competences, to tackle skills gaps and mismatches. Erasmus reinforced the internationalisation of the participating institutions.

For example, in **higher education**, in the last three decades, the programme contributed to achieve major progress in harmonising university degree structures and increasing the compatibility of higher education systems. In school education, the programme strengthened the profile of the teaching professions, promoted competence-oriented teaching and learning, and reinforced leadership in education. It also provided the necessary tools and approaches for strong quality assurance systems. For vocational education and training the programme supported the set-up and implementation of internationalisation strategies for VET providers, increasing the quality of VET and the access to training and qualifications for all. The programme also supported high quality learning opportunities for adults for upskilling and reskilling, helping them to progress towards higher qualifications and helping their educators to improve their teaching methods.

The Erasmus+ fosters exchanges, quality and innovation in the field of **youth**. It supports young people, notably those with fewer opportunities, to increase their skills, intercultural awareness and active citizenship by taking part in activities outside formal education. The programme builds capacity of youth organisations providing them with tools and networking opportunities in Europe and beyond, improving the quality of youth work. Erasmus+ enables youth workers to increase their knowledge and skills and enhance their capacity to support young people in informal and non-formal learning settings.

Erasmus+ promotes the European dimension of **sport**. It promoted skills and innovative practices development in sport, and contributed to foster key aspects such as the integrity of sport, good governance, anti-doping. The particular focus on grassroots sport has proven its high potential to encourage social inclusion and to foster equal opportunities, as well as to fight discrimination and intolerance.

EU action on the ground is complementing the policy reforms in the Member States and supports important steps ahead in areas such as the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications, modernisation of education systems. Transparency of qualifications and skills for both learners and workers, and academic recognition throughout Europe has improved as well.

The Erasmus+ supports the delivery of the Skills Agenda for Europe and its key actions, including by opening up new opportunities and increasing the transparency of qualifications and skills for both learners and workers throughout Europe. Practical examples include the European Qualifications Framework, which makes qualifications easier to understand and compare across countries, and the Europass platform to allow people to better showcase their skills and facilitate recognition.

As a key motor of the Skills Agenda, Erasmus+ contributes directly to the political priorities of the European Social Pillar, notably the first principle: *‘Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market’*.

Erasmus+ funded activities contribute to the achievement of the ambitious policy objectives stated under the 2020 Strategic Framework for Education and Training Cooperation, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, the next EU Youth strategy 2019-2027, but also the Digital Education Action Plan, the Upskilling Pathways, and the Automatic Mutual Recognition Council Conclusions. Erasmus+ is also a key element in the implementation process towards a European Education Area by 2025, which reflects the Commission’s ambition to enable all young people to receive the best education and training, and find jobs across the continent, and ensuring that equal opportunities go hand in hand with top performance.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), in cooperation with DG Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) for parts of the programme which concern skills and qualifications policy, adult learning and vocational education and training, is responsible for the running of the Erasmus+ Programme.

The following implementation modes are used:

- **Decentralised implementation (indirect management)**: under this mode, implementation is entrusted to **National Agencies** in the Member States, which implement around three quarters of the annual budget in the agreed Annual Work Programme ⁽¹⁾. This qualitative approach enables Erasmus+ to remain driven by consistent objectives and goals at EU level, while remaining as close as possible to its beneficiaries, adapting continuously to new needs and to the diversity of national education, training and youth systems.
- **Centralised implementation (direct management)**: parts of the programme directly managed at EU level, where projects are allocated across Europe based on excellence, are implemented through the **Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**.
- **Indirect management through the European Investment Fund**: this mode enables the Erasmus+ Student Loan Guarantee.

II. Programme Implementation Update

⁽¹⁾ Tasks of National Agencies include, inter alia, project selection, support and life-cycle administration, monitoring and evaluation, guidance and information services, collaboration through programme-wide networks, enhancing visibility, dissemination and exploitation of the results at local and national level.

Implementation Status (2017 -2019)

As in previous years, while maintaining a high level of continuity, the Programme demonstrated its flexibility in addressing specific policy priorities through different actions. In particular, a crosscutting priority in 2019 was to ensure that the Erasmus+ programme was an important instrument for **inclusion**. The programme also highlighted the **key role of formal and non-formal education** in the development of the values and attitudes underlying **active citizenship**, in line with the Paris Declaration, the Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching.

In the field of **higher education**, the **European Universities Initiative** was kick-started with the selection of the first 17 European Universities. This initiative has an ambitious mandate to trigger unprecedented levels of institutionalised cooperation making it systemic, structural and sustainable. As such, it aims to enhance the quality and attractiveness of European higher education and boost cooperation between institutions, their students and staff. The selection of European Universities includes a broad range of higher education institutions from across the EU, ranging from universities of applied sciences, technical and fine arts to comprehensive and research-intensive universities. Further, a record 163 new capacity-building projects in higher education, 51 new Erasmus Mundus joint masters, and around 55,000 new short term, academic credit mobilities were selected in 2019.

With regards to **international cooperation**, the Erasmus+ programme continued to support EU's cooperation with other regions of the world, with a particular focus on the stabilisation and further development of the European Neighbourhood region (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean). It also represents a major channel for EU-Africa cooperation under the Africa-Europe Alliance. In practice, the international dimension of Erasmus+ facilitates international cooperation and removes barriers to mobility, fostering university partnerships to increase the relevance and quality of education, as well as support to civil society, active citizenship and youth exchanges.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange continues to allow young people living in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to take part in moderated online debates that can form part of a higher education degree or a youth project. More than 17,000 higher education students and other stakeholders have taken part in its first two years.

In addition to **mobility of school education staff**, the Erasmus+ programme continued to promote mobility of pupils through the specific Erasmus+ format '**school exchange partnerships**', which confirmed its attractiveness with 20 % increase of the number of projects selected. The programme also supported policy priorities in school education such as strengthening the profiles of the teaching profession and tackling early school leaving.

The **School Education Gateway** has continued aiming at establishing itself as Europe's main online platform for school education, with key elements such as: expert articles and interviews, highlights of European projects, research publications, Erasmus+ Tools for Schools and the **Teacher Academy**. This academy helps to empower teachers with three new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and a monthly webinar series to develop their practice with today's more diverse classrooms and challenges and to develop innovative pedagogies in supporting key competence development.

In the field of **adult education**, the Erasmus+ programme continued to support policy priorities such as the supply of high quality learning opportunities and the development of the competences of educators, with a budgetary increase for both mobility and strategic partnerships actions in 2019. DG EAC together with the National Agencies accentuated the promotion of opportunities in adult education within the Erasmus+ programme with the aim of increasing the demand.

In 2019, the collaborative platform **EPALE** (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe) has developed further the discussion and exchange of good practice between stakeholders involved in areas such as basic skills, outreach and guidance as well as innovative teaching methods. The number of registered EPALE users reached 61,000 by the end of December 2019 after a period of continued growth.

Across education and training, Erasmus+ has supported the implementation of the European instruments, such as the **European Qualifications Framework** and **Europass**, making skills and qualifications more transparent and easier to understand, and thus helping people move throughout Europe.

In the field of **vocational education and training (VET)**, Erasmus+ continues to support policy priorities such as work-based learning, further strengthening key competences in vocational education and training and developing sustainable partnerships to establish and/or further develop skills competitions through Erasmus+. In 2019, the programme put particular emphasis on **ErasmusPro**, the long-term mobility of learners. Further, a new action was introduced to support the creation of transnational and national **networks and partnerships of VET providers**. Targeting both initial and continuing VET providers, the networks are to foster policy reflection at a European level, and promote awareness and implementation of European VET policies at national and regional levels.

The **Erasmus+ programme** continued to support the **youth** sector by promoting quality youth work, by stimulating young people's empowerment, by developing structured cooperation between different youth organisations to build or strengthen partnerships and by promoting entrepreneurship education, social entrepreneurship and not-for-profit activities among young people. Specific attention continued to be paid to young people with fewer opportunities and with a disadvantaged background. Also, considering that youth work and non-formal learning activities can significantly contribute to address the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and/or increase awareness about this issue within local communities, particular attention was given to support youth mobility projects involving or focussing on the refugees/asylum seekers and migrants.

2019 has been the **30th anniversary of the Jean Monnet Activities (JMA)**. The JMA under Erasmus+ continue to stimulate teaching and research on the European Union and fostering dialogue between academics, decision-makers and civil society actors not only throughout the EU, but also around the world. Being the major programme at European level supporting studies on the European integration process and EU policies, its outputs will remain a meaningful contribution to the reflections on the future of Europe.

In 2019, in the **Sport** chapter, priority was given to grassroots sport, increased participation in sport and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity in line with the Tartu call for a healthy lifestyle. The Sport chapter continued to support initiatives that tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination. It also promoted and supported good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes, and voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, including refugees and migrants.

Key achievements

European Universities: The €85 million-worth first Erasmus+ pilot call closed on 28 February 2019 with 48 eligible applications received, from more than 300 higher education institutions of all types from all parts of Europe, including all Member States. The results were published on 26 June: 17 European Universities were selected and will be awarded up to €5 million each.

European Student Card Initiative: Erasmus+ funded projects to deliver technical development to support the European Student Card Initiative, such as the **Erasmus without Paper Network**, which connects universities' information systems, and the **Erasmus+ Mobile App**, the one-stop-shop for students. The Erasmus+ Mobile App has been downloaded more than 73,000 times while more than 1,900 universities are involved in the testing of *Erasmus Without Paper*, with a 30 % increase observed between August and December 2019.

Erasmus+ Digital Opportunity Traineeships (DOT) initiative: Over 9,000 students from a variety of study fields undertook an Erasmus+ traineeship abroad to acquire forward-looking digital skills, 3,000 more than the target set at the start of the initiative.

The **eTwinning** community has continued to grow with some 125,000 new members registered in 2019, which represents a significant increase by more than 21 % in comparison to 2018 and contributes to an overall number of 764,000 registrants since inception. Hence, a new record was achieved for connecting teachers and classrooms across Europe, to step up support to teachers and foster exchanges.

In March, the '**eTwinning School**' Label was awarded for the second time, to 1,004 schools. Together with the first 1,211 recipients of this new label, these schools are recognised as leaders in areas such as digital practice, eSafety practice, innovative and creative approaches to pedagogy, promoting continuous professional development of staff, promoting collaborative learning practices with staff and students. The idea is also to help these schools to develop into a network, and to reach out to schools with less experience in eTwinning.

The **School Education Gateway** – now with over 70,000 registered users (an increase of 20,000 in one year) – also incorporates the **European Toolkit for Schools**, bringing together examples of policies and practice to support the development of inclusive schools. It is underpinned by the Whole School Approach, which recognises that schools are part of broader communities that need to work together to support all learners. For example, DG EAC offered peer counselling support to Cyprus on the topic of integrating newly arrived migrant students into schools, and supports the Toolkit Project to ensure portability of recognition decisions on migrant's qualifications.

The **Role Models** initiative, aiming to create a pool of positive role models to promote social inclusion, prevent exclusion and radicalization as well as encourage active citizenship and commitment to the European values was further implemented by Erasmus+ National agencies (NAs) in the participating Erasmus+ programme countries, either by the agencies themselves or in cooperation with local partners.

The **Western Balkans** and **Africa** were the two regions selected in which to pilot a new **vocational education and training** mobility scheme. A 2019 call for proposals selected one project for the Western Balkans and two for Africa, designed to involve training organisations from all regions of the continent. EAC is also supporting the empowerment of alumni in these two same regions: 2019 saw the first activities of the Western Balkan Student and Alumni association and the setting up of an African Student and Alumni Forum.

The 2019 edition of the **European Youth Week**, which involved some 120,000 young people across Europe and was held just before the European elections, focused, under the theme 'Democracy and me' on youth participation in decision-making and young people's participation in society. It saw an unprecedented involvement of other Commission DGs and became for the first time a real corporate initiative. It also provided a valuable opportunity for the first meeting of the EU Youth Strategy platform.

This **30th anniversary of the Jean Monnet Activities** was an opportunity to increase the visibility and impact of the achievements, to celebrate the success of the programme and to prepare stakeholders for the next extension of the actions beyond higher education institutions. As the key event of the 30 year anniversary, a high-level conference was organised, focusing on the history and the future of Jean Monnet Activities and their contribution to EU studies. The event attracted 7,000 views on the Facebook live with a very active #JeanMonnet30: 121 tweets from 51 different accounts and 910 engagements in Twitter. The total Facebook reach of the day has been of 89,000 people.

The annual call for proposals for Jean Monnet grants in the 30-years celebration year saw a new record number of 1,315 applications. 284 proposals were selected, supporting 217 universities, organisations and associations in 45 countries worldwide. They will implement EU studies-related activities during three years through 92 Modules, 74 Chairs, 29 Centers of Excellence, 10 ‘Supports-to-Associations’, 21 networks and 58 specific projects. The budget available for this call for proposals was €18.2 million.

In April 2019, the Commission awarded for the second time the **Altiero Spinelli Prize** for Outreach in the framework of the European Youth Week in the House of European History. Six Prizes were awarded to innovative projects which contributed to enhance young people’s understanding of the European project and their participation in its democratic processes. The third edition of the Altiero Spinelli Prize was launched in July 2019. A pilot project for a new award, the **Jan Amos Comenius Prize** to recognise high quality innovative and inspiring teaching about the European Union in secondary schools was launched.

For five years **the European Week of Sport** has tackled the inactivity crisis by encouraging Europeans to embrace a healthy and active lifestyle. The 2019 edition saw a new record with the staggering participation of over 14.6 million citizens in more than 23,000 events in 42 countries and regions in Europe. The European Week of Sport embraced for the second time Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries and regions.

In 2019, the **#Beinclusive EU sport awards** once again recognised sport organisations working with ethnic minorities, refugees, people with disabilities, youth groups at risk, or other groups that face challenging social circumstances. The three #Beinclusive winners were announced at a special awards ceremony on 21 November 2019 in Brussels. The **#Beactive awards** support projects and individuals dedicated to promoting sport and physical activity across Europe. On 18 October 2019, #BeActive nominees, ambassadors and supporters gathered in Budapest to recognise outstanding commitments to the #BeActive campaign.

Two pilot projects in the field of **social inclusion of refugees** and the monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation are being implemented as a continuation of actions started in previous years.

Furthermore, a preparatory action also held in previous years continues to be implemented, namely the **Exchanges and Mobility in sport**. It includes a new lot of cooperation with Africa. The pilot projects and preparatory action were implemented throughout 2019.

Evaluations/Studies conducted

In 2019, the results of two new **Erasmus+ Impact studies** were communicated and disseminated: Erasmus+ makes students more successful in their personal and professional lives, and Erasmus+ helps universities to become more innovative.

In the field of Youth, two studies were launched and finalized in 2019: one on the landscape of youth representation in the EU and one on removing obstacles to cross-border solidarity activities. Furthermore, the results of the **Eurobarometer survey ‘How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people’** was released in April 2019, showing that young people consider that protecting the environment and fighting climate change, along with education and training; and fighting poverty and social inequalities should be the top priorities for the EU in the years to come.

Beyond sectorial studies, the **Education and Training Monitor** on a yearly basis offers a comprehensive report on progress in education and training in Europe. With its international comparison and country analysis, the Monitor fuels the debate on priority themes for education and training and informs national education reform debates. The Monitor presents progress against mainly, but not only the quantitative indicators on education and training adopted under ET 2020 (‘EU benchmarks’). The country profiles of the Monitor also feed in the analytical work under the European Semester process. The 8th Education and Training Monitor, with a specific thematic focus on teachers and teaching careers, was published on 26 September 2019. The ninth edition, scheduled for publication in late 2020, will have ‘teaching and learning in a digital age’ as its lead theme.

Forthcoming implementation

The Erasmus+ programme will maintain a close relationship with the overall strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training in 2020, as well as reinforce synergies with other related EU programmes and policy areas.

As in previous years, the Programme will keep directly addressing, through different actions, specific policy priorities, in link with the recommendations from the Gothenburg Summit, of November 2017, followed up by the 2017 December Council conclusions to work **towards a European Education Area by 2025**: where learning mobility would be the norm, where universities can cooperate seamlessly across borders, where it is normal to speak two languages in addition to the mother tongue, where higher education and school leaving diplomas are automatically and mutually recognized and where Europe would become a continent of excellence in education and research.

In 2020, the pilot activity on European Universities will be reinforced. The selected projects will increase the performance, attractiveness and competitiveness of **higher education** institutions on a European scale. Another important novelty will be the inclusion of a new action on Centers of Vocational Excellence aimed at establishing world-class reference points for both initial as well as continuing training in specific sectors.

In **school Education**, the priority will be given to reinforcing the development of key competences, strengthening the profile of the teaching professions, promoting a comprehensive approach to language teaching and learning, increasing the levels of achievement and interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), tackling early school leaving and disadvantage,

developing high quality early childhood education and care systems, building capacity for promoting and facilitating recognition of learning periods abroad, and developing strong quality assurance systems.

In **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**, the priority will be given to developing partnerships supporting the setting up and implementation of internationalisation strategies for VET providers, aiming at promoting work-based learning in all its forms, increasing the quality in VET via feedback loops, enhancing access to training and qualifications for all, and developing sustainable partnerships to establish and/or further develop national, regional and sectoral skills competitions organisations.

In the **adult education** field, the priority will be given to improving and extending the supply of high quality learning opportunities for adults, supporting the setting up of and access to upskilling pathways, increasing learning demand and take-up, extending and developing the competences of educators, and developing mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness and improve quality assurance of adult learning policies and provision, and to track the progress of adult learners.

In the field of **youth**, the program will continue supporting mobility projects for young people and youth workers, cooperation projects for innovation and exchange of good practices and actions in support of policy reform, in line with the aims of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 of engaging, connecting and empowering young people.

Jean Monnet activities continue to bring important contributions to the reflections on the future of Europe by promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of studies on European Integration, in Europe and worldwide.

In the field of **sport**, the program will continue to support actions towards a systemic impact on the organisation and good governance of sport in Europe, at improving the level of participation in sport and physical activity and at ensuring the integrity and credibility of sport in Europe through the promotion of its common values.

From the point of view of technical management, further efforts will be made to optimise, stabilise and improve the performance and user-friendliness of the **IT tools** supporting the implementation of the Programme, in particular those tools that are used by the beneficiaries of the Programme. These efforts will be carried out with a view to facilitate the access to the programme, notably for new entrants and small entities applying for funding.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

As part of the ‘Investing in People’ chapter of the EU’s long-term budget proposal, the Commission presented its proposal for the new Erasmus programme for 2021-27 on 2 May 2018, proposing a doubling of the budget, and making it possible to triple the number of participants. This was underpinned by an impact assessment, which drew on the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the current Erasmus+ programme and on a broad public consultation, as well as feedback received in the context of the 30 years of Erasmus events held throughout 2017.

The future programme will maintain the current basic architecture as an integrated programme that is based on the principle of lifelong learning and whose beneficiaries include school pupils, higher education students, trainees, teachers, trainers, youth workers, sports coaches, and also learners in vocational education and training and adult learning staff.

The aim of the new programme is to be more inclusive and accessible to people from all social backgrounds. The Youth Participation Activities will provide accessible opportunities for young people to prepare for and engage in civic, economic, social, cultural and political decision-making the **DiscoverEU initiative** will give young people opportunities to discover Europe’s cultural heritage and diversity, while the successful Jean Monnet actions will be extended beyond higher education, mainly secondary education, making it possible to reach younger generations with European studies education.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing ‘Erasmus+’: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC	2014 – 2020	14 774,5

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support	10,4	11,0	10,4	11,7	11,9	12,4	12,4	80,2
Operational appropriations	1 525,0	1 574,1	1 699,2	2 032,9	2 276,8	2 747,1	2 846,9	14 702,0
Executive Agency	23,4	23,0	25,1	25,6	25,8	27,0	26,1	175,9
Total	1 558,8	1 608,1	1 734,7	2 070,2	2 314,5	2 786,4	2 885,4	14 958,1

Erasmus+ – Contribution from external instruments – operational appropriations (Heading 4)*	231,9	223,5	247,4	259,8	224,0	256,7	233,7	1 677,1
Erasmus+ – Contribution from external instruments to Executive Agency (Heading 4)*	6,0	5,5	5,4	5,9	5,5	5,1	4,9	38,2
Total contribution from external instruments (Heading 4)*	237,8	229,0	252,9	265,6	229,4	261,8	238,6	1 715,3

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	2 786,425	100,00 %	2 609,317	99,72 %	2 885,368	25,34 %	2 732,717	2,15 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	3 267,016	93,66 %	3 215,023	88,85 %	3 170,659	27,42 %	3 163,435	4,64 %

(*) 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

From its onset, the Erasmus+ programme has built on the experience of previous programmes and has developed its own agility to adapt to new priorities. Along the years, the programme has demonstrated an outstanding track record not only in terms of numbers, delivering constantly up to or above expectations across fields and actions, but also in terms of social impact. Over the last three decades, **10 million people** have participated in what, for many of them, turned out to be life changing experiences under Erasmus+ and its predecessors. After a learning exchange abroad, young people, adults, youth workers and teachers say they feel more prepared to take on new challenges, have better career prospects, and are more aware of the benefits the EU brings to their daily lives.

With the capacity to **fully absorption of funds** and an **error rate below 2 %**, the programme is well placed to upscale further in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Harmonized reporting tools, analytics and business intelligence support the stirring of the programme in tight collaboration by the different stakeholders, and in particular the Education and Culture Executive Agency and the 60 National Authorities, present in the 27 Member States and 7 Partner Countries.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Programme shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, including the headline education target; the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (“ET 2020”), including the corresponding benchmarks; the sustainable development of partner countries in the field of higher education; the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018); the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the Union work plan for sport; and the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

Indicator 1: Percentage of 18-24 year-olds with only lower-secondary education who are not enrolled in education or training								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
11.9 %	11.7 %	11.4 %	10.8 %	10.6 %	10.4 %	10.2 %	10.0 %	10.0 %
	Actual results							
	11.2 %	11.0 %	10.7 %	10.6 %	10.5 %	10.3 %		

Source: Eurostat latest data available: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_40&plugin=1

Indicator 2: Percentage 30-34 year-olds with completed tertiary or equivalent education								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
37.1 %			39.0 %		39.5 %		≥ 40 %	≥ 40 %
	Actual results							
	37.9 %	38.7 %	39.1 %	39.9 %	40.7 %	41.6 %		

Source: Eurostat latest data available: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=t2020_41&plugin=1

Indicator 3: Percentage of higher education graduates who have had a period of higher education-related study or training (including work placements) abroad

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
2.9 %		8.0 %		17.0 %			20.0 %	20.0 %
	Actual results							
		8.0 %	10.7 %					

Comment: Results 2016: 7.6 % Credit Mobility and 3.1 % Degree mobility. The data collection is based on Commission Regulation 912/2013. The first full data transmission on learning mobility of tertiary graduates (degree and credit mobility) was scheduled under this Regulation for November 2017 and published in 2018), referring to the academic year 2015/16. In 2018 data on credit mobility were published for the first time and included in the new estimates for the academic year 2015/16. Graduates which are credit mobile during their studies include graduates who participated in the Erasmus+ EU programme.

Source: The data collection needed for the indicator is under development through the European Statistical System. This work is coordinated by Eurostat.

Unit of measure: Baseline: EU graduates qualified in a country other than the country in which they achieved their upper secondary diploma (degree mobility only).

Indicator 4: Percentage of 18-34 year-olds with an initial vocational education and training qualification who have had an initial vocational education and training-related study or training period (including work placements) abroad

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
2-3 %				4 %			6 %	6 %
	Actual results							
	3 %							

Comment: Estimate on available data for annual participation in VET mobility under the Leonardo Da Vinci programme and from certain countries (SWD SEC(2011) 670 on the development of benchmarks on education and training for employability and on learning mobility). When the IVET mobility indicator was adopted there was no European harmonised data source that could provide data for the indicator. Eurostat set up a Task Force and a pilot data collection on learning mobility via household surveys. However, the results had low reliability for some countries. Based on the pilot data collection and discussions with Member State authorities, the Commission has drawn the conclusion that it was worth exploring the use of administrative data and review the feasibility of using such data for the benchmark on IVET mobility. The results of the feasibility study to be published in the end of 2019 should clarify whether administrative data are a reliable source for the benchmark. Weighted average for 16 EU MSs where data are available through a Eurostat pilot collection (BE, BG, EE, ES, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, AT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, SE). The final results can only be provided when all the projects have been finalised.

Indicator 5: Number of staff supported by the Programme, by country and by sector

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
HE 46	49		50				70	70
	Actual results							
	43	45	46	55	65	75		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
VET 9	23		11				15	15
	Actual results							
	20	17	18	18	20	22		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Schools 13	21		15				20	20
	Actual results							
	18	18	21	29	36	49		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Adult 2	6		3				5	5
	Actual results							
	5	4	4	6	8	12		

2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Youth 16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26	26
	Actual results							
	34	31	29	32	33	39		

Comment: Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 preliminary results calculated for awarded projects in a given call year. Figures updated to EU 28. In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The increasing trend of actual results mirrors the increasing trend of the annual budget available over the programme period.

Source: Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report.

Unit of measure: In thousand

Indicator 6: Number of participants with special needs or fewer opportunities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total 8	15			15			40	40
	Actual results							
	19	22	24	30	32	15		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Youth 18.7	47			22			37	37
	Actual results							
	26	31	37	42	41	14		

Methodology: Calculation method has been improved in 2019 and is now based on realised mobility periods. All EU28 past values recalculated.

Comment: Calculation method has been improved in 2019 and is now based on realised mobility periods. All EU28 past values have been recalculated. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 preliminary results calculated for awarded projects in a given call year.

Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 preliminary results calculated for awarded projects in a given call year.

Availability of Data: Mobility periods are ongoing for 2018, final values will be updated once all projects will be closed. 2019 results are provisional.

Source: Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report.

Unit of measure: In thousand

Indicator 7: Number and type of organisations and projects, by country and by action								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
National Agencies Projects: 11/Organisations: 32	11 994							
	Actual results							
	18/68	18/66	19/72	21/79	22/89	23/102		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
EACEA Projects: 0.8/Organisations: 4	11 994.0							
	Actual results							
	0.7/2.2	0.9/4	1.1/5.6	1.0/4.4	1.3/5.5	1.4/6.0		

Methodology: Projects/Organisations

Comment: Number of participants in EU33

Availability of Data: The final figures can only be provided when selections will be finalised.

Source: EACEA data

Unit of measure: Actions managed by National Agencies or EACEA respectively (In thousand)

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to improve the level of key competences and skills, with particular regard to their relevance for the labour market and their contribution to a cohesive society, in particular through increased opportunities for learning mobility and through strengthened cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their key competences								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
75 %			77 %				80 %	80 %
	Actual results							
	94 %	94 %	94 %	94 %	95 %	95 %		

Comment: The actual results are based on EU28. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 final figures can only be provided when projects are finalised. Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Unit of measure: Youth percentage

Indicator 2: The number of pupils, students and trainees participating in the Programme, by country, sector, action and gender								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
HE 260	236	239	248	270	319	356	412	412
	Actual results							
	234	236	250	290	316	336		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
VET 41	78	78	80	87	99	121	131	131
	Actual results							
	90	96	105	127	137	154		

Comment: Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 preliminary results calculated for awarded projects in a given call year. Including Erasmus+ specific objective to improve the level of key competences and skills, with particular regard to their relevance for the labour market and their contribution to a cohesive society, in particular through increased opportunities for learning mobility and through strengthened cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work

Unit of measure: In thousand

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Individual Mobility of Staff (HE – VET – Schools – Adult)	15 02 01 01	127 947	293.2
Students Mobility HE	15 02 01 01	356 074	741.0
Students Mobility VET	15 02 01 01	130 391	376.0
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters	15 02 01 01	5 300	122.0
Masters (Student loan guarantee facility)	15 02 01 01	1 200	3.0
Operating grants for National Agencies	15 02 01 01	58	95.5
Total			1630.7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P) ⁽²⁾						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Individual Mobility of Staff (HE, VET, Schools, Adult)	F	71 541	72 474	76 326	90 191	97 876	113 654	127 947
	P	85 971	84 191	89 518	106 007	127 430	158 291	
Students Mobility HE	F	223 857	224 286	236 207	239 142	280 781	309 060	356 074
	P	233 967	239 474	255 551	289 889	313 333	336 495	
Students Mobility VET	F	77 554	77 650	81 777	87 227	99 328	121 200	130 391
	P	89 882	95 799	104 524	126 511	136 835	153 624	
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters	F	1 608	2 800	3 400	4 000	4 600	5 300	5 300
	P	2072	2 289	2 466	2 876	3 183	3 755	
Masters (Student loan guarantee facility)	F	10 964	12 764	20 890	19 426	19 426	19 000	1 200

⁽²⁾ Result indicator: the final figures can only be provided when all projects will be finalised.

	P	0*	3 440	6 569	7 081	3 000 ⁽³⁾	450	
Operating grants for National Agencies	F	55	55	55	55	55	55	58
	P	55	55	56	57	58	58	

*The Facility has been established as from 2015

Specific Objective 2: to foster quality improvements, innovation excellence and internationalisation at the level of education and training institutions, in particular through enhanced transnational cooperation between education and training providers and other stakeholders;

Indicator 1: The number of users of Euroguidance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Hits on Euro-guidance 2 921 925				5 000 000			10 000 000	10 000 000
	Actual results							
	3 561 668	5 000 000	2 983 273					
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Participants in Euro guidance seminars/workshops 11 411	7 643			10 000			100 000	100 000
	Actual results							
	31 832	30 463						

Methodology:

Comment: Baseline according to 2013 final reports.

Source: 2015 According to Erasmus+ annual report. 2016 Cf. Euroguidance Synthesis report.

Unit of measure: Hits on Euro guidance website & Participants in Euro guidance seminars/workshops or Participants in Euro guidance seminars/workshops respectively

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Strategic partnerships (School, HE, VET, Adult)	15 02 01 01	4 515	645.6
Knowledge alliances / Sector Skills Alliances / European Universities	15 02 01 01	72	120.0
Web platforms	15 02 01 01	2	16.8
Total			782.4

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Strategic partnerships (School, HE, VET, Adult) ⁽⁴⁾	F	1 739	1 780	1 863	3 026	3 545	3 916	4 515
	P	1 321	1 465	1 867	2 292	3 034	4 224	
Knowledge alliances / Sector Skills Alliances ⁽⁵⁾ / European Universities	F	13	20	42	48	48	42	72
	P	14	15	35	36	48	46	
Web platforms	F	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	P	4	4	4	4	4	4	

Specific Objective 3: to promote the emergence and raise awareness of a European lifelong learning area designed to complement policy reforms at national level and to support the modernisation of education and training systems, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of Union transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices;

⁽³⁾ Based on a close monitoring of the Student Loan Guarantee Facility uptake, the budget and targets are adapted along the year. The target of 19,000 loans relates to a commitment of €50 million at the start of the 2018 budgetary exercise. This amount was subsequently downsized to €18 million as part of the Erasmus+ Work Programme 2018 (estimated target of 7,081 loans). In practice, €8 million have been committed, corresponding to approximately 3,000 loans).

⁽⁴⁾ The number of strategic partnerships is lower than foreseen in 2014 and 2015 because the average grant size is higher than foreseen. Measures are being taken to reduce the average grant size in coming years.

⁽⁵⁾ The number of Knowledge Alliances/Sector Skills Alliances is lower than foreseen in 2015 and 2016 because the average grant size is higher than estimated.

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants who have received a certificate, diploma or other kind of formal recognition of their participation in the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
HE 100 %		100 %		100 %			100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
VET 65 %		68 %		70 %			75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	71 %	74 %	73 %	76 %	80 %	87 %		

Comment: Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Availability of Data: Result indicator: the final results can only be provided when all the formal recognitions have been delivered (year N=3).

Source: Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support for policy reform	15 02 01 01	n/a	67.7
Total			67.7

Specific Objective 4: to enhance the international dimension of education and training, in particular through cooperation between Union and partner-country institutions in the field of VET and in higher education, by increasing the attractiveness of European higher education institutions and supporting the Union’s external action, including its development objectives, through the promotion of mobility and cooperation between the Union and partner-country higher education institutions and targeted capacity-building in partner countries;

Indicator 1: The number of partner country higher education institutions involved in mobility and cooperation actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 000	0	1 000	1 100		1 200		1 300	1 300
	Actual results							
	1	902	1 049	893	910	1 096		

Comment: International actions were only launched at the end of 2014. These figures come from the numbers of non EU HEIs having participated in Erasmus Mundus (EM) and Tempus from 2009 to 2013. Figures reported centralised actions only.

Source: 2015 According to Erasmus+ annual report.

Indicator 2: The number of higher education students receiving support to study in a partner country, as well as the number of students from a partner country coming to study in a Programme country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Going to a partner country HE students and staff going to a partner country (in 1 000)	0.0	3.8	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.0	3.9	3.9
	Actual results							
	0.0	9.0	13.0	16.0	18.0	22.0		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Coming from a partner institution HE students and staff coming from a partner country (in 1 000)	0	15	16	17	14	15	15	15
	Actual results							
	0	19	23	25	28	33		

Comment: The increasing trend of actual results mirrors the increasing trend of the annual budget available over the programme period.

Unit of measure: In thousand

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
International Student and Staff Mobility	Heading 4 ⁽⁶⁾	32 300	107.0
Degree Mobility	Heading 4 ⁽⁷⁾	232	20.9
International HE Capacity Building	Heading 4 ⁽⁸⁾	141	105.9
Total			233.8

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
International Student and Staff Mobility (credit mobility) ⁽⁹⁾	F	14 363	15 718	17 906	30 000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	30 000	30 000	32 300
	P	0	28 167	36 136	40 918	46 016	55 071	
Degree mobility	F	228	228	280	279	228	238	232
	P	0	518	423	350	400	418	
International HE Capacity Building	F	135	139	159	168	136	143	141
	P	0	138	147	149	150	163	

* Implementation of the actions delayed for the subsequent year due to the late adoption of the legal basis of the external instruments.

Specific Objective 5: to improve the teaching and learning of languages and to promote the Union’s broad linguistic diversity and intercultural awareness;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants in long-term mobility declaring that they have increased their language skills

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
HE 94 %		95 %		96 %	96 %		98 %	98 %
	Actual results							
	98 %	98 %	97 %	97 %	97 %	95 %		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
VET 81 %				87 %	87 %		90 %	90 %
	Actual results							
	97 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %		

Comment: In order to compare data, ‘long-term’ mobility is considered here as from 2 months and over across all sectors. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Source: Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Specific Objective 6: to promote excellence in teaching and research activities in European integration through the Jean Monnet activities worldwide

Indicator 1: Number of students receiving training through Jean Monnet activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007	Milestones foreseen							2023
120 000	215 000	235 000	260 000	285 000	31 000	335 000	360 000	360 000
	Actual results							
	246 000	267 000	286 000	307 000	311 000	359 000		

⁽⁶⁾ Contribution to Erasmus+ coming from the external instruments under heading 4, budget lines 19 05 20; 21 02 20; 22 04 20; 22 02 04 02

⁽⁷⁾ Contribution to Erasmus+ coming from the external instruments under heading 4, budget lines 19 05 20; 21 02 20; 22 04 20

⁽⁸⁾ Contribution to Erasmus+ coming from the external instruments under heading 4, budget lines 19 05 20; 21 02 20; 22 04 20; 22 02 04 02

⁽⁹⁾ Number of mobilities based on call year

⁽¹⁰⁾ The original annual forecasts were low at around 16,000 individuals per year. The contracts signed in the second semester 2015 indicated a much higher number of individuals who would be supported with the funds available. Each of the contracts awarded are 26 months long, and the mobility activities are spread over 4 academic semesters, with the majority of the participants mobile in year n+1, and the first semester of year n+2. Hence, the produced numbers for 2016, relating to the signed 2015 contracts are still low (~16,000) but from 2017 onwards, participants from 2 overlapping call years (2015 and 2016 contracts, active in 2017) will undertake mobility. Consequently, 30 000 mobilities per year on average are expected.

Comment: A high number of applications have been received and selected compared to the previous years. The increasing trend of actual results mirrors the increasing trend of the annual budget available over the programme period.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Jean Monnet activities	15 02 02	360	47.1
Total			47.1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jean Monnet activities (in 1000)	F	215	235	260	285	310	335	360
	P	246	267	286	307	311	359	

Specific Objective 7: to improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity, in particular through increased learning mobility opportunities for young people, those active in youth work or youth organisations and youth leaders, and through strengthened links between the youth field and the labour market;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their key competences

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
75 %			77 %				80 %	80 %
	Actual results							
	94 %	94 %	94 %	94 %	95 %	95 %		

Comment: The actual results are based on EU28. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 final figures can only be provided when projects are finalised. Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Unit of measure: Youth percentage

Indicator 2: Percentage of participants in voluntary activities declaring that they have increased their language skills

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
87 %		90 %		92 %			95 %	95 %
	Actual results							
	97 %	97 %	96 %	96 %	95 %			

Comment: The actual results are based on EU28. Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results – EU28 final figures can only be provided when projects are finalised. Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Indicator 3: The number of young people engaged in mobility actions supported by the Programme, by country, action and gender

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
59	69	70	70	77	92	107	124	124
	Actual results							
	84	92	102	111	103	113		

Comment: The decrease in results observed in 2017 and 2018 is due to the transfer of funds for the volunteering activities to the new spending programme – European Solidarity Corps. The new regulation was adopted in October 2018.

Source: 2015 According to Erasmus+ annual report.

Unit of measure: Youth in thousand

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million

Participants in Youth Exchanges	15 02 01 02	109 600	72.4
Participants in European Voluntary Service projects*	15 02 01 02	0	0
Youth workers participating	15 02 01 02	26 300	19.4
Total			91.8

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Participants in Youth Exchanges	F	62 400	62 700	62 800	67 900	80 900	94 300	109 600
	P	77 058	78 217	86 500	92 354	96 556	105 576	
Participants in European Voluntary Service projects	F	7 100	7 200	7 200	12 000	4 500	0	0
	P	6 834	7 883	8 840	10 117	8 504	0	
Youth workers participating	F	21 000	21 300	21 600	22 700	23 800	25 000	26 300
	P	33 709	31 496	29 178	31 878	32 910	38 748	

Specific Objective 8: to foster quality improvements in youth work, in particular through enhanced cooperation between organisations in the youth field and/or other stakeholders;

Indicator 1: The number of users of the Eurodesk network

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000	140 000
	Actual results							
	258 500	266 000	338 381	338 116	339 000			

Comment: This figure has significantly increased because of the European Solidarity Corps kick off which generated a lot of interest and enquiries across the network. In 2018, the Eurodesk network answered over 339,000 enquiries, had over 430,000 social media followers and received 12.1 million website visits. Over 3,600 trainings were held by Eurodesk for around 36,000 participants to further enhance knowledge of youth workers from all over Europe.

Unit of measure: Information enquiries answered through Euro desk network

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Strategic partnerships	15 02 01 02	2 780	61.0
Web Platforms	15 02 01 02	1	0.7
Total			61.7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Strategic partnerships ⁽¹¹⁾	F	1 160	1 420	1 800	2 040	2 280	2 530	2 780
	P	1 677	2 016	2 027	2 568	2 019	3 857	
Web Platforms	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Specific Objective 9: to complement policy reforms at local, regional and national level and to support the development of knowledge and evidence-based youth policy as well as the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of Union transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants who have received a certificate ‘for example a Youthpass’, diploma or other kind of formal recognition of their participation in the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
26 %		35 %		45 %			65 %	65 %

⁽¹¹⁾ Including Trans-National Cooperation activities.

	Actual results						
	77 %	78 %	81 %	82 %	86 %	86 %	

Comment: Milestones foreseen – In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Source: Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Structured Dialogue projects	15 02 01 02	169	5.9
Operating grants to European Youth NGOs	15 02 01 02	75	3.2
Support to Euro desk	15 02 01 02	36	1.9
European Youth Forum	15 02 01 02	1	2.2
Others	15 02 01 02	20	6.8
Total			20.0

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Structured Dialogue projects	F	150	153	157	160	163	166	169
	P	166	220	234	282	300	272 ⁽¹²⁾	
Operating grants to European Youth NGOs	F	66	68	69	71	72	73	75
	P	60	70	77	88	90	85	
Support to Euro desk	F	35	35	35	35	35	35	36
	P	35	35	35	35	35	35	
European Youth Forum	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Others	F	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	P	20	20	20	20	20	20	

Specific Objective 10: to enhance the international dimension of youth activities and the role of youth workers and organisations as support structures for young people in complementarity with the Union’s external action, in particular through the promotion of mobility and cooperation between the Union and partner-country stakeholders and international organisations and through targeted capacity-building in partner countries.

Indicator 1: The number of youth organisations from both Programme countries and partner countries involved in international mobility and cooperation actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
5 300	5 500		5 600		5 800		6 000	6 000
	Actual results							
	9 179	6 179	7 371	8 198	5 648	5 936		

Source: 2015 According to Erasmus+ annual report.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Capacity building projects	15 02 01 02	83	13.7
Total			13.7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capacity building projects	F	82	95	103	65	70	79	83

⁽¹²⁾ Temporary figure – Selection process not finalised yet.

	P	60	61	56	82	93	121	
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Specific Objective 11: to tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match-fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants who have used the results of cross-border projects to combat threats to sport

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %	7 %			50 %			75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	55 %	60 %	65 %	70 %	70 %	75 %		

Narrative: New EU action, no baseline available.

Comment: In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Sport activities – cross-border projects to combat threats to sport	15 02 03	46	9.8
Total			9.8

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sport activities – cross-border projects to combat threats to sport	F	8	8	12	40	42	42	46
	P	6	6	13	27	12 ⁽¹³⁾	26 ⁽¹⁴⁾	

Specific Objective 12: to promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants who have used the results of cross-border projects to improve good governance and dual careers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %	9 %			50 %			75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	40 %	35 %	45 %	55 %	65 %	70 %		

Narrative: New EU action, no baseline available.

Comment: In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Sport activities – cross-border projects to improve good governance and dual careers	15 02 03	82	16.3
Total			16.3

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sport activities – cross-border projects to improve good governance and dual careers	F	14	16	23	39	40	70	82
	P	4	12	5	46	65	72	

Specific Objective 13: to promote voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity through increased participation in, and equal access to, sport for all.

⁽¹³⁾ Priority given to projects promoting health enhancing physical activity in line with commitment No1 of the [Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle](#).

⁽¹⁴⁾ **Due to low number of applications received. The topics are specific and of scientific/research nature.**

Indicator 1: Percentage of participants who have used the results of cross-border projects to enhance social inclusion, equal opportunities and participation rates

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				50 %			75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	35 %	45 %	55 %	65 %	70 %	75 %		

Narrative: New EU action, no baseline available.

Comment: In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Availability of Data: Result indicator: the final results can only be provided when all the projects will be finalised.

Indicator 2: Size of membership of sport organisations applying for, and taking part in, the Programme, by country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				30 %			50 %	50 %
	Actual results							
	25 %	25 %	27 %	30 %	35 %	40 %		

Narrative: New EU action, no baseline available.

Availability of Data: Result indicator: the final results can only be provided when all the projects will be finalised.

Unit of measure: Size of membership of sport organisations (Percentage of small grassroots less than 1 000 members in the projects)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Sport activities – cross-border projects to enhance social inclusion	15 02 03	200	39.0
Total			39.0

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sport activities – cross-border projects to enhance social inclusion	F	21	24	35	168	175	168	200
	P	26	30	117	120	177	162	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
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Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Justification

Europe’s future will be built by young people. This is why they need to be empowered to develop the capacities and skills to help tackle climate change. Erasmus+ is offering young people the chance to join training and field projects on **environment, energy and climate change** as to respond to the important focus on getting the right skills and competences for the labour market of the future, especially in the growing sector of green jobs. This support can cover a wide range of activities, from training youth workers and young people, to connecting citizens to discuss topics such as economic developments and climate change; to Erasmus+ capacity building projects; and Sector Skills Alliances for implementing new strategic approaches with regard to i.e. agricultural sustainability, management of natural resources and climate action. The Commission is proposing, with a double of funding for the Erasmus programme 2021-2027, a focus on promoting forward-looking study fields, giving more attention to study fields such as **renewable energy, climate change, environmental engineering, artificial intelligence or design**.

Erasmus+ has funded over 4 000 projects addressing environment and climate change in the period 2014-2018.

Gender mainstreaming

Equality between men and women is a broad EU objective, and is explicitly stated in the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers whenever disadvantage limits or prevents participation in transnational activities for reasons such as dissocial obstacles caused by discrimination on basis of gender. The participation to date shows excellent gender balance for the participants.

In addition, Erasmus+ supports projects dealing with the issue of gender equality; e.g. focusing on changing mentalities through reflection and the exchange of best practices, sensitising children to gender and diversity, developing new and innovative methods to break down barriers for young girls in science and technology education, etc.

Erasmus+ has funded over 2,300 projects addressing gender equality in the period 2014-2018.

In the field of **Sport**, in addition to the regular activities, the programme contributed to cooperation with the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organisation and the National Football Information Points (NFIP) network, with dedicated projects to tackle key issues such as gender equality, match-fixing and violence in sport.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals***SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere***

Through its activities to achieve social inclusion through education, Erasmus+ contributes to achieving Goal 1 of the SDGs, in particular its target of reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Through its education and training and sport activities, Erasmus+ promotes healthy habits and well-being, particularly among the youth, hence contributing to SDG 3, notably to its target on reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promotes mental health and well-being. The **Tartu Call for a healthy life style** sets out a roadmap for promoting healthy lifestyles in Europe, particular among children.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Much like the Sustainable Development Goal 4, the EU Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020) is designed to support Member States in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and in promoting life-long learning opportunities for all, from early childhood education and schools through to higher education, vocational education and training and adult learning. The ET 2020 priorities, adopted by Council and Commission in November 2015, have a direct influence on the Erasmus+ Work Programmes, as Erasmus + provides funding to support initiatives such as social inclusion through education and training, addressing early school-leaving and underachievement in reading, mathematics and science; fostering employability of graduates and adult participation in learning, and enhancing democratic citizenship, social, civic and intercultural competences and the common EU values.

On the international scene, the EU has an active policy for cooperation in education and training with third countries by promoting peer-to-peer learning and comparison with education systems worldwide. In particular, the EU's Erasmus+ mobility and inter-university cooperation programme is an invaluable instrument for establishing lasting academic and cultural ties, also promoting the EU in partner countries. Overall Erasmus+ funding for third countries will support around 200,000 mobility exchanges of university students and staff, 1,000 capacity building in higher education projects and around 27,000 scholarships and teaching staff within Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, primarily for partner countries across the world. Support is also provided to higher education in Africa through the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Erasmus+ Programme aims at removing social obstacles for participation in it for people facing discrimination because of gender, among other reasons. Strategic partnerships in the field of Youth give priority to projects that promote the empowerment of all young people, with a special focus on access to rights, autonomy and participation. The promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities is a specific objective in the field of sport.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

All the actions of the Erasmus+ Programme contribute to increase the employability of the young people that participate in it, as shown by several studies. This is achieved through a combination of several outcomes, e.g. the acquisition of new skills, increased autonomy, increased knowledge of foreign languages, etc. The emphasis on inclusion aims to ensure that all can reap these benefits irrespective of disadvantage.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

In general, the Erasmus+ Programme aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating access to it to participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers. More specifically in the field of Youth, an Inclusion

and Diversity Strategy has been designed as a common framework to support the participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

One of the aims as regards students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers participating in any of the mobility activities supported under Erasmus+ is a more active participation in society.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Launched in 2015, the Erasmus+ Master Loan Scheme is a guarantee facility established under the Erasmus+ programme. Its objective is to incentivise commercial and retail banks, promotional banks, student loan bodies and other financial intermediaries, such as higher education institutions, to extend loans on favourable terms to mobile students pursuing a full higher education degree (Masters' programme) in a country which is neither their country of residence nor the country in which they obtained their qualification granting access to the Master's programme. The incentive is provided through effective portfolio credit risk transfer (via a guarantee or a counter-guarantee) by the **European Investment Fund** on behalf of the Commission, through a delegation agreement.

The scheme is designed to support postgraduate students and protect them from student hardship with social safeguards including:

- No need for collateral from students or parents, ensuring equality of access;
- Favourable, better than market interest rates;
- Pay-back terms that allow graduates up to two years to find work before beginning repayment.

Building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Master Loan Scheme, it is intended for the future InvestEU investment programme to support (under its window on 'Social Investment and Skills') a broad range of individual and institutional loan schemes targeting skills development including but going beyond the field of tertiary education.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)****Lead DG: EMPL****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is one of four EU financing instruments in the area of employment and social affairs for the period 2014-2020, together with the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid for the most Deprived (FEAD) and the European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF).

Since its launch in 2014, EaSI has provided financial support to promote high-quality and sustainable employment, adequate and decent social protection, social inclusion, poverty reduction and prevention and fair working conditions. The three axes of EaSI support the modernisation of employment and social policies (PROGRESS), job mobility (EURES), and access to micro-finance and social entrepreneurship (Microfinance/Social Entrepreneurship or MF/SE).

In the management of the EaSI programme, the Commission is assisted by the Committee for the Implementation of the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). This Committee is composed of representatives from the Member States. Representatives from other countries who participate in and contribute to the programme (i.e. EFTA/EEA countries and those candidate and potential candidate countries following conclusion of specific agreements) are also invited, but without voting rights. The Committee members deliver an opinion on the draft implementing acts before the Commission adopts the aforementioned work programme.

EU added value of the programme

EaSI provides EU funding to coordinate the implementation of the employment and social objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. EaSI creates added value to national policies, for instance with regards to the exchange of good practices, the social policy innovations, the cross-border partnerships, the support provided to social enterprises as well as regarding the provision of loans to vulnerable people.

The Programme focuses on key actions with high European added value such as:

- supporting the EU policy-making process and stronger EU policy-coordination/economic governance such as in the context of the European Semester;
- focusing on the transnational dimension of employment and social situation, working conditions, health and safety at work issues;
- ensuring development and proper application of EU laws in the field of employment, working conditions, health and safety at work, and social protection;
- promoting EU governance, mutual learning, inclusive information sharing and dialogue to consolidate cooperation between Member States and achieve EU goals;
- making knowledge and expertise accessible at EU level through policy experimentation and transferring/up-scaling best practices;
- promoting workers' EU geographical mobility by developing services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment (in particular young people and professionals) through the clearance at European level of vacancies and job applications;
- increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance, and the support to social entrepreneurship.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (DG EMPL) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is mostly implemented through direct management:

- Calls for Proposals in EMPL's field of employment, social Affairs and inclusion;
- Awarding direct grants within the limits of the Financial Regulation (e.g. International Organisations, on account of their technical competence and high degree of specialisation);
- Public procurement;

It is also implemented through indirect management for the financial instruments part of the microfinance and social entrepreneurship axis.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation status (2017-2019)***

From 2017 to 2019, the Commission has committed more than EUR 412 million for the implementation of all the programme's activities.

Comparing 2019 to the earlier years, it is encouraging to note that in the calls for proposals Austria tripled its participation as beneficiary with two new grants, while Croatia doubled it with two new projects. Following three previous unsuccessful applications, Albania was successful in 2019 in winning one project. In addition, Greece, Iceland, Portugal and Slovakia scored better in 2019 compared to the previous period. It is believed that the additional efforts in promoting the programme and in the case of Albania the Technical Assistance project to enhance its participation in Union Programmes, have contributed to this success. The other countries' participation as beneficiaries of grants remained more or less stable. Estonia, Malta, Montenegro and Romania still only participate as co-beneficiaries in the programme. The Commission proposed to create National Contact Points in interested EU Member States to further enhance the participation in the programme, and to assist the projects in upscaling and mainstreaming their activities and results.

During 2017-2019, as in previous years, PROGRESS concentrated on gathering evidence through studies, analysis and EU statistics to shape policy developments. In connection to this, the axis fostered shared understanding of policy options and solutions by providing for high quality, inclusive, and participatory policy debates. It also promoted the involvement of civil society through financial support for key Union level NGOs. In the period 2017-2019, 17 calls for proposals were launched leading to 83 agreements for action grants. In addition, 2 calls for proposals for operating grants to 24 organisations benefitting from a Framework Partnership Agreement led to 2 yearly contracts for each of them (48 in total). These calls addressed matters like development of tailored learning provision in the implementation of 'Upskilling Pathways'; enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information concerning posting of workers; social protection reforms; undeclared work; work-life balance; reforms in social services; Youth Guarantee offers; European Solidarity Corps pilot and integration into the labour market of third country nationals.

The EURES axis supported the European job mobility portal, training courses on EURES services, as well as horizontal support to the member organisations of the EURES network. Within this context, it continued financing cross-border partnerships supporting mobility for frontier workers in the cross-border regions along with targeted mobility schemes, following the preparatory action 'Your First EURES job' (YfEj). The five EURES calls for proposals dealing with matters such as intra-EU mobility in general and targeted mobility schemes for youngsters and person re-entering the labour market launched between 2017-2019 resulted in 48 contracts.

Contracts worth of EUR 46.2 million were signed with microfinance intermediaries under the EaSI microfinance guarantee financial instrument in the period 2018-2019, which resulted in a total of 74 936 microloans worth of EUR 1.2 billion as at 30 September 2019.

Regarding the social entrepreneurship strand of the EaSI guarantee financial instrument, in 2019 the Social Entrepreneurship Window welcomed new financial intermediaries from Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands, next to the already operational ones from, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom. As a result, the number of final recipient countries has increased further.

A framework contract for the provision of technical assistance (TA) to social enterprises finance providers was also launched. In the same year, financial intermediaries from Albania, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and United Kingdom participated in the Microfinance Window.

Still in the Microfinance/Social Entrepreneurship axis, the EaSI Capacity Building Investments gained traction in 2019. According to data up to December 2019, 10 transactions for an amount of EUR 18.2 million (representing 78 % of the available envelop) were signed in 2019 alone. As a whole, 11 transactions for an aggregated amount of EUR 23.2 million have been signed in 8 countries. As a result, the financial envelop available for this instrument increased in 2019 to EUR 26 million.

The EaSI funded instrument was launched in 2019. Stakeholders, in particular in the area of Microfinance, had been eagerly awaiting this debt instrument since the previous one ended in 2016. The European Commission signed a first commitment to the fund of EUR 48 million as equity investor.

Key achievements

Overall, up to 2019, EaSI projects reached over 1 000 beneficiaries coming from all participating countries. Since a number of projects are follow-up projects involving the same beneficiaries and co-beneficiaries, the programme supported some 540 different organisations. In addition, the programme assisted 38 EU sector organisations in 19 occasions via operating grants. Almost 33 % of the grants awarded following calls for proposals targeted public authorities and their agencies, some 25 % of the funds supported the Social Partners (trade union organisations and employers' organisations), and 24 % went to Foundations/NGOs. The rest was for enterprises (10 %) and higher education and research institutes (8 %).

According to the survey of EaSI stakeholders for the 2017-2018 monitoring exercise, the most useful outputs were the following:

- EURES Job Mobility Portal ⁽¹⁾;
- Eurostat Health and Safety at Work statistics ⁽²⁾;

⁽¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/homepage>

- Labour Force Survey ⁽³⁾;
- Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2017 and 2018 ⁽⁴⁾;
- European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision ⁽⁵⁾.

Success stories

The programme also supported some interesting projects enhancing the effectiveness or efficiency of social and employment policies in the participating countries.

Since EaSI provides financial support to promote high-quality and sustainable employment, adequate and decent social protection, social inclusion, poverty reduction and prevention and fair working conditions, it is thus by design contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Some of the key achievements presented below illustrate how EaSI contributed in particular to the Sustainable Development Goals: (5) *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* and (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

PROGRESS axis

With the *FIER – Fast track integration in European Regions* project that ended in 2019 regional authorities and partners from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Turkey supported integration with dedicated instruments for a fast labour market access and instruments addressing social and economic cohesion. The partners piloted initiatives like enhancing the visibility of skills of immigrants by introducing validation and competence assessment procedures, especially procedures focusing on generic and soft skills, specific talents, interests and motivation, as well as support the use of individual skills of refugees with guidance on individual labour market access options and information on the labour market. They tested new formats of language courses combined with work experience (internships, part time jobs, mini jobs), and delivered courses on basics skills, intercultural elements, self-empowerment modules etc. For businesses, they created guidelines to support inclusion through apprenticeships, work-based learning and job offers and developed training for trainers and mentors in companies with mentoring programmes. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

The project *E.Q.U.A.L. (Enhancing Qualification of Adult Learners through the implementation of Upskilling pathways)*, completed in 2019, prepared the ground for the effective implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation in Italy. To this end a multi-level and transnational partnership has been developed, involving public and private bodies covering different geographical levels. Outputs and deliverables were assessed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders as well as to the general public thanks to a multi-channel communication strategy. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

The number of posting of workers has increased, in particular in construction sector, transport and social services (education, health and social care) and business services (administrative, professional and financial). Problems mostly belong to violations of posted workers' rights (social security, conditions of employment) while access to information at local and transnational level is often weak. The *TIDE-POWER* project completed in 2019 improved the protection of workers' rights and the implementation of relevant Directives (96/71/EC and 2014/67/EU) by giving the trade unions a role of legality defender through tasks such as providing correct information of workers, the monitoring of employment conditions and the engagement of proceedings aiming at enforcing the obligations. Eight counters for posted workers were created providing information and assistance. In addition, a transnational network for accessing institutional information was set up next to a web platform informing and receiving reports on violations. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

The *PaaM – Parenting as a Master in a new 'work-life synergy' perspective* – is a project launched in 2019 aimed to reconcile work and private life by supporting a more equal share of care responsibilities between women and men and encouraging a higher participation of women in the labour market. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (5) *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*.

To support the European Pillar of Social Rights, five new projects on fair working conditions for posted workers were awarded. One of these, the project *FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS – Access to Fair Working Conditions for Posted Workers through Sector-Specific Information and Cooperation* aims to improve the access to information for posted workers within the EU and to strengthen transnational cooperation between European trade unions and other relevant stakeholders. The project will establish five sector-specific information centres in sending countries (Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia) and establish a transnational cooperation with already existing counselling centres in Germany (Fair Mobility/DGB and other). This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/health/overview>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/employment-and-social-developments-europe-2018-jul-13_en

⁽⁶⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/easi-micpro/application#!/cogcPublicPage>

EURES axis

In 2019, four ‘*Your first EURES job*’ (YfEj) projects led by France, Italy, Germany and Sweden, dedicated to young jobseekers under 35, have filled 1 724 job vacancies, providing financial support to 1 923 jobseekers. This included offering contribution to the costs incurred with language courses, recognition of diplomas and qualifications, travel and subsistence costs related to job interview, country and family relocation, and also assisting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to provide integration training for YfEj job finders. Aside from YfEj projects targeting young jobseekers, there is also the REACTIVATE scheme (Sustainable Development Goal 8) focusing on jobseekers aged 35+. In 2019, the projects led by Germany, Italy, Poland and Sweden have filled a total of 483 vacancies, providing financial support to 738 jobseekers by offering contribution to the costs incurred with language courses, recognition of diplomas and qualifications, travel and subsistence costs related to job interviews, country and family relocation, and also assisting SMEs to provide integration training to the new recruited. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.

In 2019, 11 EURES cross-border partnerships were supported by EaSI. The goal of the EURES cross-border partnerships is to share information and advice with jobseekers and employers on cross-border job mobility, to offer concrete placement opportunities and to provide pre- and post-recruitment services. Pools of experts are available to support workers at each stage of their career and to answer any questions about the practicalities of working across the border. The partnerships also monitor the mobility flows across their respective borders, the development of the job market, and identify and address obstacles that hamper the free movement of workers within the regional cross-border job market.

The partnerships usually involve EURES members and partners but also regional organisations not part of the EURES network. The latter can participate if they are organisations relevant within the regional job market, e.g. regional development organisations, universities, business associations, trade unions, chambers of commerce or social partners.

In the first half of 2019, the EURES cross-border partnerships had 60 000 contacts with workers and more than 10 000 contacts with employers. About 23 000 job vacancies were handled and at least 2 800 job seekers were successfully matched with jobs ⁽⁶⁾. Further services included the organisation of employers’ breakfasts and cross-border job fairs, tax and social security advice on cross-border labour mobility, the development of a cross-border job app and the promotion of cross-border job services on social media.

Microfinance/Social Entrepreneurship axis

In October 2018, during the 4th European Microfinance Day, the first capacity building agreement in Europe was signed with the Helenos Fund under the EaSI programme to support microfinance providers across Europe. The agreement allows launching Helenos with a targeted investment capacity of EUR 25 million for equity and quasi-equity investments to around 25 microfinance institutions and social finance providers across the EU over the next 5 years. The initiative relies on the evidence that inclusive finance does, in fact, provide people excluded from financial services with an opportunity to launch and develop micro- and social enterprises, thereby creating opportunities for them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Another tool is the EaSI Technical Assistance aimed at building the European microfinance market and facilitating access to EaSI financial instruments. Building on the experience of the fi-compass platform ⁽⁷⁾, the EaSI Technical Assistance was launched in 2018 and includes targeted capacity building services to microfinance institutions through training; rating, institutional assessment and evaluation services to microfinance institutions; exchange and dissemination of good practices in the European microfinance sector and the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision. This Code is a self-regulation tool promoted by the microfinance sector in order to uphold high ethical lending standards of microfinance institutions in the EU. The Code was first introduced as a pilot project in mid-2015. In February 2017, the Dutch firm Qredits received the first award certifying compliance with the provisions of the Code.

In October 2019, the EU, the European Investment Fund (EIF), and the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched a EUR 200 million loan fund to support lending to micro-enterprises and social enterprises under EaSI. This new fund is another addition to the toolbox of EU level instruments dedicated to microfinance and social finance and is expected to give a sizeable boost to microfinance institutions and social enterprise lenders in Europe. The EU has selected the EIF to implement the EaSI Funded Instrument.

In general one can conclude that this axis contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 8. As concerns, the climate dimension, two projects out of which one operating grant have a specific ‘green’ component by developing the role of social enterprises in the circular economy.

Evaluations/studies conducted

⁽⁶⁾ Figures cover the timeframe from January – June 2019, collected under the EURES performance measurement system for EURES cross-border partnerships. The figures for the second half of 2019 are currently under analysis.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.fi-compass.eu/>

The key findings of the latest Mid-term evaluation of the EaSI programme ⁽⁸⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statements for Draft Budget 2020. Preparations are ongoing to launch the final evaluation by the end of 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

EaSI will continue to support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar was proclaimed jointly by the EU institutions at the Social Summit in Gothenburg in November 2017 and addresses the key social challenges that the Union faces. Even though the implementation of the Pillar falls largely in the remit of Member States, the EU and notably the EaSI programme can play an important supporting role. The Pillar illustrates a shared commitment to foster equal opportunities, to improve access to the labour market, to fair working conditions and social inclusion, to supporting people in the face of changing realities of work and to achieving new and more effective rights for Europeans, priorities to be addressed by EaSI in the future.

In the final year of EaSI, additional forward-looking actions will be pursued to facilitate the transfer of the financial instruments to InvestEU and some of EURES activities to the European Labour Authority. In addition, 2020 will be a year of reflecting on how participation of all countries and type of organisations in the EaSI strand can be improved and how project results can be upscaled and mainstreamed using other funds (in particular ESF+).

Between 2020-2021, EaSI calls for proposals on social innovation and national reforms will target social exclusion and upskilling pathways. These calls aim at funding projects to test and implement innovative strategies encompassing, among others integrated approaches covering active labour market reforms, social services and cash benefits on the one hand and on the other hand, putting in place enabling factors to manage the successful transition into the labour market of the lower skilled persons.

In the struggle against abuse and for a better enforcement, the PROGRESS axis will continue to support the ongoing activities of the European Platform to enhance cooperation in tackling undeclared work under Decision (EU) 2016/344, and the organisation of trainings and meetings accompanying enforcement activities by Member States of Union rules in the area of workers and free movement of workers and posting.

The EaSI EURES axis will continue to support the implementation of EURES Regulation 2016/589. Actions to support targeted mobility schemes will be stepped up, building on the experiences gained in the previous years.

Concerning the MF/SE axis, the EaSI financial instruments (EaSI guarantee, Capacity-Building Investments Window and Funded Instrument) will continue to be implemented. As for EaSI TA, framework contracts will continue to be used in the coming period, including the TA for social enterprise finance providers. Following the first operations signed in 2018, new operations will be supported during 2020.

EaSI will also support measures countering the impact of COVID-19 outbreak.

Outlook for the period 2021-2027

In the Commission’s proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the current EaSI will be integrated into the ESF+, together with the current ESF, YEI and FEAD. The aim is to enhance synergy of actions, streamline management of priorities and reduce administrative burden. By building on the strengths of its components, the ESF+ will be the key funding arm for the European Pillar of Social Rights. It will also be key to align policy and investment priorities in the EU.

The new proposal has a linear structure with a single set of operational objectives with no divisions based on axis. The financial instruments of the current third axis of the programme will continue under the InvestEU programme.

Trilogues are currently on-going on the ESF+ basic act. Once a political agreement is reached, the work programme for 2021 will be prepared, setting out the priorities for that year.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application		Reference Amount (EUR million)	
Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ('EaSI') and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion	2014 – 2020		919,5	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	3,8	4,3	4,7	4,0	3,4	3,4	2,5	26,1
Operational appropriations	119,2	124,3	122,4	132,0	128,3	132,7	114,6	873,5
Total	123,0	128,6	127,1	136,0	131,7	136,1	117,1	899,6

⁽⁸⁾ <https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/publications/studiesdb/Consultation.xhtml?studyProjectId=8427>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	136,061	98,88 %	128,708	97,70 %	117,111	4,77 %	104,900	27,44 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	185,302	72,60 %	177,659	70,78 %	171,452	3,26 %	180,178	15,97 %

(*) 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 programme is well on track to achieve the distribution of the EaSI funds over the whole period between its axes, which is set as:

- at least 55 % to the Progress axis;
- at least 18 % to the EURES axis;
- at least 18 % to the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis.

This section of the report reviews the extent to which EaSI has contributed to the achievement of its 5 general objectives:

1. Stronger ownership of EU objectives;
2. Facilitation of policy reforms;
3. Modernisation and effective application of EU law;
4. Improved conditions for voluntary geographic mobility whilst enforcing workers' rights;
5. Increased access to finance for vulnerable persons, micro- and social enterprises.

The 3rd EaSI performance monitoring report covering the activities 2017 and 2018 has been completed and was published in March 2020 ⁽⁹⁾. The main conclusion from the EaSI performance monitoring for 2017-2018 and for 2015-2016 is that evidence generated by EaSI contributed to the key EU policy objectives and initiatives.

The integration of all EaSI horizontal issues has slightly increased since 2015. EaSI stakeholders paid particular attention to vulnerable groups such as young people as the most mainstreamed objective (78 % said that it is taken into account). Equality between women and men and non-discrimination also remained well-integrated (76 % agreed with this opinion). The data also indicated a strong increase in mainstreaming disability and accessibility matters. The share of stakeholders considering that the latter issue was taken into account increased from 46 % in 2015 to 71 % at the beginning of 2019.

PROGRESS axis

Much of EaSI-funded evidence fed directly into the key EU policy processes such as the European Semester, including its Annual Growth Survey, country-specific recommendations, employment guidelines and joint employment reports. The evidence generated by the programme also contributed to many other policy initiatives in employment and social affairs, for instance: 'New Skills Agenda for Europe', 'Youth Guarantee', the establishment of the European Labour Authority, 'Work-life balance initiative', 'Recommendation on Investing in children', 'Integration of long-term unemployed into the labour market', 'Social and labour market integration of migrants and refugees', and 'Active inclusion of people with disabilities', etc.

National, regional and local policymakers as well as other stakeholders considered EaSI-supported evidence as sound and highly useful for policymaking and advocacy purposes ⁽¹⁰⁾. More stakeholders than previously (73 % in 2019 compared to 70 % in 2017) declared that they have personally used or intend to use EaSI outputs. The EaSI Programme is considered strong in facilitating effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning and dialogue on the EU policies in the target fields. The opinion on the involvement of relevant policy- and decision-makers in the debate on EU employment and social policy and legislation remained positive among stakeholders. As many as 89 % of EaSI stakeholders working at national, regional or local level of government institutions said that they feel a sense of collaboration between their organisation and the EU institutions (88 % in 2017, 86 % in 2015). The percentage is high for all groups of stakeholders, including key EU-level NGOs. In further support to this objective EaSI also continued to provide EU and national organisations with financial support to increase their capacity. With a view to contributing to stronger ownership of EU objectives, the EaSI-funded events continued to provide a better understanding of EU

⁽⁹⁾ Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=22431&langId=en>

⁽¹⁰⁾ Overall, 86 % of stakeholders declared that they have already used or intend to use information acquired during the events for policymaking or advocacy purposes. A high share of stakeholders (73 %) agree that the Commission is an effective source of guidance and support for social and labour innovation. Furthermore, overall, 64 % of stakeholders said that they have personally used or intend to use EU-funded social policy innovation for policymaking or implementation (49 % in 2017; 62 % in 2014). More than 91 % of participants in EaSI-funded events declared that they gained a better understanding of EU policies and objectives as a result of participating in an EaSI-funded event (87 % in 2015-2016). As many as 89 % of EaSI stakeholders working at national, regional or local government institutions said that they feel a sense of collaboration between their organisation and the EU institutions (88 % in 2017; 86 % in 2015).

policies to their participants. More than 91 % of participants of the EaSI funded events declared that they gained a better understanding of EU policies and objectives as a result of participating in the event (87 % in 2015-2016).

Moreover, the Commission’s goal to support social policy innovations gained more visibility. A high share of stakeholders (73 %) agree that the Commission is an effective source of guidance and support for social and labour innovation. Overall, 64 % of stakeholders said that they have personally used or intend to use EU funded social policy innovation for policy-making or implementation (49 % in 2017, 62 % in 2014).

EURES axis

EaSI improved transparency of labour market information. Even though the use of the EURES Job Mobility Portal was slightly uneven from one year to another, the number of registered users increased and the overall number of visitors remains very high (see also section on ‘Indicator 1: Number of visits of the EURES platform (monthly average in million’ below). EURES acted not only as a catalyst for providing transparent labour market information, but also for effective recruitment and placing of workers through all its tools (i.e. the European Job Mobility Portal, the targeted mobility schemes and the EURES cross-border partnerships) as evidenced by the different performance monitoring reports covering respectively the period 2015-2016 and the period 2017-2018.

Microfinance/Social Entrepreneurship axis

EaSI continued to provide real added value to better access and the availability of microfinance, while the support for increasing the overall availability and access to finance for social enterprises has gained momentum. As at the end of September 2019, financial intermediaries from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom participated in the Microfinance Window. As a result, under the EaSI guarantee, up to 85 (84 currently active) contracts worth EUR 168.4 million were signed with microfinance intermediaries; this allowed them to support 69 770 microenterprises receiving 74 936 microloans worth EUR 870 million, meaning that the average microloan amounted to around EUR 11 610.

As at the end of September 2019, 2 020 social enterprises had received 2 368 loans from financial intermediaries established in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom. Approximately EUR 68 million of EU support leading to 30 signed contracts were used to provide EUR 292.6 million of funding for social enterprises, meaning that the average social enterprise loan amounted to EUR 123 564.

As a whole, the 115 already signed contracts under the microfinance and social entrepreneurship strands are expected to unlock more than EUR 2.7 billion of financing for micro- and social enterprises.

Under the Technical Assistance (TA), which offers a range of support activities to European Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), 277 MFIs have benefited from capacity-building tailored trainings and 25 MFIs from training courses on the implementation of the European Code of Good Conduct for microcredit provision. EaSI support for social enterprises has taken momentum. In total, 949 social enterprises had received funding through the EaSI Social Entrepreneurship Window by the end of 2018.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Union’s instruments, policies (promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions) and relevant law and promote evidence-based policy-making, social innovation and social progress, in partnership with the social partners, civil society organisations and public and private bodies (PROGRESS Axis)

Performance

The Progress axis accounts for approximately 55 % of the overall EaSI budget of EUR 919 million. According to the latest monitoring report, analytical activities represented around 23 % of the total, information sharing around 25 %, the rest being split between capacity building and social innovation, with significant variations over time.

Overall all indicators have improved between the 2015-2016 and the 2017-2018 monitoring reports.

Indicator 1: Declared gain of better understanding of EU policies and legislation								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
92 %	> 85 %							Maintain results over 85 %
	Actual results							
	91 %		87 %		91 %			

Narrative: The Commission aims to maintain the results over 85 %. As demonstrated, the performance of the programme per this indicator is in

line with the target.

Source: Annual survey on PROGRESS

Unit of measure: Percentage of respondents

Indicator 2: Active collaboration and partnership between government institutions of the EU and Member States								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
91.0 %				> 85.0 %			> 85.0 %	Maintain results over 85.0 %
	Actual results							
	86.0 %		88.2 %		89.0 %			

Narrative: A large share of officials of national, regional and local institutions (89 %) have indicated that they collaborate actively with the EU institutions. Another positive aspect is a stable increasing trend for this indicator over the past years. The Commission aims to maintain the results over 85 %. The performance of the programme per this indicator is in line with the target. The percentage is high for all groups of stakeholders. In total, 89 % feel a sense of collaboration between their organisation and the EU institutions. It is noteworthy that officials of EU institutions (91 %) whose opinion of the state of collaboration within the EU institutional is indicative showed a positive opinion. A large share of employees/volunteers in European-level NGO networks also feel a sense of collaboration (88 %) with EU institutions. As in 2014 and 2017, employees/volunteers in national NGOs feel a somewhat less sense of collaboration with EU institutions, in comparison with other stakeholder groups. However, the percentage is still high (71 %) and, thanks to the actions of the programme, the trend has been increasing over the past few years (compared to 57 % in 2017).

Source: Annual survey on PROGRESS

Unit of measure: Percentage of respondents

Indicator 3: Declared use of social policy innovation in the implementation of social CSRs and the results of social policy experimentation for policy-making

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
62.0 %				64.0 %			> 66.0 %	> 66.0 %
	Actual results							
	62.0 %		49.2 %		64.0 %			

Narrative: In total, 64 % of stakeholders declare that they have used or intend to use social policy innovations developed at the EU level for policymaking. The result is slightly higher than the baseline set in 2014 at 62 %. Around 66 % of stakeholders within the policy area of employment and also within the area of Social Protection and Social Inclusion (SPSI) have used or intend to use social and labour market policy innovation. In the area of working conditions, around 55 % of stakeholders chose this answer. The latest total figure is in line with the target, and the results in the policy areas of employment and SPSI have already reached the target. Nevertheless, over the past few years, the figures have fluctuated significantly, with the exception of those related to stakeholders in the SPSI policy area where the trend is incremental.

Source: Annual survey on PROGRESS

Unit of measure: Percentage of respondents

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs *NB: output numbers for the DB year and beyond reflect the legal basis programmed over 7 years. Output numbers for 2014-2017 were adjusted on the basis of annual programmes.	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P) ⁽¹¹⁾							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
PROGRESS Sub-objective no 1: Develop and disseminate high-quality comparative analytical knowledge in order to ensure that Union employment and social policy and working conditions ⁽¹²⁾ legislation are based on sound evidence and are relevant to needs, challenges and conditions in the individual Member States and other participating countries								
Analytical activities	F	29	30	22	25	30	29	30
	P	26	30	17 ⁽¹³⁾	11	11		
Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination activities	F		3	2				
	P		3	2	2			
Support for main actors	F		6	2	3			
	P		3	1	1	1		
PROGRESS Sub-objective no 2: Facilitate effective and inclusive information-sharing, mutual learning and dialogue on Union employment and social policy and working conditions ⁽¹⁴⁾ legislation at Union, national and international level in order to assist the Member States and the other participating countries in developing their policies and in implementing Union law								

⁽¹¹⁾ Unless stated otherwise, differences between planned and produced outputs result from shifts in priorities or other informed decisions (e.g. integration of several actions) and present no impact for the overall achievement of the supported specific objectives.

⁽¹²⁾ The policy field ‘Working conditions’ does cover both areas of ‘labour law’ and ‘safety and health at work’.

⁽¹³⁾ The difference between the foreseen and produced outputs is due to redeployments within the programme to increase the budget of the call for proposals on social innovation ‘integration of refugees in the labour market’.

Analytical activities	F		3	7	3			
	P		3	5	1	1		
Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination activities	F	31	19	22	15	35	35	36
	P	26	11	15 ⁽¹⁵⁾	8	8		
Support for main actors	F	5	9	9	5	5	5	5
	P	4	8	7 ⁽¹⁶⁾	1	1		
PROGRESS Sub-objective no 3: Provide policy-makers with financial support to test social and labour market policy reforms, build up the main actors' capacity to design and implement social experimentation, and make the relevant knowledge and expertise accessible								
Analytical activities	F	4	1		3	4	4	4
	P	4	1		1	1		
Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination activities	F	2			1			
	P	2			1	1		
Support for main actors	F	3	1	1	2	5	4	4
	P	3	1	1	1	1		
PROGRESS Sub-objective no 4: Provide Union and national organisations with financial support to step up their capacity to develop, promote and support the implementation of Union employment and social policy and working conditions ⁽¹⁷⁾ legislation								
Analytical activities	F		1	1	1			
	P		1	3	1	1		
Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination activities	F			3	2			
	P			3	2	2		
Support for main actors	F	10	8	7	3	10	10	10
	P	10	6	5	2	2		

Specific Objective 2: Promote workers' voluntary geographical mobility on a fair basis and boost employment opportunities by developing high-quality and inclusive Union labour markets that are open and accessible to all, while respecting workers' rights throughout the Union, including freedom of movement (EURES Axis)

Performance

The EURES axis of the programme supports actions in the following *thematic sections*:

- transparency of job vacancies, applications and any related information for applicants and employers (minimum 32 % of funding);
- development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment through the clearance of job vacancies and applications at Union level, in particular, targeted mobility schemes (minimum 30 % of funding);
- cross-border partnerships (minimum 18 % of funding)⁽¹⁸⁾.

The EURES axis of EaSI aims to ensure that job vacancies, applications, the corresponding information and advice, as well as any related information, such as that concerning living and working conditions, are made transparent for jobseekers and employers. Actions funded to achieve this contribute to promoting voluntary geographical mobility and, subsequently, to boosting employment opportunities throughout Europe.

The overall performance is positive with increases related to the number of youth job placements (Indicator 2 – 10 696 in 2018 to 13 661 in 2019) and direct contact with jobseekers (Indicator 3 – 2 479 757 in 2018 and 1 071 174 in the 1st semester of 2019). As it comes to the number of unique visits to the EURES portal, the decreasing trend is maintained, which is also related to the constant improvements on the labour markets and the substantial decrease in the unemployment rate.

Indicator 1: Number of visits of the EURES platform								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1.7	Actual results							2.0
				0.8			2.0	
	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.9			

Methodology: Monthly Average

Narrative: The data for 2019 shows a constant decrease in the number of unique visits as the conditions in the labour market continue to improve all over Europe while unemployment and the number of jobseekers is decreasing. Hence the target of 2 million has become too high, a more

⁽¹⁴⁾ The policy field 'Working conditions' does cover both areas of 'labour law' and 'safety and health at work'

⁽¹⁵⁾ See footnote 16

⁽¹⁶⁾ See footnote 16

⁽¹⁷⁾ The policy field 'Working conditions' does cover both areas of 'labour law' and 'safety and health at work'

⁽¹⁸⁾ Any remainder shall be allocated to one or more of the thematic sections referred to above or to a combination of them (cross-cutting issues).

realistic target for 2020 would be 1 million.

Source: Indicator measured by Matomo

Unit of measure: Million

Indicator 2: Number of youth job placements achieved or supported under the Preparatory Action Your First EURES Job (YfEJ) as well as under Targeted Mobility Schemes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 844		5 000	7 000				15 000	15 000
	Actual results							
	3 433	5 053	5 720	7 606	10 696	13 661		

Methodology: Cumulative figures

Narrative: Data on 2013 and 2014 refer to results achieved under the Your first EURES job (YFEJ) preparatory action. Data on 2015 covers both the preparatory action and part of the activities under the YFEJ Targeted Mobility Scheme (transitional period). As from 2016, the indicators show a steady increase due to:

- a) the large size and long duration of the YFEJ projects and,
- b) the experience and increased delivery capacity of the implementing organisations.

The number of job placements has changed for some previous years based on the confirmed annual figures for 2017 and 2018. The figure for 2019 therefore might still change.

The scheme is expected to achieve the 2020 target.

Indicator 3: Number of individual personal contacts of EURES advisers with jobseekers, job changers and employers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 055 936			1 200 000				1 400 000	1 400 000
	Actual results							
	947 489	1 058 874	1 131 002	1 524 280	2 479 757	1 071 174		

Narrative: As from 2018, data collection is governed by the EURES Performance Measurement System (PMS) implemented on the basis of the EURES Regulation (EU)2016 /589. Numbers of contacts are currently reported by EURES national coordination offices according to the Commission decision (EU)2018 /170. The number of individual personal contacts of EURES advisers is for the first semester 2019 while the final figure for 2019 will only be available in (5/2020). The number is increasing thanks to the new EURES regulation entailing compulsory reporting of EURES advisers while in the past it was voluntary.

Availability of Data: 2019 Data reported covers only the first semester

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs *NB: output numbers for the DB year and beyond reflect the legal basis programmed over 7 years. Output numbers for 2014-2016 were adjusted on the basis of annual programmes.	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P) ⁽¹⁹⁾							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EURES Sub-objective no 1: Ensure that job vacancies and applications, and any related information are transparent for the potential applicants and the employers								
Actions to promote mobility of individuals in the Union (maintenance and development of the EURES Portal, communication activities, training activities for EURES, European Job Days)	F	6	5	3	5	7	7	7
	P	6	3	3	1	-	2	
EURES Sub-objective no 2: Develop services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment through the clearance of job vacancies and applications at European level								
Actions to promote mobility of individuals in the Union (EURES cross-border partnership, support to EEA countries and to social partners and Targeted Mobility Schemes)	F	8	6	7	8	10	10	10
	P	8	5	7	5	3	5	

Specific Objective 3: Promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable people who wish to start up a micro-enterprise as well as for existing micro-enterprises, and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises (Microfinance Axis)

⁽¹⁹⁾ Unless stated otherwise, differences between planned and produced outputs result from shifts in priorities or other informed decisions (e.g. integration of several actions) and present no impact for the overall achievement of the supported specific objectives.

Performance

The Micro-finance and social entrepreneurship axis aims at increasing access to and availability of microfinance, building up the capacity of micro-credit providers and supporting the development of the social investment market and facilitating access to finance for social enterprises. Targets set for the period have already been largely reached in absolute numbers. Improvements in the labour market have lead though to a lower than expected share of beneficiaries being in a vulnerable situation.

Indicator 1: Number of businesses created or consolidated that have benefitted from EU support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EaSI Microfinance Guarantee			21 000				41 000	41 000
	Actual results							
	0	416	12 743	25 830	44 780	69 770		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EaSI Social entrepreneurship Guarantee			500				1 100	1 100
	Actual results							
	0	0	63	250	864	2 020		

Narrative: Note 1: The milestones and targets have been based on the past experience with Progress Microfinance. Both are subject to change, as the final budget, the required leverage and the potential co-investments are unknown at this stage.

Note 2: There was no such support offered by the European Commission to social enterprises in the past.

Unit of measure: Businesses (Note 1)

Indicator 2: Proportion of beneficiaries that have created or further developed a business with EU microfinance that are unemployed or belonging to disadvantaged groups								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
			45.00 %				50.00 %	50.00 %
	Actual results							
		30.30 %	19.30 %	16.96 %	15.73 %	13.95 %		

Narrative: The indicator shows a downward trend over the 2016-2018 period in the proportion of recipients who were unemployed or belonging to disadvantaged groups. This is explained by the 18.6 % fall in EU unemployment in the same period since the indicator is influenced by the proportion of beneficiaries who were unemployed. The higher 2015 figure is likely to be an outlier since it is based only on the 416 recipients that year (compare with 5 818 recipients in 2016) and the first agreement with a financial intermediary was only signed in October 2015.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P) ⁽²⁰⁾							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Microfinance Sub-objective no 1: Increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance								
Support to microfinance and social enterprises in particular through the financial instruments (microloans)	F	410	2 870	6 150	8 200	9 020	8 200	6 150
	P	0	421	12 600	14 151	20 512	27 252	
Microfinance Sub-objective no 2: Build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers								
Support to microfinance in particular through funding for building up capacities (no microcredit providers supported)	F	4	4	5	4	7	7	8
	P	0	0	4	0	1	10	
Microfinance Sub-objective no 2: Support the development of social enterprises								
Support to social enterprises in particular through funding (no social enterprises that obtained loans/equity)	F	13	95	203	270	297	270	202
	P	0	0	63	187	614	1 156	

*Please note that the yearly division and the total amount are only indicative as relevant variables such as co-investment, leverage rate and management mode are still subject to change. This is also the reason for the discrepancy with outputs indicated in the Commission's proposal on the EaSI Regulation COM(2011) 609.

⁽²⁰⁾ Unless stated otherwise, differences between planned and produced outputs result from shifts in priorities or other informed decisions (e.g. integration of several actions) and present no impact for the overall achievement of the supported specific objectives.

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
The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Gender mainstreaming

Horizontal objectives of the EaSI Programme include promoting gender equality (including through gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting), paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people and ensuring non-discrimination on all grounds, promoting fair working conditions and sustainable work and combating long-term unemployment, ensuring adequate and decent social protection, and fighting social exclusion and poverty.

According to the EaSI Regulation, the Programme should pursue these objectives in all its axes and actions (i.e. the projects should report on how they take these horizontal objectives into account in their activities). Furthermore, the EaSI Regulation stipulates that the monitoring of the EaSI Programme should include an assessment of how gender equality principles, gender mainstreaming and anti-discrimination measures, including accessibility issues, were integrated and applied into all EaSI activities. In order to identify to what extent EaSI has been succeeding in mainstreaming horizontal principles in EaSI-supported activities, the following indicators are assessed:

- In the area of Social Protection and Social Inclusion (SPSI), respondents to the EaSI Stakeholder Survey 2019 are mostly familiar with fighting poverty and social inclusion (84 %), equality of treatment and opportunities regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (78 %) and gender equality (77 %) that are set in the EaSI Regulation.
- In the area of employment, respondents to the EaSI Stakeholder Survey 2019 are most familiar with active support to employment (83 %), gender equality (82 %) and tackling long-term unemployment (78 %).

A large number of applicants for the EU microfinance and social entrepreneurship support are legal persons (enterprises). As these do not provide their social data (e.g. gender, age, employment), it is not possible to provide a complete picture of the outreach of the EU microfinance and social entrepreneurship support to vulnerable persons. Nevertheless, from the reports received around 31.5 % of the beneficiaries were female

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals ⁽²¹⁾

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

This is achieved indirectly by the fact that EaSI, in pursuing its general objectives, aims to equally fulfil its horizontal objectives, one of them being targeted at promoting equality between women and men, including through gender mainstreaming and, where appropriate, gender budgeting.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

EaSI work programmes contribute to the implementation of a number of legislative and non-legislative measures such as the proposal for a Council Recommendation on Integration of the long term unemployment, the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Labour Mobility Package, the review of the EU Health and Safety Legislation, and to the European Pillar of Social Rights.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

EaSI Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Guarantee (EaSI-G) aims:

- to increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance for vulnerable groups who want to set up or develop their business as well as for existing micro-enterprises,
- to build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers,
- to support the development of social enterprises, in particular by facilitating access to finance.

⁽²¹⁾ This section should be read in conjunction with the ‘Key achievements’ section.

The instrument provides support not directly to final recipients, but rather to relevant financial intermediaries, i.e. microfinance providers and social enterprise finance providers.

‘Microfinance Guarantee financial instrument’ targets:

- *Vulnerable people*, i.e. persons who are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market and who want to start or further develop their own microenterprise, including self-employment (special focus to young people as vulnerable group).
- *Micro-enterprises*, meaning an enterprise, including a self-employed person, that employs fewer than 10 people and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 million, in accordance with Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.

‘Social Entrepreneurship Guarantee financial instrument’ targets:

- *Social enterprises, regardless of their legal form.*

EaSI-G provides capped guarantees up to 30 % to portfolios which include micro-credit loans granted by financial intermediaries to micro-enterprises, including self-employed persons and loans to social enterprises. The guarantees cover up to 80 % of the individual micro-credit and loans to social enterprises included in the respective portfolios.

Impact on the budget

Initial financial envelope EUR 96 million.

Current financial envelope EUR 109.7 million (out of which EUR 1 million committed for the Business Development Services Support pilot).

Overall financial envelope: EUR 109.7 million (out of which EUR 1 million committed for the Business Development Services Support pilot, excluding EUR 300 million from EFSI).

EaSI-G is implemented by the EIF. The Delegation Agreement between the Commission and the EIF was signed in 2015 with technical amendments in 2016 and further amendments in 2017 and 2018 allowing for an additional top-up of EUR 300 million from EFSI.

The EaSI capacity-building instrument aims at building up the institutional capacity of selected financial intermediaries in Europe for both microfinance and social entrepreneurship, primarily through equity and quasi-equity investments. Capacity building investments can be used for several purposes, depending on the intermediaries’ needs (investment in branch expansion, scaling up of IT infrastructure and investment in human resources). This instrument is implemented by the EIF.

The current financial envelope for this instrument is EUR 26 million.

The EaSI Funded Instrument is a EUR 200 million loan fund aiming at promoting microfinance and social entrepreneurship in EU Member States and other participating countries, by encouraging microfinance institutions and social enterprise lenders to increase funding for micro-enterprises as well as social enterprises as a means of supporting financial and social inclusion. The loan fund will provide senior and subordinated loans to microfinance institutions and social enterprise lenders in order to boost their lending capacity. The EU budget resources available to the EaSI Funded Instrument are set at EUR 67 million as a first-loss piece investment. The EU will be the only equity-holder in the sub-fund. The EIB and the EIF will provide funding respectively under a senior loan facility of EUR 110 million and a mezzanine loan facility of EUR 23 million.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Lead DG: EAC

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Solidarity Corps offers young people between the ages of 18 and 30 the opportunity to take part in a wide range of solidarity activities across the EU, with the aim of creating 100 000 opportunities by the end of 2020. Since December 2016, until the adoption of the European Solidarity Corps Regulation ⁽¹⁾ on 2 October 2018, eight different programmes were mobilised to give young people the chance to take part in a range of solidarity activities addressing challenging situations across the EU. Participation not only benefits young people's personal development, active involvement in society and employability, but also assists non-governmental organisations, public bodies and companies in their efforts to cope with societal and other challenges. As well as offering volunteering, traineeships and jobs, the European Solidarity Corps also offer participants the opportunity to set up their own solidarity projects or to volunteer as a group. The Regulation adopted on 2 October 2018 put the European Solidarity Corps on a firm footing, with a budget of EUR 375.6 million for the years 2018-2020.

EU added value of the programme

The European Solidarity Corps enhances the European dimension of solidarity, complementing existing public and private policies, programmes and activities without creating competition or substitution effects. The Corps addresses unmet societal needs, which cannot be addressed by the existing volunteering activities or by other types of solidarity programmes. The EU value added of the programme derives mainly from the cross-border character of the activities, in addition to those developed at national or regional levels.

Actions to tackle socioeconomic problem areas are primarily the responsibility of the Member States and regions and must be taken closest to the citizen at national and sub-national levels. However, the EU has a role to play in identifying shared challenges, stimulating cooperation and transnational mobility, encouraging synergies, and promoting the sharing of good practices and mutual learning, and supporting a Europe-wide approach to social innovation, where there is clear value added for European solutions.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) leads the programme, which is implemented through:

- **Decentralised implementation:** the implementation of some actions is entrusted to National Agencies in the Member States which, according to the agreed Annual Work Programme, implement part of the annual budget. The actions implemented through this mode include volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects, decentralised networking activities and quality label, training and evaluation, and management of the European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres.
- **Centralised implementation:** this includes actions implemented directly by the Commission or with the support of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The actions implemented through this mode include volunteering in high priority areas, insurance, general online training, online linguistic support, centralised networking activities and quality label, as well as the development and maintenance of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and related IT tools.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

Since December 2016, until the adoption of its Regulation on 2 October 2018, the European Solidarity Corps was implemented through eight different programmes, including the Erasmus+ Volunteering action. In addition to the coordination of the activities offered to young people under these eight programmes, this period focused on the design and development of the European Solidarity Corps. In particular, attention was given to the design of the Programme, in order to have it ready for implementation as soon as the Regulation was adopted. These activities included the preparation of all required implementation documents, including the Call for Proposals Guide for organisations and participants, drafting of the Annual Work Programme as well as the set-up of the whole IT environment to support the implementation of the projects for the first calls. Furthermore, efforts were directed at promotion and outreach both towards young people and organisations.

The 2019 call for proposals was launched providing three deadlines for organisations and groups of young people to apply to National Agencies for funding for volunteering projects, traineeships and jobs or solidarity projects. The programme also supported larger scale volunteering projects in the following priority areas: European cultural heritage; social inclusion of people with fewer opportunities and response to environmental challenges and climate challenges.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU (OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1–20).

With regards to the international dimension, the European Solidarity Corps continued to support EU's cooperation with the European Neighbourhood region (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean) through volunteering activities. Specific agreements were also signed with Turkey, Iceland and North Macedonia enabling their full participation in the Programme.

To ensure successful implementation, strong support and monitoring of centralised and decentralised actions has taken place and the promotion of the Programme and the opportunities continued. In this context, the European Youth Week was a major achievement and offered the opportunity for the Commission to present and promote EU youth policy priorities – such as solidarity, inclusion or participation – and the European Solidarity Corps. The event has mobilised and actively involved a wide range of young people and youth stakeholders from 29 to 30 May 2019.

In 2019, preparations for implementation of the future reinforced European Solidarity Corps started as well: design of the future actions, consultations with stakeholders, IT analysis and preparations. This covered also preparatory work for the set up of the 'European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps', the new strand under the Corps that will open new opportunities for young people to participate in solidarity activities, in the field of humanitarian aid.

Key achievements

- The 2019 call created more than 21,000 opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity activities. The interest in Solidarity Projects – providing funding for young people to initiate and implement projects to tackle a social need in their local community has seen an important increase.
- The European Youth Week gathered some 120,000 participants to over 1,000 events, carried out in 35 countries and organised by National Agencies, Eurodesks, Commission Representations, youth civil society and other partners. It provided a valuable opportunity to promote the EU Youth Strategy and the opportunities offered by the European Solidarity Corps.
- The European Solidarity Network was successfully launched in March 2019 and will continue to expand and develop tools to help create a network of communities around the European Solidarity Corps.
- Since the launch of the pilot phase of the Programme in December 2016, more than 191,000 young people have registered in the Portal, and about 34,500 were deployed, demonstrating their great interest in getting involved in solidarity work across Europe.

Forthcoming implementation

The Annual Work Programmes for 2020 was adopted after consultation with Member States. It provides details on the main actions to be implemented in the upcoming year, the priorities where relevant and the budget distribution per action and country.

In 2020, the European Solidarity Corps will continue supporting solidarity activities enabling young people to constructively engage in and contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy while acquiring and developing skills and competences.

As in 2019, the call for proposals foresees three deadlines for actions to be implemented through National Agencies. In order to allow organisations and participants to implement activities where solidarity is most needed, decentralised actions do not have a specific focus. Volunteering, traineeships and jobs projects can take place in a broad range of areas such as in the fields of environmental protection, climate change mitigation, culture, helping refugees, children or the elderly.

In addition to these decentralised actions, the action Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas will be implemented by EACEA. In 2020, the call will focus on response to environmental and climate challenges (excluding immediate disaster response); projects building inclusive societies including through bridging the intergenerational and social divide or addressing challenges linked to geographical remoteness and projects aimed at improving mental health and well-being.

The first modules of the General Online Training available for European Solidarity Corps young registrants will be made available in spring 2020.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission presented on June 2018 its proposal for a new programme for the European Solidarity Corps beyond 2020, with a budget to broaden the opportunities it offers. The new programme will create at least **350,000 opportunities** for young people to **support communities in need** between 2021 and 2027 through **volunteering, traineeships and job placements**.

The proposal builds on the achievements of the Corps in its first years of existence and further consolidates efforts to have **one single entry point** for young people ready to engage in solidarity. In particular, the Corps will also include volunteering activities in support of **humanitarian aid operations in non-EU countries** where humanitarian aid activities and operations take place. This well-established EU scheme for humanitarian aid has so far operated under the name EU Aid Volunteers.

The European Solidarity Corps opportunities under the humanitarian aid strand will be similar to the ones offered under the current EU Aid Volunteers, and include tasks carried out by the participants such as **communication activities** (events, social media, etc.) or **administration activities** (budgeting, financial management, project management, etc.). In addition, these activities take place in

countries that have been deemed safe for deployment by the Commission, and are carried out in experienced humanitarian aid organisations.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU	2018 – 2020	375,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support					4,2	3,7	3,0	10,8
Operational appropriations					38,2	138,8	162,2	339,2
Executive Agency					0,4	0,9	0,9	2,2
Total					42,8	143,3	166,1	352,2
<i>Contribution from other Programmes *</i>					5,3	3,5	3,5	12,3

*Contribution from the technical assistance allocated to the European Social Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, LIFE Programme, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	143,325	100,00 %	108,050	97,28 %	166,088	35,14 %	153,900	1,95 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	151,104	97,84 %	122,768	88,75 %	169,583	34,55 %	164,533	2,92 %

(*) 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 European Solidarity Corps builds on the achievements of the European Voluntary Service and on a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps, launched in December 2016, whereby different Union programmes have been mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job activities to young people across the EU and enabled the creation of some 32,000 solidarity opportunities.

The European Solidarity Corps has existed as an independent funding programme since October 2018. It offers support for projects revolving around a range of solidarity (in the form of individual or team volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects) involving young people between 18 and 30 years of age.

After one year of implementation, the first calls resulted in some 27,000 opportunities for young people to constructively engage in and contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe, while developing their skills and competences at the same time. The number of available opportunities is quickly and steadily increasing as the programme reaches its ‘cruising speed’.

The European Solidarity Corps proved particularly successful in providing opportunities to address horizontal priorities such as for instance inclusion (with more than 30 % of participants with fewer opportunities) or climate change (13 % of projects supported under the European Solidarity Corps address climate action, environment and nature protection) so far.

Traineeships and Jobs represent the biggest novelty under the European Solidarity Corps. Specific efforts are dedicated to promotion, ensuring understanding of the opportunities, reaching out to the relevant stakeholders and training the potential applicants. While the Action takes-up gradually, the level of demand for Quality Label for the occupational strand is satisfactory and indicates a positive future trend.

The success of the Corps in terms of the uptake by young people is also a testimony of its significance as more than 200,000 youngsters from across the EU have registered for participation in the Corps.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion and solidarity in Europe, supporting communities and responding to societal challenges

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to provide young people, with the support of organisations, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities while improving their skills and competences for personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, as well as their employability and facilitating transition to regular employment

Indicator 1: number of participants in volunteering								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
					8 400	24 600	28 900	61 900
	Actual results							
					3 103	9 318		

Comment: Due to late adoption of the regulation, only one call was launched in 2018 for projects starting as from 2019. Therefore, considering the limited number of results for 2018, for the purpose of this exercise, data is provided for both call years 2018-2019.

Source: ESC Qlikview dashboard

Indicator 2: number of participants in traineeships								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
					31	133		

Comment: Due to late adoption of the regulation, only one call was launched in 2018 for projects starting as from 2019. Therefore, considering the limited number of results for 2018, for the purpose of this exercise, data is provided for both call years 2018-2019.

Source: ESC Qlikview dashboard

Indicator 3: number of participants in jobs								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
					122	130		

Comment: Due to late adoption of the regulation, only one call was launched in 2018 for projects starting as from 2019. Therefore, considering the limited number of results for 2018, for the purpose of this exercise, data is provided for both call years 2018-2019.

Source: ESC Qlikview dashboard

Indicator 4: number of participants in solidarity projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
					5 400	6 200	7 300	18 900
	Actual results							
					1 045	2 958		

Comment: Due to late adoption of the regulation, only one call was launched in 2018 for projects starting as from 2019. Therefore, considering the limited number of results for 2018, for the purpose of this exercise, data is provided for both call years 2018-2019.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Participants in volunteering	15 05 01	28 900	94.5

Participants in traineeships and jobs	(€109 million) ⁽²⁾	4 100	9.2
Participants in solidarity projects		7 300	8.8
Total			112.5

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ⁽³⁾	2020
Participants in volunteering	F				8 400	24 600	28 900
	P				3 103 (revised)	9 318	
Participants in traineeships and jobs	F				3 200	3 900	4 100
	P				153(revised)	263	
Participants in solidarity projects	F				5 400	6 200	7 300
	P				1 045 (revised)	2 958	

Specific Objective 2: to ensure that the solidarity activities that are offered to the European Solidarity Corps participants contribute to addressing concrete societal challenges and strengthening communities, and are of high quality and properly validated

Indicator 1: number of participants reporting positive learning outcomes								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							66 750
						2 857		

Comment: Considering the short duration of the European Solidarity Corps (end 2018-2020), targets for these indicators have been set over the whole programming period.

Indicator 2: percentage of participants whose learning outcomes have been recognised through a certificate such as Youthpass, or another type of formal recognition of their participation in the European Solidarity Corps								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							100 %
						100 %	100 %	
						72 %		

Comment: These are provisional figures as most of the projects funded in 2018 and 2019 are still ongoing (figures provided cover about 1 % of granted projects and about 10 % of granted participants). A meaningful comparison of results against milestones is, therefore, not yet possible.

Indicator 3: number of organisations holding a quality label								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							
					398	1 083		

Comment: Due to late adoption of the regulation, only one call was launched in 2018 for projects starting as from 2019. Therefore, considering the limited number of results for 2018, for the purpose of this exercise, data is provided for both call years 2018-2019.

Source: ESC Qlikview dashboard

Indicator 4: overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of activities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							90 %
						90 %		
						88 %		

⁽²⁾ Contributions from other programmes in 2020: LIFE Programme and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism look as follow: 07 02 07 (€1 million), 34 02 05 (€0,5 million), 23 03 01 03 (€2 million).

⁽³⁾ The information has been extracted on 6 February 2020. The final values will be provided when the projects have been finalized.

Comment: These are provisional figures as most of the projects funded in 2018 and 2019 are still ongoing (figures provided cover about 1 % of granted projects and about 10 % of granted participants). A meaningful comparison of results against milestones is, therefore, not yet possible.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Participants receiving general online training	15 05 01 (EUR 46.3 million)	58 500	2.8
Participants in cross-border activities receiving specific trainings		21 900	21.9
Participants in cross-border activities receiving online linguistic support		13 300	0.6
Participants enrolled in the European Solidarity Corps insurance		30 200	7.5
Participants receiving a certificate		33 300	0.2
Organisations receiving quality label		3 900	1.8
European Solidarity Corps Portal		1	0.5
Resource Centre		1	0.3
National Agencies receiving a Management fee		28	10.8
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Participants receiving general online training	F					0	50 700	58 500
	P					-	- ⁽⁴⁾	
Participants in cross-border activities receiving specific trainings	F					3 000	18 700	21 900
	P					-	12 211	
Participants in cross-border activities receiving online linguistic support	F					0	12 000	13 300
	P					-	5 516	
Participants enrolled in the European Solidarity Corps insurance	F					0	25 700	30 200
	P					-	12 846	
Participants receiving a certificate	F					16 700	452	33 300
	P					-		
Organisations receiving quality label	F					3 700	3 400	3 900
	P					-	1 058	
European Solidarity Corps Portal	F					1	1	1
	P					-	1	
Resource Centre	F					1	1	1
	P					-		
National Agencies receiving a Management fee	F					28	28	28
	P					-	31	

Specific Objective 3: to ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities, in particular for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, through a range of special measures such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised support

Indicator 1: number of participating young people with fewer opportunities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
					25 %	25 %	25 %	25 %
	Actual results							
						32 %		

Comment: Actual participants are considered for actions ESC11-13-21-31. Final figures will be updated ones all projects are finalised. These are provisional figures as most of the projects funded in 2018 and 2019 are still ongoing (figures provided cover about 1 % of granted projects and about 10 % of granted participants). A meaningful comparison of results against milestones is, therefore, not yet possible.

⁽⁴⁾ General online training is still phasing in. There are no reliable available figures at this stage.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of participants with fewer opportunities	F					25 %	25 %	25 %
	P						31,9 % ⁽⁵⁾	

Specific Objective 4: to contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and to raise awareness of its positive impact

Indicator 1: number of people supported directly or indirectly through solidarity activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							200 000
						5 419		

Comment: Considering the short duration of the European Solidarity Corps (end 2018-2020), targets for these indicators have been set over the whole programming period.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Participants in networking activities	15 05 01 (EUR 6.9 million)	34 500	6.9
Total			6.9

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Participants in networking activities	F					18 500	30 300	34 500
	P					5 275 (revised)	12 599 ⁽⁶⁾	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
projects with climate relevance	56 909 827,0	0,0
Total	56 909 827,0	0,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018	2019-2020 estimates		Total
2018	2019	2020	
	56 909 827,0	0,0	56 909 827,0

(*)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 European Solidarity Corps contributes to mainstreaming of climate action by targeting organisations and young people wishing to tackle current societal challenges, including climate action, through projects that benefit people and communities across Europe and beyond. A coefficient of 40 % is applied to the relevant projects budget, in accordance to the EU Rio marker methodology.

⁽⁵⁾ Actual participants are considered for actions ESC11-13-21-31. Final figures will be updated ones all projects are finalised.

⁽⁶⁾ Source ESC dashboard 06 February 2020

Young people between 18 and 30 can take part in a wide range of solidarity activities, tackling societal challenges and supporting vulnerable people, contributing to positive change in communities across Europe and beyond, while gaining valuable skills. Climate action, environment and nature protection are increasingly popular Solidarity Corps.

A strategic approach towards carbon neutral and more environmentally friendly post 2020 EU programmes for education, training, youth, sport and solidarity is under preparation. Meanwhile, the European Solidarity Corps already supports sustainability and climate action in the following ways:

- supporting projects with the theme of climate action and sustainability;
- assigning a dedicated priority in its specific calls for ‘volunteering teams in high-priority areas’ to climate change and sustainability;
- promoting sustainable awareness among Corps participants.

Gender mainstreaming

The European Solidarity Corps aims to promote social inclusion by facilitating the access to young people with fewer opportunities. Young people with fewer opportunities are young people who need additional support due to the fact that they are at a disadvantage compared to their peers because of various obstacles, such as discrimination because of gender.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Through its activities to achieve social inclusion through solidarity activities, the European Solidarity Corps contributes to SDG 1, in particular its target of reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The European Solidarity Corps aims, amongst other things, at developing the skills and competences of participants for professional, social and civic development. In addition, given its strong focus on inclusion, this is also achieved for young people with fewer opportunities, including young people with disabilities.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The European Solidarity Corps aims at removing social obstacles for participation in it for people facing discrimination because of gender, among other reasons.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

All the actions of the European Solidarity Corps contribute to increase the employability of the young people that participate in it, as shown by several studies. This is achieved through a combination of outcomes, e.g. the acquisition of new skills, increased autonomy, increased knowledge of foreign languages, etc. Furthermore, solidarity projects can help further the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of young participants. Finally, the emphasis on inclusion aims to ensure that all can reap these benefits irrespective of disadvantage.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Special attention is paid to ensure that activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. To this end, special measures are in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. These include resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The European Solidarity Corps will also support strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard Europe’s cultural heritage, as well as improving participants cultural development.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The European Solidarity Corps has created a one-stop-shop for all solidarity opportunities funded by the European Union, which increases the effectiveness of the use of public funds. Thorough monitoring and evaluation of the programme also guarantees the results are transparent and accessible to all. Finally, through the review of open consultations, fora and dedicated meetings, the Commission regularly consults key stakeholders, thus supporting participatory and inclusive decision-making.

The projects implemented under the European Solidarity Corps may also contribute to other SDGs depending on its objectives. This will be monitored throughout the programme period.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Action programme for customs in the European Union (Customs 2020)****Lead DG: TAXUD****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

Customs 2020 aims to support and improve the proper functioning and modernisation of the customs union. It focuses on supporting customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights, increasing safety and security, protecting citizens and the environment, improving the administrative capacity of the customs authorities, and strengthening the competitiveness of European businesses. The vast majority of programme funding (approx. 80 %) goes into the operation of European Information Systems, followed by the organisation of the joint actions, the cooperation and collaboration side (around 15 %), and the training activities (around 5 %).

Strengthening security and protection of citizens while facilitating legitimate international trade, pursuing customs modernisation as well as developing and managing an effective and efficient EU customs union have been part of the Union's priorities in Customs Policy. The programme supports the achievement of these priorities, mainly through the setting-up of a paper-less customs environment. This environment improves both the trade facilitation and the effective enforcement of rules for protection of EU financial, safety and security interests. The European Information Systems supported by Customs 2020 play a vital role in interconnecting customs authorities.

Regarding operational cooperation, the programme funds expert teams, which are a structured form of cooperation, pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains or carry out operational activities, possibly with the support of online collaboration services, administrative assistance and the pooling of infrastructure and equipment facilities.

The programme finances also the development of eLearning courses on topics of common interest in collaboration with customs administrations and representatives of trade. Moreover, the collaboration between customs officials is a key sustainable success factor for implementing customs policy in Europe. This collaboration improves the understanding and the implementation of the customs law. It ensures the exchange of best practices and knowledge and creates the framework for joining efforts when IT solutions are developed. It also enhances the administrative capacity of participating countries.

EU added value of the programme

The customs union is an exclusive competence of the Union. The implementation of Union legislation is however a national competence. The Union legal framework in itself does not ensure sufficiently the proper functioning of the customs union. It should be complemented by supporting measures as provided by the Customs programme in order to ensure that EU customs legislation is applied in a convergent and harmonised way at national level.

Many of the activities in the customs area are of a cross-border nature, involving and affecting all 28 Member States, and therefore cannot be effectively and efficiently delivered by individual Member States. The Customs 2020 programme, implemented by the Commission, offers Member States a Union framework to develop activities through cooperation amongst national customs officials, on the one hand, and IT cooperation and capacity building, on the other hand.

In this regard, it provides financial sustainability of the interoperable and interconnected European Information Systems, which implement with greater economies of scale and efficiency inter alia the requirements behind the Union Customs Code (UCC). The symbiotic features of the central pan-European IT architecture for customs, including the secured dedicated communication network which interconnects approximately 5000 connection points⁽¹⁾ across all Member States, are unmatched and unreproducible at national level. Additionally, the joint actions give the administrations unequalled opportunities for cooperation, communication and networking, ultimately building trust and leading to greater convergence of approaches and practices.

Given the scale of the Customs 2020 operations, versatility of topics, their European dimension or pan-European breadth, the Mid-term Evaluation of the programme concluded that it is difficult to assume that similar activities would be organised at any other level. None of the programme's outputs were found likely to endure beyond the short-term horizon if the programme were to discontinue. Existing differences would persist and networks built and reinforced through years of programme-fostered collaboration fade. The functioning of the customs union and the further integration of the national customs authorities that run it remain entirely dependent on the Customs programme. In view of the rapid changes and challenges ahead of the EU customs union, the programme's continuous support is essential.

Implementation mode

The Customs programme is implemented under direct management, through:

⁽¹⁾ Customs and taxation connection points taken together.

- Procurement contracts: for the European Information Systems expenditure, training activities and studies.
- Grant agreements with the participating countries: for joint actions and expert teams.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The data collected in the performance measurement of the programme (see Section III) shows that Customs 2020 is on course to fulfilling its objectives and progressing towards achieving the expected results of the projects planned in the Annual Work Programmes. The results of the Mid-Term Evaluation exercise support this overall assessment.

The core outcomes of Customs 2020 programme are the European Information Systems (EIS), which are of critical importance for the well-functioning of the customs union. The list of the existing EIS is included in the Annex II of the Customs 2020 Regulation, while those planned for development are included in the Electronic Customs Multi-Annual Strategic Plan (MASP)⁽²⁾. The Union Customs Code (UCC) adoption and application as of 1 May 2016 completes the shift by customs to a paperless and fully electronic and interoperable environment with core values of simplicity, service and speed. The IT systems required to implement the UCC have been also included in the MASP. The Customs 2020 programme provides funds for the Union components of the IT systems included in the MASP. These are assets (such as hardware, software, network connections) and services to support IT systems that are common to the Commission and the Member States. National components are expected to be developed and operated by Member States, who bear the associated costs⁽³⁾.

In 2018 and 2019, DG TAXUD's budget was reinforced with a frontloading of 7.1 EUR million in total. The funds were used for the delivery of the specifications and software for the major UCC IT trans-European systems and for the implementation and management of coordination programme to closely monitor and encourage the Member States to perform their part of the implementation.

In 2019, DG TAXUD received additional funds for BREXIT preparedness (3,9 EUR million). The budget has been spent on making an impact analysis on the different scenarios (1: No Deal, 2: Withdrawal Agreement, 3: No Deal with UK Accession to Common Transit Convention) and on developing and testing all systems and networks for scenario 3. Following negotiations during the months of September and October 2019, an agreement was reached between EU and UK. Therefore, in 2020 TAXUD will be implementing the changes needed for the Scenario Withdrawal Agreement including the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Throughout the 2014-2019 period, work on the implementation of the MASP progressed under the programme, notably to ensure that all EIS are deployed in accordance with UCC legal deadlines. It should be highlighted that during 2019 the Commission amended the UCC⁽⁴⁾ to allow a longer period for the deployment of some of the 17 IT systems⁽⁵⁾ that the UCC provides for the completion of customs formalities. It became clear in the last eighteen months that it would not be possible to deploy all the systems smoothly by the original deadline of end 2020 given the work involved and the interdependencies between the systems. The amendment maintains the original deadline of 2020 for 8 of the 17 systems. At the same time, it allows customs authorities and economic operators to continue using transitional arrangements (i.e. existing IT systems or paper-based arrangements) beyond 2020 for the completion of customs formalities to be managed by 9 systems that now have longer deployment deadlines. The 9 systems in question are 3 national systems that must be upgraded by Member States by end 2022, and 6 trans-European systems that must be upgraded or developed by the Commission by end 2025. According to the conclusions of the European Court of Auditor's Special Report 26/2018⁽⁶⁾, the main reasons for delivering some IT systems beyond 2020 were: a) changes in the scope of some projects and shifting from the Member States to the EU level, which added to their complexity; b) insufficient resources allocated by Commission and Member States for implementing IT systems; c) lengthy decision-making process due to the multi-layered governance structure.

Key Achievements

Strengthening security and protection of citizens while facilitating legitimate international trade, pursuing customs modernisation as well as developing and managing an effective and efficient EU customs union have been part of the Union's priorities for Customs Policy. Those priorities are implemented largely through the Customs 2020 programme.

⁽²⁾ The MASP is drawn up by the European Commission in partnership with Member States, in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Decision 70/2008/EC on a Paperless environment for customs and trade.

⁽³⁾ The complete picture on the progress made by the Member States and the Commission in the development and implementation of all customs IT systems can be found in the **e-Customs progress reports**. These reports cover the IT systems/components funded by the Customs 2020 programme (Union components) and those managed and funded by Member States (national components). The e-Customs progress reports are produced pursuant to Article 12 of the e-Customs Decision (Decision No 70/2008/EC) and are published in the Europa website: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/general-information-customs/electronic-customs_en

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/632 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 to prolong the transitional use of means other than the electronic data-processing techniques provided for in the Union Customs Code (OJ L 111, 25.4.2019, p. 54–58).

⁽⁵⁾ See https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/union-customs-code/ucc-work-programme_en#heading_2

⁽⁶⁾ ECA Special Report 26/2018 'A series of delays in Customs IT systems: what went wrong?', published on 10/10/2018.

The achievement of these priorities is enabled under the programme, mainly through setting-up of a paper-less customs environment. This environment improves both the trade facilitation and the effective enforcement of rules for protection of EU financial, safety and security interests. Mainly, the European Information Systems supported by Customs 2020 play a vital role in interconnecting customs authorities. The functioning of these IT systems is enabled by the closed and secure Common Communication Network/Common Systems Interface (CCN/CSI) infrastructure, which since the launch of the programme in 2014 has performed with high availability and reliability (see Indicator 3). The CCN/CSI network registered over 6 902 million messages exchanged during the period January 2019 – December 2019, compared to 5 790 million messages exchanged during 2018. This represents a 19.2 % growth of the number of messages. In terms of traffic, the CCN Network registered around 32.23 TB during the period January 2019 – December 2019, compared to around 29.08 TB during 2018. This represents an increase of 10.8 % of traffic volume. The high volume of information channelled during the year via CCN/CSI and EIS, shows that the programme is a solid and robust enabler for the paper-less environment and information exchange amongst customs and tax authorities.

The correct calculation of tariffs and the fight against fraud are crucial to the protection of EU's financial interests. In this sense, TAXUD continued to ensure during 2019 the daily update of the TARIC system (Integrated Tariff of the EU), that provides the required data for the customs clearance systems of the Member States and gives economic operators a comprehensive view of all the measures applicable when importing or exporting goods into/from the EU. Other EIS such as NCTS (New Computerised Transit System) allow to monitor the movement of goods within the EU territory and to identify cases of fraud or non-payment of customs duties. NCTS has created traceable records for each transit transaction reducing the deviation from standard procedures. The Import Control (ICS) and the Export Control (ECS) systems are two of the main systems that contribute to increased interconnectivity among Member States and with economic operators. In 2019, the systems (NCTS, ICS and ECS) have maintained the highest availability rate over the last 3 years (99.45 %).

Since the launch of the programme, IT developments and adaptations of the IT environment to the UCC have been carried out, bringing the total number of EIS in operations to 54. These developments were essential for a well-functioning and modern customs union. During 2019, the Customs 2020 programme continued to finance the development of new EIS projects, in close cooperation with national customs authorities and in line with the deadlines agreed with the Member States and trade. DG TAXUD progressed in 2019 in the development of the Import Control System 2 (ICS2) and of the reshaped Customs Risk Management System (CRMS2). The two systems are core Union customs instruments aimed to protecting the external borders of the EU internal market from risks linked to the international movement of goods, including those associated to terrorism and crime. ICS2 is a large-scale system and underpins customs pre-arrival safety and security programme. It will provide a new platform for collection of advance electronic data on all goods and shipments prior to their arrival to the Union customs territory and from different trade sources. DG TAXUD nearly completed the construction of the two central components of ICS2 (shared trader interface and common repository) by the end of 2019. Development and testing work will continue with a view to rendering the first phase of the system into operation on 15 March 2021 as per the revised UCC Work Programme.

In 2019, customs officials continued to exchange views and best practices in the joint actions organised under the programme. As an example, a high-level seminar took place in May 2019 in Bucharest on the Single Window environment for customs. This event allowed sharing information with the Heads of Customs Administrations on the draft legal proposal and provided the opportunity to have a political discussion at an advanced stage of the processes but still ahead of the preparation of the final drafting of the impact assessment report and the legal proposal.

Working practices, administrative procedures and guidelines were developed and shared among the national administrations following the joint actions. These outcomes assist countries to increase the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of the customs administration. Guidelines and recommendations were also produced to support the implementation of Union law in the national administrations. They identify and address outstanding technical issues and constitute background information for Union law preparation and review. Across the programme, over 2000 guidelines and recommendations (according to data available in March 2019) were issued further to a Joint Action (indicator 4) and in the national administrations following participation in programme activities (indicator 2). For example, during 2019 guidelines were issued on customs related matters of the UK withdrawal. Some recommendations were produced regarding dual-use goods, and others on customs detection technology. As in previous years, more than 98 % of the responding participants in these joint actions declared that from a professional point of view, the activities were very useful or useful for them. In the coming years, it is intended to maintain a similar high level of relevance perception.

Expert teams represent an increasingly used tool from the programme toolbox supporting enhanced operational collaboration, either on a regional or on a thematic basis. The expert team approach allows customs experts of Member States to have in depth cooperation on operational issues which go beyond the traditional means of cooperation to realise the pre-identified objectives of a common long term project (expert teams are active between 12 and 36 months). This approach gives the chance to involve more the participants and make their administration more committed to the projects. During the year 2019, all four existing customs expert teams, i.e. EU Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border 2 (CELBET 2), Customs Laboratories (CLET), Binding Tariff Information (BTI) and the Customs IT Collaboration (ETCIT⁽⁷⁾) continued their work, and three of them started the next phase: CLET 2, ETCIT 2 and BTI 2. In general, all the existing expert teams show an increase involvement of participating countries, both regarding the number of the participants and the committed Member States. CELBET 2 continued to improve the collaboration at

(7) Expert team on new approaches to develop and operate Customs IT systems

the level of the customs experts at the Eastern and South-Eastern EU land frontier by producing analysis on Border Crossing Points, scanners, tactical and strategical methodology, and risk management. The Customs Laboratories started their second expert team in spring 2019 and targeted a higher number of analysis by continuing to pool expertise and equipment in a network (meta-laboratory) to analyse samples and share analytical results. The BTI expert team also renewed their activities in late 2019 for supporting all Member States in the analysis of the complex cases of divergent classification of goods and in proposing an expert opinion on the result. Also the expert team on IT Collaboration started a new phase in autumn 2019 (ETCIT 2) to continue to explore and identify new approaches for customs IT systems development and operation, including the realisation of a pilot project among Member States: the idea of pooling and sharing the expertise on the Customs IT attracted 17 participating Members States.

The Customs 2020 programme finances also the development of eLearning courses on topics of common interest in collaboration with customs administrations and representatives of trade. Such courses support the implementation of EU legislation and ensure the dissemination of good customs practices throughout the European Union. As in the previous year, in 2019, TAXUD continued to support in particular the implementation of the UCC, by supporting its related IT systems for public and private customs users with eLearning modules, namely through producing further language versions of the new UCC REX IT System eLearning module, producing an update of the UCC Customs Decision Systems (CDS IT System) eLearning module, developing eLearning on the new UCC EBTI-3 IT system (for public sector) and on the new EU Trader Portal on EBTI and on AEO (for private sector/EOs). In total, by end 2019 the EU eLearning portfolio contains more than 30 eLearning courses in the customs area, all of which support customs professionals from both public and private sector with the application of the UCC and related common customs legal, operational and technical requirements. By end 2019, this full EU eLearning portfolio was reproduced in a content-updated and technically innovated format (also allowing for use on mobile devices). Furthermore, Customs 2020 continued to support national customs administrations with the national implementation and/or introduction of competency-based staff development and training, based on the EU Customs Competency Framework (CustCompEU), through a series of common and/or country-specific implementation training events in 2018 and 2019. Furthermore, in 2019 the European Commission awarded for the first time 7 Universities for their high quality academic customs study programmes (MA/BA level), acknowledging their leading role in raising Customs performance and professionalism. Started in 2019, this award based on the EU customs competency framework (CustCompEU) will take place annually. As in the previous year, cross-country expertise sharing/-building was provided throughout 2019, e.g. in form of CLEP events (Common Learning Events Programme). Similarly, innovative common knowledge building and/or – sharing formats were further explored throughout 2019, such as EU Training webinars, eBooks, nano-learnings and similar. These build the foundation for further enhanced structured EU Customs Training cooperation in the years to come. Specific EU Training support was provided in 2019 in the context of the preparation for BREXIT, such as through the development of fast-track upskilling and onboarding ⁽⁸⁾ customs training programmes for direct national administrations' use.

Regarding economic operators, the aims and activities of the programme are consistent with needs to minimise administrative burdens and maximise legal certainty. Most of the programme activities allow the national customs administrations to work and share information in a better way resulting in indirect benefits for the economic operators in the form of more efficient customs processes. Similarly, the eLearning modules support a harmonised application of EU law. More directly, economic operators can use certain Customs Information Systems as part of simplified and standardised customs procedures, take part in some joint actions and participate in certain eLearning modules. Although the programme does not involve European citizens directly, it addresses issues related to safety, security and trade facilitation that are important to them, such as fighting smuggling and fraud and protecting citizens from security threats.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The Customs programme finances the procurement of studies, evaluations and comparative analysis in the customs area by external contractors, covering mainly technical issues as the ones mentioned below as examples:

- 2017: study to support the impact assessment of a new legal act to establish the EU Customs Single Window environment for cross-border movements of goods. The EU Customs Single Window can be implemented through a number of options, with different roles for the EU and the Member States. This study supported the definition of the costs benefits with a focus on the benefits for economic operators.
- 2018: evaluation of the European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances (ECICS) to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, EU added value and sustainability of the ECICS database. The ECICS database allows economic operators and national customs authorities to clearly and easily identify chemicals; classify them correctly and easily in the Combined Nomenclature and name them in all EU languages for regulation purposes.
- 2019: study to provide scientific and technical assistance in the field of scientific customs, in particular expertise in pharmaceutical science and botany. The study analysed scientific literature, databases and regulations, on plants and the alike (parts and extracts of plants, vitamins, minerals, traditional medicine and pharmaceuticals) in order to support the work of DG TAXUD and the Customs Code Committee when facing difficulties in the classification or naming of these products.

⁽⁸⁾ In the context of the preparation for BREXIT; onboarding is used to refer to target recruitment.

In addition to technical studies and evaluations, the mid-term evaluation of Customs 2020 was launched in 2017 (finalised in 2018) and the final evaluation of the programme is planned for 2020 ⁽⁹⁾. The key findings of the latest evaluation ([SWD\(2019\)14 final](#)) have been presented in the Programme Statement DB2020.

The studies and evaluations financed under the programme Customs 2020 can be found on the TAXUD EUROPA website: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/calls-tenders-grants-calls-expression-interest_en and on the EU Bookshop on <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/> (author: Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union).

Forthcoming implementation

In the coming years, emphasis will be put on improving the administrative capacity of Member States, be it through continuous IT capacity building, traditional and innovative forms of cooperation (including new expert teams) or human competency building initiatives. The capacity of customs administrations is indeed instrumental to ensure they run efficiently the customs union. In the medium-term, the implementation of the following programme's main outcomes will be pursued to achieve the customs policy objectives:

1. Ensuring business continuity of existing **European Information Systems** and development of new ones. The vast majority of the programme's budget will continue to focus on the European Information Systems. The IT related expenditure is projected to rise further in the future, as the new systems connected to the Union Customs Code continue to be developed (implementation of the UCC work programme). A number of projects are planned to deliver new IT systems/applications in the period 2020-2021, including: CSI2, CRMS2, Generic Trader Portal (GTP), CLASS, UCC BTI Phase 2, eAEO Specific Trader Portal, Customs Decision Iteration 2, REX2, REX Specific Trader Portal (REX3).

The new form of IT collaboration created in 2018 by the ETCIT expert team was given continuity by creating its successor (ETCIT 2) in 2019, whose results will be presented in 2020. These expert teams follow the Council 'Conclusions on the way forward to developing Customs IT systems' (November 2017), as the Council invited the Commission and the Member States to explore new approaches to develop and operate future Customs IT systems. IT collaboration should reduce the costs for deploying EU wide customs IT systems, both at EU and national level while responding more agile to European customs union policy needs.

2. Enhancing the traditional collaboration between customs officials to ensure high standards of administrative capacity. For the next two years of the programme, TAXUD envisages a similar rhythm of **joint actions** as in the previous years, for all type of actions (project groups, seminars, workshops, working visits, monitoring visits, and capacity building). In addition, we plan to strengthen further the operational cooperation through the continued use of expert teams, which will be pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains. Year 2020 will be key for extend the scope of the biggest Customs expert team, the CELBET 3 planned for three years and involving more than 100 customs officers. They will continue working on the key achievements like the border crossing points (BCP) analysis, methodology on the checks, risk analysis and control equipment but at the same time launching a study on the future perspective how to improve the customs collaboration on the land borders' as well. Moreover, the study will examine the possibility how to turn CELBET into a permanent structure helping the customs domain cooperating with OLAF and FRONTEX. The experience gained so far in CELBET, shows the influential role of the expert team as an instrument for supporting decision-makers. Besides the important project of the Easter and South-Eastern Land borders, there will be a continuation of the Customs Laboratories expert team foreseen in 2021.

3. Reinforcing the capacity of customs administrations and development of new skills of their staff by steering the implementation of the human competency framework for customs administrations, in line with the strategic requirements and goals as set out in a common multi-annual customs and tax training and staff development Action Plan (2017 – 2020) that provides the necessary policy back-up and national engagement for common EU training & staff development measures until 2020. Key projects in 2019/2020 are the development of an EU customs and tax online learning environment (EU LMS), widest possible EU eLearning support for the full implementation of the UCC related IT systems, introduction of innovative training delivery methods (e.g. EU Training webinars, nano-learnings, eBooks etc.) as a structured concept and continuous support to national customs administrations with the implementation of competency-based staff development/training, e.g. through the development of a staff competency assessment application (EU CAT). In particular the EU LMS and the EU CAT will, once finalised by mid/end 2020, pave the way for enhanced EU cooperation and contribute to establishing a most uniform performance of customs professionals across the EU. The 2019 and 2020 projects contribute further specifically to the implementation of the EU Customs Governance.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The proposal for the future Customs programme is included in the 2021-2027 MFF Heading 1 'Single Market, Innovation and Digital' as an independent programme in view of its specificities, under the name 'Cooperation in the field of Customs'. The proposed programme, which is the successor programme of Customs 2020, will support cooperation in the field of customs. The programme will support customs in safeguarding the financial interests of the Union and of the Member States and, in their role as guardians of the external EU border for goods, also protect the public against terrorist, health, environmental and other threats. The programme will support also the implementation of the Union Customs Code aiming to end paper-based procedures and to digitalise the interactions between trade and customs, as well as to reinforce risk management with a view to advance cargo

⁽⁹⁾ Both evaluations are conducted in accordance with Art. 18.1 of Regulation 1294/2013

information. The implementation of all these aspects can only be achieved through intense operational cooperation between customs administrations of the Member States, between them and other authorities, with trade and other third parties.

Customs cooperation and capacity building will be clustered around human networking and competency building actions, on the one hand, and information technology (IT) capacity building actions on the other hand. The first cluster will streamline the exchange of good practices and operational knowledge amongst the Member States and other countries participating in the programme, with a specific focus on project-based structured collaboration allowing for deep and integrated forms of cooperation between participating countries. The second cluster enables the programme to fund a complete set of IT infrastructure and systems, including the digitalisation of interactions between trade and customs as well as a reinforced risk management that will allow Union customs administrations becoming fully-fledged e-administrations.

Negotiations between the two co-legislators (Council and European Parliament) regarding the adoption of the programme made very good progress in 2019 and are expected to come to a successful end in 2020. This will allow to start implementing the new Customs programme as envisaged as of January 2021.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing an action programme for customs in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (Customs 2020) and repealing Decision No 624/2007/EC	2014 – 2020	522,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,7
Operational appropriations	66,3	68,8	71,7	89,2	82,3	78,3	75,2	531,8
Total	66,4	68,9	71,8	89,3	82,4	78,4	75,3	532,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	78,386	100,00 %	79,577	99,97 %	75,264	35,39 %	75,300	37,41 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	85,574	98,03 %	86,685	95,49 %	77,670	36,46 %	79,933	35,29 %

(*) 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 data collected in the performance measurement of the programme from 2014 (first year of implementation) until 2018 (latest complete measurement of performance indicators), together with the results of the Mid-Term Evaluation show that Customs 2020 is on course to fulfilling its objectives and that it plays an important role in facilitating the implementation and development of Union customs policy. The programme has been effective in providing solutions for problems with a clear EU dimension. This is anchored in its role as facilitator of cooperation between participating countries, including their national administrations and economic operators. Many of the joint actions were directly supporting implementation of a policy or a plan. By providing mechanisms for discussions, exchange of information, networking between participating countries, Customs European Information Systems and common training, the programme ensures a harmonised approach to the implementation of customs legislation, procedures and rules. Efficiency gains and costs savings are among the key elements of EU added value when it comes to the IT systems. They help the national administrations save time and resources, particularly for participating countries with smaller customs administrations and fewer resources. The interoperability and interconnectivity provided through the central systems would be highly impractical and costly to produce through other means. Thanks to the programme, these results have been achieved more effectively and efficiently, saving significant resources for national administrations. The same is true for the common training activities, which provide access to standardised and comprehensive information on the various aspects of the functioning of the Customs Union. The functioning of the customs union and the further integration of the national customs authorities that run it remain entirely dependent on Customs 2020. In view of the rapid changes and challenges ahead the EU customs union, the programme's continuous support is considered essential.

The main conclusions of the Mid-Term Evaluation can be found below:

- **RELEVANCE:** the programme has been highly relevant to meet the needs of the customs administrations, the economic operators, the citizens and ultimately the customs union as a whole. Throughout the years, it has engrained in the national and European customs landscape, policies, processes and procedures, providing interoperable, interconnected and reliant European Information Systems. As the Member States are dependent on each other in pursuing their customs functions well, they need effective and efficient tools for communication, exchange of information and overall cooperation, all of which are the programme's objectives.
- **EFFECTIVENESS:** the programme was effective in the achievement of its objectives and contributing significantly to the good functioning of the customs union and its modernisation. It fostered cooperation and exchange of information, ranging from facilitating convergence at the strategic level to approximating approaches, interpretation of law, administrative procedures, best practice and rules at the operation level. The secured platform for information exchange helped Member States and economic operators to overcome their reluctance of sharing sensitive data and built trust. Further exchanges of best practices and learning were possible thanks to the programme's joint actions. The value of human networks and personal contacts were amongst the programme's most appreciated benefits.
- **EFFICIENCY:** the most resource-intensive component – the European Information Systems – were also the most useful, bringing an array of benefits in all areas of customs activities including harmonisation of customs procedures, uniform implementation of the customs law, sharing of information and generating economies of scale, particularly through the centralised systems. Different benefits stem from the joint actions and training activities, which provide framework for broad and inclusive continuous collaboration, increasing understanding, knowledge and capacity, creating professional bonds and acting as catalysts.
- **EU ADDED VALUE:** the programme's greatest EU added value lies in supporting all the aspects of the implementation of the UCC, which demand EU solutions for EU problems, and close cooperation of the Member States, which need to apply the same rules and assist each other in pursuing the customs union's objectives.
- **COHERENCE:** Customs 2020 has become an integral part of the EU's broader policies and coherent with the EU's goal of creating a modern, paperless environment for customs and trade, while preserving the EU's financial, economic and societal interests and wellbeing. By supporting the implementation of the UCC, the programme contributes to facilitation of trade and reduction of costs for businesses, increasing their productivity and competitiveness.

The numbers of actions, events and participants remained during the period at high levels, demonstrating a strong demand from business owners and national administrations for programme activities. In 2014, a score of 3.2 was achieved on the extent to which programme activities achieved their expected results, on a scale from 0 to 4 (fully). Over the last three years, this value has remained above 3.3, which shows the consolidation in the achievement of results over the course of the programme's implementation (the data for 2019 is still in the process of collection at the time of writing).

Ensuring the business and IT systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programme since disruptions in the operation of the European Information Systems would affect customs national administrations, citizens and businesses across the entire EU, and hamper the functioning of the internal market. The underlying infrastructure (Common Communications Network/Common Systems Interface CCN/CSI) developed, managed and maintained by the Commission was available during the period 2014-2019 more than 99 % of the time during working hours. In particular during 2019, the availability of this platform was 99.47 %, which represents 0.51 percentage points less than in 2018 and slightly below target (99.9 %). The figure of 2019 availability rate reflects planned, agreed unavailability to deploy new CCN releases and new applications on the platform, as per the MASP-C Revision 2019, endorsed by the Customs Policy Group in December 2019. This was well communicated in advance to all stakeholders, including national customs authorities, which did not face any negative impact. All the centralised IT customs applications remained available 96.27 % of the time, which represents a decrease of 3.17 percentage points less than in 2018 and slightly below target (97 %). The decreases in terms of availability were the due to disaster recovery activities (that were not present in 2018) and to increased number of application releases.

The collaboration between customs officials is a key sustainable success factor for the customs policy in Europe. This collaboration improves the understanding and the implementation of the customs law. The feedback from participants in joint actions financed from the Customs programme shows that the collaboration robustness between programme stakeholders (customs national administrations) is progressing in the desired direction. In 2014, more than 95 % of the responding participants declared that the programme provided a good opportunity for them to expand their network of customs officials abroad; similar outcome has been maintained in the following years, well above the target of 90 %. In 2019, the rate has been 96 %, same than in previous years. Additionally, in the same period, the number of respondents who declared that they have been in contact for work purposes with the officials they met during programme activities (lasting networking effect) has reached 70 % in 2019. This result represents a decrease by comparison to 2018 of 3 percentage points, returning to a similar level of baseline but below target (80 %). The figures on network opportunity and lasting networking effect show some fluctuations over the years, but overall the rates are above/close the baseline and there is a progress towards the targets (already achieved in relation to network opportunity). In order to improve the lasting networking effect, work continues on improvements in the area of communication and to facilitate online collaboration and sharing between the participants of programme activities after the events end. In addition, the decrease in the long-lasting network effect rate may be the result of an unclear understanding of the different possibilities to 'be in contact', which more often includes collaborative tools beyond the traditional contacts, such as physical meetings or direct phone calls. Additional explanations have been included in the form requesting feedback from participants, where this information is extracted from.

In relation to training activities, we can observe a very positive trend overall throughout the period. In particular for 2016, there was a high number of releases of training modules dedicated to the Union Customs Code (UCC), which resulted in exceptionally large increases in both the number of officials trained by using common training material of the Union and the number of times Programme eLearning modules were downloaded. Figures in 2017, 2018 and 2019 remained at very high levels in comparison with the baseline. A similar positive use tendency can be expected for 2020, given the EU-wide relevance of the topics on which EU eLearning materials are currently developed, e.g. supporting the UCC-based IT systems roll-out (like the REX system, CDS system, trader portal for AEO and for EBTI and similar). The number of officials trained in 2019 reached more than 37 700, which represents a considerable increase by comparison with previous years. This growth is understood to be a reaction to TAXUD’s large scale ‘technical migration and content updating’ exercise on the full EU eLearning portfolio during the past 1.5 years.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to support the functioning and modernisation of the customs union in order to strengthen the internal market by means of cooperation between participating countries, their customs authorities and their officials

Indicator 1: International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Within the top 30: 15	15		No Member state below the rank 60		No Member state below the rank 60		All Members States within top 50	All Members States within top 50
	Actual results							
	15		15		16			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Between the ranks 31-50: 7	12 (rank 31-60)		No Member state below the rank 60		No Member state below the rank 60		All Members States within top 50	All Members States within top 50
	Actual results							
	9		8		10			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Between the ranks 51-60: 3			No Member State below the rank 60		No Member State below the rank 60		All Members States within top 50	All Members States within top 50
	Actual results							
	3		4		2			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Below the rank 60: 3	1		No Member State below the rank 60		No Member State below the rank 60		All Members States within top 50	All Members States within top 50
	Actual results							
	1		1		0			

Methodology: World Bank own methodology. Timeliness: data published bi-annually.

Narrative: The LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in their performance on trade logistics and what they can do to improve their performance.

Comment: LPI: the composite elements of this indicator are not exclusively related to the performance of the customs administrations. There are equally subjective elements in it, namely the opinions of traders and economic operators. For these reasons, it is difficult to rely solely on this indicator when assessing the impacts of the customs performance and, in particular, of the Customs programme.

Availability of Data: No data available, the LPI is measured once every 2 years

Source: <https://lpi.worldbank.org/>

Unit of measure: Number of countries

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights, to increase safety and security, to protect citizens and the environment, to improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities and to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses

Indicator 1: the feedback from participants in actions under the Programme and users of the Programme index (Collaboration robustness)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Network opportunity: 0 %	96 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %
	Actual results							
	97 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Lasting network effect (at least one contact after the end of the programme activity):	70 %	80 %	80 %	80 %	80 %	80 %	80 %	80 %
	Actual results							
	72 %	73 %	70 %	78 %	73 %	70 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cooperation: Number of face to face meetings: 380	380	380	380	380	380	380	380	380.00
	Actual results							
	265	547	552	448	473	570		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of online groups (taxation and joint groups): 40	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve the annual levels	Improve the annual levels
	Actual results							
	117	124	465	147	186	237		

Methodology:

–EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1.

–Query in ART: total number of meetings, minus virtual meetings. Timeliness: annual query.

–Query in PICS: online groups (total); filter results by programme.

Narrative:

–The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The network opportunity measures whether the programme provided participants with a good opportunity to expand their professional contacts with other customs officials abroad.

–The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The lasting networking effect measures whether the programme contributed to establish contact points with officials in other national customs administrations (at least one contact with an official met during a programme activity after the activity ended).

–The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The number of face-to-face meetings measures the events where customs officials have the chance to meet in person their peers from other countries, thus facilitating cooperation.

–The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The number of online groups measures the extent to which customs officials collaborate beyond physical meetings.

Comment: Data on networking effect can be obtained from the EAF and from the programme’s poll. In order to ensure comparability of results across years and consistency with figures reported in the AAR, the results for 2017 and 2018 have been modified to those obtained from the EAF.

Source:

–Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).

–Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

–Programmes Information and Collaboration Space (PICS). PICS is DG TAXUD’s online collaboration tool for tax and customs professionals working in administrations across Europe.

Unit of measure:

–Degree of networking expressed in percentage terms of positive replies.

–Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme.

–Number of ongoing online collaboration groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS).

Indicator 2: number of guidelines and recommendations issued by MS in their national administrations following activities under the Programme relating to modern and harmonised approaches to customs procedures

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	94 %	Improve the level of 2014	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve the level of 2014	Improve the level of 2014
	Actual results							
	108	151	82	186	66	236		

Methodology: EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; definitive data for year X available in March year X+1.

Narrative: This indicator measures the extent to which participation in a programme’s activity relating to modern and harmonized approaches to customs procedures led national administrations to develop their own guidelines and recommendations.

Comment: The recommendations and guidelines are counted here individually, rather than by the number of documents containing them. Fluctuations in this indicator, however, need to be interpreted carefully, as not every recommendation or guideline is equally important and is dependent on its actual business value. Preliminary measurement for 2019: data used to calculate the 2019 results in this table has been extracted in February 2020 (definitive data only available in March 2020).

Source: Relevant questions on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).

Unit of measure: Recommendations and guidelines are counted individually, rather by the number of documents containing them.

Indicator 3: the Common Communication Network for the European Information Systems								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
99.94 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %
	Actual results							
	99.89 %	99.95 %	99.98 %	99.98 %	99.98 %	99.47 %		

Methodology: Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme’s objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.

Narrative: The Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI), are indispensable for the running of the customs related European Information Systems (EIS). In accordance with the Union Customs Code and the e-Customs Decision, the customs EIS lie at the heart of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods. This indicator provides a measurement of the programme’s results on the effective operation of the CCN/CSI.

Source: IT statistics produced by TAXUD.

Unit of measure: Percentage terms of the availability (time) of the Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI).

Indicator 4: the Union Law and Policy Application and Implementation Index								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of actions under the Programme organised in this area:	67	Improve the level of 2014	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve in the average score	Improve in the average score
	Actual results							
	67	65	123	122	114	132		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of recommendations issued following those actions: 0		Improve the level of 2014	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve in the average score	Improve in the average score
	Actual results							
	312	290	225	267	133			

Methodology:

–Query in ART: total number of actions ongoing for year X; filter by operational objective. Timeliness: annual query.

–Data collection for year X only starts in Feb. X+1; available April X+1.

Narrative: The Union Law and Policy application and implementation index measures the progress in the preparation, application and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy inter alia on the basis of: number of actions under the programme organised in this area and number of recommendations/guidelines issued following those actions. The uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy is the pillar of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods.

Comment: When counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, it should be taken into account that the indicator only counts the actions for which the objective in question was chosen as primary objective. This is done so to avoid counting twice the same action under different objectives. However, it should be noticed that there are many actions having ‘Support the preparation, coherent application and effective implementation of Union law/policy’ as secondary objective that are not counted under this indicator. In addition, when counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, we should consider that, while earlier years had more actions in total, and more actions specifically addressing concrete issues, in the last years many actions were to a greater extent organised in broader projects covering themes rather than specific interventions. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual, as the

actions and processes they cover stretch over more than one year. This may lead to less new initiatives and in a decrease in the total number of actions for a specific year.

The recommendations and guidelines are counted here individually, rather than by the number of documents containing them. Fluctuations in this indicator, however, need to be interpreted carefully, as not every recommendation or guideline is equally important and is dependent on its actual business value.

Source:

–Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

–Relevant question on the Action Follow-up Form (AFF). AFFs are filled online in by action managers via EUSurvey.

Unit of measure:

–Number of actions under the programme organised in this area.

–Number of recommendations/guidelines issued or revised resulting from the Joint Actions measured in the other sub-indicator of this index.

Indicator 5: the European Information System Availability								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems): business hours: 99.11 %	Actual results							97.00 %
	99.00 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems): otherwise: 95.00 %	Actual results							95.00 %
	95.00 %	95.00 %	95.00 %	95.00 %	95.00 %	95.00 %	95.00 %	
	99.00 %	99.00 %	98.00 %	98.70 %	99.44 %	96.27 %		

Methodology: Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme’s objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.

Narrative: In accordance with the Union Customs Code and the e-Customs Decision, the customs European Information Systems (EIS) lie at the heart of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods. This indicator provides a measurement of the availability of specific Union components of the EIS that are in operation, namely centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems).

Source: IT statistics produced by TAXUD.

Unit of measure: Percentage terms of the availability (time) of specific Union components of the European Information Systems during business hours or outside business hours respectively.

Indicator 6: Best Practices and Guideline Index								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of actions under the Programme organised in this area:	84	Improve the level of 2014	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve compared to 2014	Improve compared to 2014
	Actual results							
	85	200	191	92	133	121		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of participants that made use of working practice/administrative procedure/guideline developed/shared with Programme support: 0 %	Actual results							Improve compared to 2014
	88.00 %	Improve the level of 2014	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve compared to 2014	
	50.42 %	81.01 %	68.25 %	75.00 %	81.00 %	82.66 %		

Methodology:

–Query in ART: total number of actions ongoing for year X; filter by operational objective. Timeliness: annual query.

–EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; definitive data for year X available in March year X+1.

Narrative: The Best Practices and Guideline index measures the evolution in the identification, development, sharing and application of best working practices and administrative procedures, inter alia on the basis of: number of actions under the programme organised in this area; percentage of participants that made use of a working practice/guideline developed with the support of the programme. The uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy is the pillar of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods.

Comment: When counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, it should be taken into account that the indicator only counts the actions for which the objective in question was chosen as primary objective. This is done so to avoid counting twice the

same action under different objectives. However, it should be noticed that there are many actions having ‘Identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures’ as secondary objective that are not counted under this indicator. In addition, when counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, we should consider that, while earlier years had more actions in total, and more actions specifically addressing concrete issues, in the last years many actions were to a greater extent organised in broader projects covering themes rather than specific interventions. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual, as the actions and processes they cover stretch over more than one year. This may lead to less new initiatives and in a decrease in the total number of actions for a specific year. The different nature of some of the working practices and guidelines produced to be taken into account when comparing between the years.

Source:

–Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

–Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).

Unit of measure: -Number of actions under the programme organised in this area.

–Percentage of participants that made use of a working practice/administrative procedure/guideline that was developed or shared with the support of the programme.

Indicator 7: Learning Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of officials trained by using common training material of the Union:	4 112	Improve the level of 2014	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve compared to 2014	Improve compared to 2014
	Actual results							
	4 776	3 092	23 685	19 234	17 547	37 796		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of times Programme eLearning modules were downloaded: 0	3 219	Improve the level of 2014	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve	Improve compared to 2014	Improve compared to 2014
	Actual results							
	3 219	3 202	12 920	12 291	12 612	9 978		

Methodology: Timeliness: annual frequency.

Narrative: The Learning index measures the progress resulting from actions under the programme aiming to reinforce skills and competences of customs officials, inter alia on the basis of: number of customs officials trained by using common training material and number of times eLearning customs modules were downloaded. Human capacity building will support the customs authorities to reinforce their capacities in fulfilling their role in the Customs Union.

Comment: We can observe a very positive trend overall though the period. In particular for 2016, there was a high number releases of training modules dedicated to the Union Customs Code, which resulted in exceptional large increases in both the number of officials trained by using common training material of the Union and the number of times Programme eLearning modules were downloaded. Figures in 2017/2018 remain at very high levels in comparison with baseline.

Source:

–Data provided by national administrations and compiled in the eLearning monitoring board.

–Europa.eu website statistics.

Unit of measure:

–Number of customs officials trained by using EU common training material.

–Number of downloads.

Indicator 8: Cooperation with third parties Indicator: Number of actions under the Programme aiming at authorities other than Member States’ customs authorities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	23	Improve the level of 2014	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stable	Improve or stability over programme lifetime	Improve or stability over programme lifetime
	Actual results							
	22	26	39	30	18	24		

Methodology: Query in ART: total number of actions ongoing for year X; filter by operational objective. Timeliness: annual query.

Narrative: The Cooperation with third parties indicator measures the number of actions under the programme aiming at improving cooperation between customs authorities of the EU and international organisations, third countries or other governmental authorities.

Comment: When counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, it should be taken into account that the indicator only counts the actions for which the objective in question was chosen as primary objective. This is done so to avoid counting twice the same action under different objectives. However, it should be noticed that there are many actions having ‘Cooperation with third parties’ as secondary objective that are not counted under this indicator. In addition, we should also take into account that, while earlier years had more actions in total, and more actions specifically addressing concrete issues, in the last years many actions were to a greater extent organised in

broader projects covering themes rather than specific interventions. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual, as the actions and processes they cover stretch over more than one year. This may lead to less new initiatives and in a decrease in the total number of actions for a specific year.

Source: Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

Unit of measure: Number of actions under the programme organised in this area.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of IT Contracts	14 02 01	90	62.3
Number of events organised	14 02 01	500	7.85
Number of training projects	14 02 01	2	1.814
Number of expert teams projects	14 02 01	1	3
Other (including reimbursement of external experts)	14 02 01		0.2
Total			75.164

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of IT Contracts*	F	30	30	60	75	90	90	95
	P	59	62	82	85	80	76	
Number of events organised	F	380	380	500	500	500	500	500
	P	265	547	552	438	468	521	
Number of training contracts	F	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
	P	1	2	2	2	1	2	
Number of expert teams organised	F	0	0	3	1	1	4	1
	P	0	0	3	1	2	3	

4. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Customs Union is a foundation of the European Union and an essential element in the functioning of the single market. The single market can only function properly when there is a common application of common rules at its external borders. To achieve that, the 28 national customs administrations of the EU act as though they were one. These common rules they apply go beyond the Customs Union as such with its common tariff and extend to all aspects of trade policy, such as preferential trade, health and environmental controls, the common agricultural and fisheries policies, the protection of our economic interests by non-tariff instruments and external relations policy measures.

For this reason, one can establish a link between the Customs 2020 programme’s activities and several Sustainable Development Goals, such as Goal 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all) and Goal 15 (Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss).

Example: Export and external demand are among the main sources of growth in the EU. Therefore, the fast release of goods upon entry and the facilitation of the use of simplifications and special procedures are key to fostering trade and increasing competitiveness. In October 2019, TAXUD launched the EU Customs Trader Portal, an electronic single point-of-access to a number of EU customs systems. In a first stage, the portal will be used for Binding Tariff Information (eBTI) and for Authorised Economic Operator status (eAEO) applications. The portal serves as a single point of contact for applications by the economic operators, additional information requests by the customs authority and replies from economic operators, and the subsequent management of the applications and decisions. As of 1 October, these applications have been made electronically and can no longer be introduced on paper. This will reduce the administrative burden as regards the granting of the authorisation, and will considerably speed up the process.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

See above, reference to Sustainable Development Goal 15.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Action programme for taxation in the European Union (Fiscalis 2020)****Lead DG: TAXUD****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

Fiscalis 2020 is an EU cooperation programme enabling national tax administrations to create and exchange information and expertise. It allows developing and operating major trans-European IT systems in partnership, as well as establishing various person to person networks by bringing together national officials from across Europe.

It focuses on improving the proper functioning of the taxation systems in the internal market by enhancing cooperation between participating countries, their tax authorities and their officials. This includes the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning, and the implementation of Union law in the field of taxation, by ensuring exchange of information, supporting administrative cooperation and, where necessary and appropriate, enhancing the administrative capacity of participating countries with a view to assisting in reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities and the compliance costs for taxpayers.

The vast majority of the programme funding (approx. 80 %) is devoted to the implementation, improvement, operation and support to the European Information Systems (EIS) for taxation. The remaining part is used for funding the organisation of joint actions, the cooperation and collaboration side (around 15 %) and the training activities (around 5 %).

The core outcomes of the Fiscalis 2020 programme are the European Information Systems (EIS), which allow the electronic exchange of tax-related information between Member States. Ensuring the business and IT systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programme since disruptions in the operation of the European Tax IT systems would affect national administrations, citizens and businesses across the entire EU and hamper the functioning of the internal market.

EU added value of the programme

Without intense cooperation and coordination between Member States, unfair tax competition and tax shopping would increase, while fraudsters would exploit the lack of cooperation between national authorities. The added value of the Fiscalis programme, including for the protection of the financial interests of Member States of the Union and of taxpayers, has been recognised by the tax administrations of the participating countries. The challenges identified such as tax fraud cannot be tackled if Member States do not look beyond the borders of their administrative territories or cooperate intensively with their counterparts. The Fiscalis programme, implemented by the Commission in cooperation with the participating countries, offers Member States a Union framework to develop activities through cooperation amongst national tax officials, on the one hand, and IT cooperation, on the other hand. This set-up is more cost-effective than if each Member State were to set up individual cooperation frameworks on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

In particular, the Fiscalis programme supports the highly secured dedicated communication network allowing the exchange of information in the framework of fight against fraud, both for direct and indirect taxation. The programme as such interconnects national tax administrations in approximately 5000 connection points⁽¹⁾. This common IT network ensures that every national administration only needs to connect once to this common infrastructure to be able to exchange any kind of information. If such an infrastructure were not available Member States would have to link 28 times to the national systems of each of the other Member States.

According to the conclusions of the Mid-term evaluation of Fiscalis, the programme has been effective in providing solutions for problems with a clear EU dimension. In particular, the programme adds value by providing a forum for discussion, exchange of experiences and networking between Member States that would not be possible without Commission support. Fiscalis also supports the creation of a framework for the exchange of information through a variety of IT systems and activities. These lead to both tangible and intangible benefits of scale and coordination. The clear EU component, and the fact that the same results would be difficult or impossible to achieve without the programme to support them, in particular in terms of necessary maintenance of European Information Systems (EIS), also leads the evaluation to conclude that continued support through funding of the programme is relevant and advantageous from the perspective of EU added value.

Implementation mode

The Fiscalis programme is implemented under direct management, through:

- Procurement contracts: for the European Information Systems expenditure, training activities and studies.
- Grant agreements with the participating countries: for joint actions and expert teams.

II. Programme Implementation Update

⁽¹⁾ Customs and taxation connection points taken together.

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The data collected in the performance measurement of the programme (see Section III) show that Fiscalis 2020 is on course to fulfilling its objectives and progressing towards achieving the expected results of the projects planned in the Annual Work Programmes.

During the last four years, the number of IT systems (and their availability), the number of events and participants remained at high levels. The high quantity of deliverables under the programme is the result of a high demand from stakeholders. This aspect has been confirmed by the conclusions of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the programme, which has highlighted a general agreement among the stakeholders consulted that the programme is needed to facilitate secure and rapid exchanges of information, cooperation between tax administrations and enhancement of administrative capacity.

Key achievements**Fight against fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning and administrative cooperation.**

At EU level, the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning is materialised by setting-up IT systems and other mechanisms of cooperation such as joint audits. The European Information Systems (EIS) allow tax administrations to exchange information by secure electronic means. The information exchange is enabled by a closed and secure Common Communication Network/Common Systems Interface (CCN/CSI) – one of the main outcomes of the programme. This platform has performed, since the launch of the programme, with high availability and reliability. The CCN/CSI network registered over 6 902 million messages exchanged during the period January 2019 – December 2019, compared to 5 790 million messages exchanged during 2018. This represents a 19.2 % growth of number of messages. In terms of traffic, the CCN Network registered around 32.23 TB during the period January 2019 – December 2019, compared to around 29.08 TB during 2018. This represents an increase of 10.8 % of traffic volume. The European Information Systems supported by Fiscalis 2020 interconnect tax authorities and thus facilitate the coexistence of different national taxation systems in the Union. At the end of 2019, there were a total of 27 European Information Systems and related applications in operation for taxation. In the observed period, they allowed information to be exchanged rapidly and in a common format that can be recognized by all Member States. The high volume of information channelled via CCN/CSI and the other tax related IT systems (e.g. VAT Information Exchange System-VIES, Excise Movement Control System-EMCS) shows that the programme is a solid and robust enabler for the information exchange amongst tax (and customs) authorities.

In the area of direct taxation, the programme funded different activities to support the automatic exchanges of information under the Council Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (DAC1) and its subsequent revisions (²). The last of these revisions (DAC6, transposition deadline was 31/12/2019 (³)) provides for reporting of potentially aggressive cross-border tax planning schemes. The implementation of DAC2 and the technical developments were supported under the programmes in since 2016 to 2018 by an expert team.

The tax officials exchange views and best practices to fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning in the joint actions organised under the programme. For example, the Tax Administration EU Summit of the Heads of Tax Administration (TADEUS) took place in September 2019, Helsinki. As a result of this summit, the Heads of Tax Administration endorsed the findings of the 'Digital and data' project – about possible tax reporting requirements for the sharing and gig economy.

Accelerated exchange of information between VAT anti-fraud units continued to be supported via Eurofisc (⁴). The programme also finances multilateral controls actions (MLC), coordinated controls of the tax liability of one or more related taxable persons, organised by two or more Member States with common or complementary interests. Approximately EUR 3,26 billion of tax amount due was identified through multilateral controls under Fiscalis 2013. This amount is very significant compared with the programme investment (EUR 2,41 million actually spent on MLCs under Fiscalis 2013). From 75 multilateral controls actions (MLC) registered during the first year of the programme, we have reached 180 MLCs in 2019. Activities under the programme were also organised to secure an effective methodological, financial and organisational set-up for the presences in the administrative offices and participation in administrative enquiries (PAOE): in 2019, 25 of such activities were registered.

Enhanced administrative capacity

- ⁽²⁾ In 2014, first automatic exchanges of information took place on non-financial items (e.g. income for employment) took place under the Council Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (DAC1). The second revision of the Directive (DAC2) provided for the automatic exchange of tax information on financial items as of 2016; Fiscalis financed in 2014 and 2015 the definition of the tool. Taking into account the international context around this initiative (namely, the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act – FATCA and the OECD global standard), the developments registered under the programme in this area had a strong international resonance. The third revision of the directive (DAC3, transposition deadline 31/12/2016) provided for the automatic exchange of information on tax rulings and advance pricing arrangement. The fourth revision (DAC4, transposition deadline 4/6/2017) provided for country-by-country reporting, while the fifth revision (DAC5, transposition deadline 31/12/2017) for access to mechanisms, procedures, documents and information as regards beneficial ownership.
- ⁽³⁾ Council Directive (EU) 2018/822 of 25 May 2018 amending Directive 2011/16/EU as regards mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Network for the swift exchange of targeted information between Member States to enhance multilateral administrative cooperation in combating organised VAT fraud and especially VAT carousel fraud. Eurofisc legal base is under Chapter X of Council Regulation EU No.904/2010 on administrative cooperation and combating fraud in the field of VAT.

The use of IT systems, such as the CCN/CSI platform, EMCS, VAT Refund, SEED-on-Europa, VIES-on-the-web and e-forms builds towards the development of an e-administration. They limit the resource-extensive paper-based procedures. For example, due to VIES-on-the-web, economic operators no longer have to use the intermediary national administration to validate the VAT numbers of their trading partners, directly reducing the lead-time and the administrative burden and compliance costs for traders and national administrations.

Furthermore, the Mini One Stop Shop (MOSS) system contributes to reducing the administrative burden on tax administrations and compliance costs for those taxpayers active in the telecommunications, broadcasting and electronic services and established within the Union, as it allows fulfilling their VAT obligations in a single place of compliance instead of in each country of the economic activity. MOSS was extended during 2019 because of the new measures needed to simplify VAT rules for sales of goods online. As a result, the portal will allow companies that sell goods online to their customers to deal with their VAT obligations in the EU through one easy-to-use online portal in their own Member State and their own language. Without MOSS, VAT registration would be required in each Member State into which they want to sell – a situation cited by companies as one of the biggest barriers for small businesses trading cross-border. The statistics of MOSS, covering the period from 2015 to 2018 ⁽⁵⁾, show a positive result in terms of VAT collection for all EU countries. Overall, the VAT revenues collected under MOSS show a constant growth from € 3 billion in 2015 to more than € 4.5 billion in 2018. In 2018, the VAT collected even increased by more than 20 % compared to 2017 figures. The number of traders using the MOSS to declare and remit cross-border VAT has also shown a moderate increase in this period. An intermediary evaluation of the MOSS system showed that the use of MOSS can reduce the administrative burden for businesses by up to 95 %.

During 2019, four expert teams were operational in the taxation area. The Managed IT Collaboration (MANITC III) till September and its successor (MANITC IV) from October 2019 continued to promote, support and coordinate Member States collaborative initiatives in IT area. Two expert teams started to develop IT applications amongst Member States in parallel: the expert team for Excise Duty Calculator (EDC), and the expert team for Mobile Application on Excise Movement and Control System (m-EMCS). The objective of the m-EMCS is to build a mobile app for helping the Member States to check the duty-suspended excise goods (tobacco, petrol, alcohol, etc.) during road controls. The EDC objective is to create an Excise Duty Calculator at EU level to help the citizens, traders and administrations to calculate the excise duty in each individual Member State. The tool is using data from the Taxes on Europa Database, managed by the Commission. Finally, the Transaction Network Analysis expert team (TNA) was created to group Member States' resources to assist the Commission in the development of the Transaction Network Analysis software, a custom built tool to facilitate information exchange and data analysis within the Eurofisc network, in order to enhance Eurofisc capability to use VIES and Eurofisc data to build networks around known risky traders and detect fraudsters.

Training and human competency building

Fiscalis 2020 continued to support throughout 2018/2019 a coherent implementation and application of tax policies (VAT competency/tax compliance building). This happened specifically through the realisation of a major technical up-grading and content-updating project of the EU VAT eLearning programme in 2018 (composed of 12 VAT process-specific eLearning modules in 17 EU languages, a total of 204 modules) that makes this EU competency building training material fit for use by the national public and private sector across the EU for the years to come. By end 2019, this full EU eLearning portfolio was reproduced in a content-updated and technically innovated format (also allowing for use on mobile devices). In 2018 an EU-wide survey on Human Capacity Building Maturity in national tax administrations was performed and resulted by end 2019 in the availability of the first common EU TAX Competency Framework (TaxCompEU), that provides national tax administrations with a common reference standard for optimal staff performance, based on identified common tax values, operational tax competencies, professional and management competencies and tax career paths. Implementation in national tax administrations' HR structures will be further accompanied and supported as of 2020.

Evaluation/studies conducted

In the framework of the Commission Action Plan of April 2016 'Towards a single EU VAT area', the studies under Fiscalis 2020 mainly focus on VAT and cross-border issues such as studies on VAT aspects of cross-border e-commerce, the provision of effective tax rates and the measurement of aggressive tax planning. Two important evaluations have been adopted by the College in 2017: Evaluation of VAT administrative cooperation and fight against fraud (Nov-2017) and Evaluation of Directive 2011/16/EU on the administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (Dec-2017).

In the area of excise duties, TAXUD has conducted different studies. For instance, in 2018, TAXUD conducted an evaluation of the administrative cooperation tools under Regulation 904/2010 and supported the legal initiative proposing new means of cooperation in the field of e-commerce. The evaluation examined to which extent Regulation (EU) 904/2010 met the overall objectives of contributing to a closer cooperation between Member States, of avoiding budget losses, of fighting VAT fraud and of preserving the principles of fair taxation, when considering e-commerce.

In September 2019, the Commission published the evaluation of the Energy Taxation Directive (ETD), which lays down rules for the taxation of energy products used as motor or heating fuels and for electricity. Clearly, EU rules on energy taxation no longer deliver the same positive contribution as when they first came into force in 2003 since technology, national tax rates and energy

⁽⁵⁾ Last available data for MOSS: 2018 year. There is no legal obligation for Member States to provide these statistics. Figures for 2018 were published in Sept-2019.

markets have all evolved considerably over the past 15 years. The evaluation points out that the high divergence in national energy tax rates is not in line with other policy instruments and can lead to fragmentation of the internal market, a problem exacerbated by the widespread use of optional tax exemptions.

In addition to technical studies and evaluations, the mid-term evaluation of Fiscalis 2020 was launched in 2017 (finalised in 2018) and the final evaluation of the programme is planned for 2020 ⁽⁶⁾. The key findings of the latest evaluation ([SWD\(2019\)59 final](#)) have been presented in the Programme Statement DB2020.

The studies and evaluations financed under the programme Fiscalis 2020 can be found on the TAXUD EUROPA website: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/calls-tenders-grants-calls-expression-interest_en and on the EU Bookshop on <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/> (author: Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union).

Forthcoming implementation

In the coming years, emphasis will continue to be put on further improving the administrative capacity of Member States, be it through IT capacity building, traditional and innovative forms of cooperation or human competency building initiatives. The capacity of tax administrations is indeed instrumental to ensure they run efficiently their tax systems within the internal market and to address cross-border tax fraud and evasion. In the medium-term, the implementation of the following programme's main outcomes will be pursued to achieve the EU tax policy objectives:

Ensuring business continuity of existing European IT systems and development of new ones. In the field of Indirect Taxation, the major activities will consist in implementing the e-commerce package by 1st January 2021, following the possible adoption of the CESOP (Central Electronic System Of Payment data exchange) proposal in the area of VAT administrative cooperation, and proceed with its implementation. The implementation of the legislative package will require the Commission collaboration with both Member States' and payment service providers (PSPs) experts to cover both the collection and transmission of data from PSPs and the development of CESOP for the storage and processing of the data. The programme will support this process by the creation of a new expert team during 2020, which will last 24 months.

The proposal for a definitive VAT regime may also lead to IT implementation. In the field of Excise, the activities will concern mainly the implementation of Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS) Phase 3.4 and B2B duty paid changes. Different forms of IT collaboration, such as expert teams or project groups in the area of IT systems, will be put in place, increasing the number of shared IT activities and reusable components among Member States. This approach should reduce the costs for deploying EU wide tax IT systems, both at EU and national level while responding in a more agile way to EU tax policy needs.

Under the programme, activities are put in place to further strengthen the operational cooperation through the use of expert teams, allowing for pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains, mainly for the European Information Systems. In the years 2020 and 2021, TAXUD will continue to provide support to the ongoing expert teams with an additional new expert team on Central Electronic System of Payment Information (CESOP) to fight VAT fraud in cross-border e-commerce, and highlighted collaboration opportunities for Member States. Also in the area of VAT, the TNA expert team is expected to continue its work in a second phase (TNA 2) turn to more practical exercises using the Transaction Network Analysis software in the daily work of the tax administrations.

Enhancing the traditional collaboration between tax officials to ensure high standards of administrative capacity. Effective and efficient tax administrations are key for collecting the taxes due. Tax administrations should be solid in terms of structural mechanisms and all should be brought on the same level playing field to ensure a smooth cooperation and the co-existence of diverse tax systems in the internal market. To support tax administrations, TAXUD will continue to work on the newly established strategic dialogue and cooperation among the Heads of tax administrations (TADEUS –Tax Administration European Union Summit). Different actions are foreseen to support TADEUS in the coming years, mainly plenary meetings (High-Level Summit, one per year), deputy meetings (approx. three per year), and additional meetings at technical level (working groups) in specific domains.

In relation to training and human competency building, the continuous implementation of an established common multi-annual customs & tax training and staff development Action Plan (2017 – 2020) will until 2020 provide the necessary policy back-up and national engagement for common EU training & staff development measures in the field of taxation for the years to come. It will allow for a most impactful EU Training support, such as through the EU tax eLearning initiative and EU tax training delivery in the form of innovative formats like tax training webinars and/or structured EU-wide delivery of nano-learnings and similar. The establishment of a first EU Tax Competency Framework (TaxCompEU) by end 2019 (in all EU languages) will as of 2020 further contribute specifically to the Administrative Capacity building initiative for taxation. National tax administrations will be further supported in the national implementation of the TaxCompEU through the 2019 launched development of a staff competency assessment application (EU CAT), once finalised by Q2/2020.

⁽⁶⁾ Both evaluations are conducted in accordance with Ar. 18.1 of Regulation 1286/2013.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The proposal for the future Fiscalis programme is included in the 2021-2027 MFF Heading 1 ‘Single Market, Innovation and Digital’ as an independent programme in view of its specificities, under the name ‘Cooperation in the field of taxation’. The new programme is the continuation of the existing Fiscalis 2020 programme and its predecessors, which have proven their added value.

The proposal comprises tools and budget to support tax policy and tax authorities through administrative capacity building activities (including human competency and the development and operation of the European electronic taxation systems) and operational cooperation (including exchange of tax information, knowledge and experience as well as joint actions). Fiscalis helps address the challenges the Member States’ tax authorities are facing as regards insufficient capacity and cooperation both within the EU and with third countries that often prevent them from carrying out effectively and efficiently their missions. The programme can help in providing quick and joint responses to emerging problems such as tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance, digitalisation and new business models, while at the same time preventing unnecessary administrative burden.

Negotiations between the co-legislators (Council and European Parliament) regarding the adoption of the programme made excellent progress in 2019 and there is already a partial agreement reached. The final adoption of the programme, which will allow its implementation as envisaged as of January 2021, depends on reaching an agreement on the overall MFF specifying the reference amounts for the EU funding (Fiscalis included).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1286/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing an action programme to improve the operation of taxation systems in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (Fiscalis 2020) and repealing Decision No 1482/2007/EC	2014 – 2020	223,4

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,7
Operational appropriations	30,8	31,0	31,4	31,8	32,4	32,6	33,0	223,0
Total	30,9	31,1	31,5	31,9	32,5	32,7	33,1	223,7

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	32,670	100,00 %	30,803	99,90 %	33,093	40,97 %	27,500	28,52 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	35,296	98,34 %	33,127	95,66 %	33,763	41,89 %	29,022	27,21 %

(*) 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 data collected in the performance measurement of the programme from 2014 (first year of the programme’s implementation) until 2018 (latest complete measurement of performance indicators), together with the results of the Mid-Term Evaluation, shows that the Fiscalis 2020 programme progressed towards obtaining its objectives and towards achieving the expected results of the projects planned in the Annual Work Programmes for this period. The results measured within the programme’s performance measurement framework in the last five years indicate that the overall implementation of the programme is on track, without delays. The programme is a successful and firmly established programme that regularly takes stock of its performance and improves over time. It provides invaluable support to national tax administrations and economic operators, in turn supporting the fight against tax evasion, tax fraud and aggressive tax planning.

Fiscalis 2020 generates benefits over and above what would have resulted from interventions at local, regional or national level, especially in terms of contributions to policy objectives and reduced administrative costs and burdens, complementing the activities and policies of the Member States and making achievements that are sustainable. By supporting, in the service of EU law and policy, fora for all kinds of exchange between administrations, the programme identifies potential solutions for problems with a clear EU dimension. These lead to benefits from economies of scale and improving coordination that would be difficult or impossible to achieve without the programme. The benefits were also found to be long-lasting, though to a large extent dependent on future funding, especially regarding maintenance of the IT systems that administrations rely on every day.

The main conclusions of the Mid-Term Evaluation can be found below:

- **RELEVANCE:** the evaluators identified clear needs for secure and rapid exchanges of information, cooperation between tax administrations and enhancement of administrative capacity. These needs stem from the growing scope of EU law and initiatives, cross-border nature of problems and persistent need for convergence between countries. There has been universal agreement among the stakeholders consulted that the programme is needed to facilitate this exchange and cooperation, and that ambitious EU policies would not be possible without such support. Thus, the programme's role in fostering convergence of approaches, administrative procedures and rules is highly relevant.
- **EFFECTIVENESS:** the programme has been effective in reinforcing cooperation between tax authorities in the EU Member States and other participating countries. The programme has provided the framework and technological means necessary to work together and share information in the service of implementing EU tax law and fighting tax evasion, fraud and aggressive tax planning in an increasingly mobile Europe. Evidence of this was most compelling in the field of indirect taxation (particularly VAT and excise) where the EU competence is strongest, and the level of programme activity is correspondingly high.
- **EFFICIENCY:** the programme's overall structure and processes for taking decisions and setting priorities are time-tested and broadly appropriate in the eyes of stakeholders both in the European Commission and in participating countries' administrations. While the programme's benefits cannot be monetised, holding up the findings on effectiveness alongside spending data and the positive findings on operational efficiency makes a strong case that the programme overall is cost effective. The joint actions, IT systems and training activities clearly generate value for the EU and national tax administrations, by helping them to pool resources (and thereby generate economies of scale), increase revenue collection and compliance and function more effectively.
- **EU ADDED VALUE:** the programme has been effective in providing solutions for problems with a clear EU dimension. In particular, the programme adds value by providing a forum for discussion, exchange of experiences and networking between Member States that would not be possible without Commission support. Fiscalis 2020 also supported the creation of a framework for the exchange of information through a variety of IT systems and activities. These lead to both tangible and intangible benefits of scale and coordination. The clear EU component, and the fact that the same results would be difficult or impossible to achieve without the programme to support them, in particular in terms of necessary maintenance of the IT tax systems, also leads the evaluation to conclude that continued support through funding of the programme is relevant and advantageous.

The numbers of actions, events and participants remained during the period at high levels (the total number of events increased from 536 in 2018 to 551 in 2019), demonstrating a strong demand from business owners and national administrations for programme activities. In 2014, a score of 3,13 was achieved on the extent to which programme activities achieved their expected results across the programme, on a scale from 0 to 4 (fully). Over the last three years, this value has increased constantly, reaching 3.56 in 2018. The data on the achievement of results for 2019 is still in the process of collection at the time of writing.

The core outcomes of the Fiscalis 2020 programme are the European Information Systems (EIS), which allow the electronic exchange of tax-related information between Member States. Ensuring the business and IT systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programme since disruptions in the operation of the EIS would affect national administrations, citizens and businesses across the entire EU and hamper the functioning of the internal market. All the centralised IT tax systems – developed, managed and maintained by the Commission – were available in the 2014-2019 period as scheduled, with more than 99 % of the time meeting the expected targets. The underlying infrastructure (CCN/CSI) had an availability of 99.47 % during 2019, which represents 0.51 percentage points less than in 2018 and slightly below target (99.9 %). The figure of 2019 availability rate reflects planned, agreed unavailabilities to deploy new CCN releases and new applications on the platform, as per the MASP-C Revision 2019, endorsed by the Customs Policy Group in December 2019. This was well communicated in advance to all stakeholders, including national customs authorities, which did not face any negative impact.

The feedback from participants in joint actions collected under the Performance Measurement Framework of the programme shows that the collaboration robustness between programme stakeholders is overall progressing in the desired direction. Over the last three years, an average of 96 % of the responding participants declared that the programme provided them with a good opportunity to expand their network of (and contacts with) officials abroad. These results are well above the target (90 %). Additionally, in the same period, the number of respondents who declared that they have been in contact for work purposes with the officials they met during programme activities (lasting networking effect) has reached 67 % in 2019. This value shows an improvement from 2018 result (62 %), returning to a similar level of baseline but still below target (80 %). It has to be highlighted that the figures on network opportunity and lasting networking effect show some fluctuations over the years, but overall the rates are above/close the baseline and there is a progress towards the targets (already achieved in relation to network opportunity). In order to improve the lasting networking effect, work continues on improvements in the area of communication and to facilitate online collaboration and sharing between the participants of programme activities after the events end. In addition, the decrease in the long-lasting network effect rate may be the result of an unclear understanding of the different possibilities to 'be in contact', which more often includes collaborative tools beyond the traditional contacts (such as physical meetings or direct phone calls). Additional explanations have been included in the form requesting feedback from participants where this information is extracted from.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to improve the proper functioning of the taxation systems in the internal market by enhancing cooperation between participating countries, their tax authorities and their officials

Indicator 1: ease of paying taxes								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
MS within the top 50: 10	13	Improve the ranking of individual Member States	No member State below the rank of 120	No member State below the rank of 121	No member State below the rank of 122	No member State below the rank of 123	All Member States within the top 100, those Member States which are already in top 100 in 2010 move to the top 50	All Member States within the top 100, those Member States which are already in top 100 in 2010 move to the top 50
	Actual results							
	11	14	20	17	19	18		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
MS between the ranks 51-100: 10	13	Improve the ranking of individual Member States	No member State below the rank of 120	No member State below the rank of 121	No member State below the rank of 122	No member State below the rank of 123	Those Member States which are already in top 100 in 2010 move to the top 50	Those Member States which are already in top 100 in 2010 move to the top 50
	Actual results							
	12	12	7	10	8	9		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
MS between the ranks 101-120: 2	1	Improve the ranking of individual Member States	No member State below the rank of 120	No member State below the rank of 121	No member State below the rank of 122	No member State below the rank of 123	All Member States within the top 100	All Member States within the top 100
	Actual results							
	2			1	1			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
MS below 120: 5	1	Improve the ranking of individual Member States	No member State below the rank of 120	No member State below the rank of 121	No member State below the rank of 122	No member State below the rank of 123	0	0
	Actual results							
	2	2	1			1		

Methodology: This indicator is a composite indicator which is developed by the World Bank Group, IFC and PwC (own methodology). The indicator is usually calculated for countries worldwide in a manner which facilitates international comparison.

Narrative: This indicator measures the time necessary to prepare and pay taxes for the tax payer. A decrease in the time taken to prepare and pay taxes would show a reduction in compliance costs for tax payers.

Comment: This indicator measures the time necessary to prepare and pay taxes for the tax payer. A decrease in the time taken to prepare and pay taxes would show a reduction in compliance costs for tax payers, which does not solely relate to the performance of the tax administrations. For these reasons, it is difficult to rely solely on this indicator when assessing the impacts of the Fiscalis programme.

Source: <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/services/tax/publications/paying-taxes-2020/overall-ranking-and-data-tables.html>

Unit of measure: Number of countries

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to support the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning and the implementation of Union law in the field of taxation by ensuring exchange of information, by supporting administrative cooperation and, where necessary and appropriate, by enhancing the administrative capacity of participating countries with a view to assisting in reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities and the compliance costs for taxpayers

Indicator 1: the Common Communication Network for the European Information Systems								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
99.94 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %	99.90 %
	Actual results							
	99.89 %	99.95 %	99.98 %	99.98 %	99.98 %	99.47 %		

Methodology: Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme’s objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.

Narrative: The Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI), are indispensable for the running of the customs related European Information Systems (EIS). In accordance with the Union Customs Code and the e-Customs Decision, the customs EIS lie at the heart of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods. This indicator provides a measurement of the programme’s results on the effective operation of the CCN/CSI.

Source: IT statistics produced by TAXUD.

Unit of measure: Percentage terms of the availability (time) of the Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI).

Indicator 2: the feedback from participating countries on the results of actions under the programme (collaboration robustness)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Network opportunity: 0.00 %	95.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %	90.00 %
	Actual results							
	95.15 %	96.66 %	97.00 %	97.00 %	95.00 %	96.00 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Lasting network effect (at least one contact after the end of the programme activity):	68.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	80.00 %
	Actual results							
	68.00 %	72.61 %	69.00 %	75.00 %	62.00 %	67.00 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cooperation: Number of face to face meetings: 295	295	295	500	500	500	500	500	500
	Actual results							
	247	632	586	563	556	590		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of online groups (taxation and joint groups): 30	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Grow or stable	Increase the annual levels	Increase the annual levels
	Actual results							
	109	126	174	152	177	227		

Methodology: Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):

a) EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1.

b) EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1.

c) Query in ART: total number of meetings, minus virtual meetings. Timeliness: annual query.

d) Query in PICS: online groups (total); filter results by programme.

Narrative: Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):

a) The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The lasting networking effect measures whether the programme contributed to establish contact points with officials in other national customs administrations (at least one contact with an official met during a programme activity after the activity ended).

b) The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The lasting networking effect measures whether the

programme contributed to establish contact points with officials in other national customs administrations (at least one contact with an official met during a programme activity after the activity ended).

c) The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The number of face-to-face meetings measures the events where customs officials have the chance to meet in person their peers from other countries, thus facilitating cooperation.

d) The Collaboration Robustness index measures the collaboration generated by the programme, in terms of events where MSs meet and speak for exchanging experiences and best practices, for joint problem solving or for identifying new ways of working and future actions. Working as one, instead as 28 different administrations, is one of the basis of the Customs Union. The number of online groups measures the extent to which customs officials collaborates beyond physical meetings.

Comment: Data on networking effect can be obtained from the EAF and from the programme’s poll. In order to ensure comparability of results across years and consistency with figures reported in the AAR, the results for 2017 and 2018 have been modified to those obtained from the EAF.

Source: Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):

a) Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).

b) Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).

c) Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.

d) Programmes Information and Collaboration Space (PICS). PICS is DG TAXUD’s online collaboration tool for tax and customs professionals working in administrations across Europe.

Unit of measure: Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):

a) Degree of networking expressed in percentage terms of positive replies.

b) Degree of networking expressed in percentage terms of positive replies.

c) Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme.

d) Number of ongoing online collaboration groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of IT contracts	14 03 01	45	23.09
Number of events organised	14 03 01	500	6.3
Number of training contracts	14 03 01	1	1.483
Number of expert teams projects	14 03 01	2	2.07
Other	14 03 01		0.05
Total			32.993

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of IT contracts	F	20	20	40	45	45	45	50
	P	42	41	53	29	43	30	
Number of events organised	F	295	295	500	500	500	500	500
	P	247	632	586	554	536	551	
Number of training projects	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	1	2	2	3	1	2	
Number of expert teams projects	F	0	0	2	1	5	1	2
	P	0	0	2	2	4	2	

4. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Commission’s general objective is to ensure that tax policy supports wider EU policy objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. The Fiscalis 2020 programme through its activities contributes to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all), Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries), Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (one of the targets includes restructuring of taxation)).

Example: The electronic business portal for VAT known as the ‘Mini One Stop Shop’ (MOSS) is extended by the measures adopted by the Commission in 2019 to simplify VAT rules for sales of goods online. Accordingly, MOSS will allow companies that sell goods online to their customers to deal with their VAT obligations in the EU through one easy-to-use online portal in their own Member State and their own language. Without the portal, VAT registration would be required in each EU Member State into which they want to sell – a situation cited by companies as one of the biggest barriers for small businesses trading cross-border. The system is already in place for telecommunications, broadcasting and e-service providers since 2015.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union (Hercule III)**

Lead DG: OLAF

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

- Hercule III is the latest EU anti-fraud programme, following Hercule II (2007-2013). It helps EU countries fight fraud, corruption and other illegal activities.
- The programme protects the EU's financial interests by supporting actions to combat irregularities, fraud and corruption affecting the EU budget. This includes combating tobacco smuggling, which remains a major concern, accounting for estimated annual losses of at least EUR 10bn to national and EU budgets. Helping to fund x-ray scanners and other technical equipment in harbours and airports, for example, aims to boost national authorities' capacity to fight smuggling. Hercule III also finances training activities. It helps national authorities share best practices through seminars and conferences on issues such as preventing corruption in procurement procedures. Another facet is training to boost and update the digital forensic and analyst skills of law enforcement staff.
- The Programme contributes to:
 - developing the activities at Union level and the Member States' level to counter fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, including the fight against cigarette smuggling and counterfeiting;
 - an increased transnational cooperation and coordination at Union level, between Member States' authorities, the Commission and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and in particular to the effectiveness and efficiency of the cross-border operations;
 - an effective prevention of fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union, by offering joint specialised training for staff of national and regional administrations, and to other stakeholders.

EU added value of the programme

The Programme significantly contributes to the development of activities at Union level to counter fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, to the creation of an increased transnational cooperation and coordination between Member States' authorities, the Commission and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and to the establishment of an effective prevention system against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union.

The programme creates in particular savings deriving from the collective procurement of specialised equipment and databases to be used by the stakeholders as well as deriving from the specialised training.

Implementation mode

The Programme is managed by the Commission's European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and is implemented by means of:

1. Grants, following calls for proposals;
2. Public procurement contracts following calls for tender;
3. Administrative arrangements.

The Hercule III Regulation provides for three types of action: Technical Assistance (at least 70 % of the budget), Training (max: 25 % of the budget) and Other Actions (max: 5 % of the budget).

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

The Hercule III Programme is implemented on the basis of annual work programmes, through calls for proposals and public procurement.

Between 2017 and 2019, the Commission awarded more than 100 grants to national and regional authorities as well as research institutes and NGO's for the purchase of technical equipment or for the organisation of training events, conferences and seminars.

In addition, the Commission concluded contracts for the purchase of goods and services, such as access to commercial databases, development of IT tools or the organisation of trainings and conferences.

The 2019 Work Programme was implemented as foreseen, without any significant delays or problems encountered. The applications received following the Calls for proposals received requested financial support for a total amount exceeding threefold

the available budget. Grants were awarded for the purchase of investigation equipment (including forensic tools), detection equipment (such as x-ray scanners), as well as for financing conferences, trainings and studies targeting the improved protection of the Union's financial interests. The Programme provided funds for access – through procurement – to commercial databases and development of specific IT tools for data analysis, for support to law enforcement authorities in the Member States. .

Key achievements

Several key achievements following the Programme implementation can be highlighted:

Improved operational efficiency and effectiveness reported by the beneficiaries of technical assistance grants:

- Technical Assistance beneficiaries are requested to submit a final implementation report one year after the closing date of the grant. This report contains information on the results achieved by using the equipment as well as the organisation's assessment of the contributions made towards the achievement of the Programme's objectives. The results reported suggest that the purchased technical equipment, such as detection tools, helped the grant beneficiaries to seize substantial amounts of smuggled cigarettes, counterfeit goods and tobacco. In addition, the national authorities reported that investigation support equipment, such as cameras, IT-tools and forensic soft- and hardware, facilitated the lawful gathering of evidence during operations in support of investigations aimed at protecting the Union's revenues, expenditures and assets. For example, the specialised technical hardware purchased by the Spanish Guardia Civil has improved the skills and technical capacity of its investigators, while enhancing the quality and results of investigations. The damage to EU budget avoided during 2017 has been estimated to be EUR 103 million, resulting in the arrest or the investigation of more than 200 people. The Department of Criminal Investigation of the Prosecutor General's Office of Portugal set up, with financial support from the Programme, a digital forensics lab equipped with state of the art hardware and software, facilitating the handling of digital evidence. The equipment purchased allows for the extraction, analysis, exportation and storage of mass data in a systematic, fast and secure way, substantially reducing the length of investigations. The beneficiary reported that, during 2018, the lab has been used in various investigations into smuggling and counterfeit cigarettes as well as in support of eleven criminal inquiries for fraud related to the financial interests of the Union.

Increased cross-border cooperation and exchange of information:

- The beneficiaries reported that the Programme enabled long-lasting cooperation across borders. The training activities and staff exchanges contributed to the creation of networks and exchange of best practices. For example, between 2017 and 2018, the Latvian Ministry of Finance implemented a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the anti-fraud coordination service network (AFCOS) members to set up and identify strategic tools for the fight against fraud and corruption affecting the Union's financial interests. The event gathered more than 200 participants from five Member States as well as representatives of the relevant European Institutions and led to sharing of best practices, improved cooperation and strengthening the AFCOS network. The Anticorruption General Directorate of Romania organised a series of law-enforcement staff exchanges and workshops involving around 100 officials from Romania and three neighbouring countries (Bulgaria, Hungary and Ukraine). The project led to sharing best practices in preventing and combating fraud and illegal activities in South Eastern Europe, enhanced cooperation between anti-corruption agencies and training law-enforcement officers at using new methods of risk assessment applicable to investigation of crimes affecting the Union's financial interests.

Efficient use of resources generating cost savings and economies of scale:

- The programme provides funds for the procurement of subscriptions to commercial databases, on behalf of law enforcement authorities in Member States, to support operations and investigations. The Commission manages this access, enabling substantial economies of scale. Training is also ensured for an optimal usage by the relevant staff. During 2017-2019, the Programme has ensured Member States with access to commercial databases, such as worldwide trade statistics, company information and vessel movements. The databases were highly used by customs authorities in supporting both investigations and risk analysis activities, identifying potentially suspicious trade, etc. In 2018, the searches carried out in the company information database led to the detection of a network of companies that circumvented anti-dumping duties. The companies engaged in practices of transshipment of products via third countries to the EU by undercutting the prices of the imports through kick-back payments. The fraud scheme involved a network of companies in the Member State and third countries. The duty losses identified were of a significant amount.
- Specific IT and operational tools have been developed in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre, widely used by the Member States' authorities, such as: Automated Monitoring Tool – used for risk analysis by customs authorities, a tobacco analysis laboratory and a data analysis project facilitating transnational cooperation and the sharing of best practices. During 2019, based on feedback and interest from Member States concerning the data analysis tool, five pilot projects related to priority fraud issues were launched, two study visits were organised in Member States and a workshop was held with Member States experts.

High level of participants' and beneficiaries' satisfaction related to the projects co-financed by the Programme:

- The mandatory surveys filled in by the participants to conferences, trainings or seminars in order to assess the relevance of the project and to measure their satisfaction levels reveal that a very large majority of users (more than 95 %) express a satisfactory or very satisfactory opinion on the event. The results of the surveys are reflected in the project's final report and

show that the networking opportunities are particularly highly valued and that the participants perceive that the training event increased their skills.

- The beneficiaries of technical assistance grants must indicate, as part of their final reporting, their assessment of the added-value of the purchased equipment and related training. The feedback received for implemented projects is very positive – for example, the beneficiaries of grants finalised during 2019 evaluated that the equipment responds to the organisation’s operational and professional needs with a rate of 4.8 on 5.

Evaluations/Studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation ⁽¹⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statements 2020.

The Commission will present to the European Parliament and to the Council, by 31 December 2021, a report on the programme’s final evaluation.

Forthcoming implementation

The Commission adopted the Programme’s last Financing Decision and Annual Work programme on 16 January 2020. The Programme will continue to be implemented through grants, procurement contracts and administrative arrangements.

The Commission will launch three calls for proposals providing technical support to national and regional authorities tasked with the protection of the Union’s financial interests as well as support for the organisation of training and conferences by research and educational institutes and NGO’s.

In addition, the Programme will finance the access to databases for Member States’ law customs and police forces as well as the development of IT-tools for risk assessment analyses. A digital forensic and analyst training will be also organised for law enforcement agencies, aiming at improved detection skills to extract, process and use data from digital devices.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The successor of the Hercule III programme is encompassed within the new Anti-Fraud Programme ⁽²⁾ (PAF). The new programme is designed to support and complement Member States in preventing and fighting fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU, and supporting mutual assistance in customs and agricultural matters. It will contribute to the achievement of the political objective to support Member States in countering fraud and other illegal activities, ensuring that no taxpayer’s money is diverted from its intended goal.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 establishing a programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union (Hercule III programme) and repealing Decision No 804/2004/EC	2014 – 2020	104,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	13,7	14,1	14,5	15,0	15,3	15,9	16,4	104,9
Total	13,7	14,1	14,5	15,0	15,3	15,9	16,4	104,9

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	15,891	99,78 %	15,465	89,70 %	16,443	0,91 %	13,648	9,21 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	16,641	95,29 %	16,215	85,93 %	17,193	1,10 %	14,337	13,57 %

(*) 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

⁽¹⁾ Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018) 3 final of 10 January 2018 accompanying the Commission report to the European Parliament and the Council COM(2018) 3 final

⁽²⁾ COM(2018)386 final of 30 May 2018.

Programme performance

The programme has highly achieved its specific and operational objectives during 2014-2019. The fulfilment of its specific objective to ‘prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the Union’s financial interest’ is currently measured through two performance indicators:

1. The added value and effective use of co-financed technical equipment, expressed by the users of the equipment in their final technical reports – for the final reports received in 2019, the beneficiaries assessed that the use of Hercule funded equipment added a consistent value to their activities, expressing an overall satisfaction rate of 96.7%. The rate is significantly higher than the 75 % target set up for 2019.
2. The number and type of trainings activities funded under the programme, including the amount of specialised training, and the satisfaction rate as expressed by the participants. In 2019, the programme financed 63 events (39 conferences, 12 specialised training courses, and 12 staff exchanges). The organised activities were very well received by the participants – more than a thousand participants that replied to the survey expressed a satisfaction rate of more than 96%.

Each of the programme’s five operational objectives have been addressed through specific forms of funding and relevant co-financed activities.

The findings of the programme’s mid-term evaluation (carried out in 2017) support the idea that the programme continues to be an important and performant tool in the protection of the Union’s financial interests. The evaluation demonstrated that the programme has largely fulfilled its mission. The stakeholders reported that the programme has been efficiently implemented while effectively addressing Member States’ needs.

Several grant beneficiaries (national and regional authorities) reported difficulties and/or delays in relation to their public procurement procedures for the acquisition of technical equipment. These difficulties were mostly linked to external or independent factors – institutional reorganisation, change of relevant national legislation, etc. The reported issues were mitigated through commonly agreed-upon solutions and several prolongations (of around 3-6 months) to the contracts’ end dates were made through amendments.

A system of regular follow-up of the implementation of technical assistance grant contracts was put in place by the Commission’s project officers, in view of anticipating and ensuring a quick reaction in similar cases.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To protect the financial interest of the Union thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union’s economy and ensuring the protection of the taxpayers’ money

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the Union’s financial interest

Indicator 1: The added value and effective use of co-financed technical equipment, expressed by the users of the equipment in their final technical report and final implementation report of the action (percentage of users that considered the use of Hercule funded equipment added value to their activities)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
				70%	75%	75%	75%	75%
	Actual results							
						96%		

Comment: The information for this indicator is submitted by the beneficiaries in their final technical report as well as in the implementation report (one year after the closing date of the action for which the grant was awarded).

Availability of Data: Data not available before 2019

Indicator 2: The number and type of trainings activities funded under the Hercule III programme, including the amount of specialised training, and the satisfaction rate as expressed by the participants

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Training activities (with specialised)	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	Actual results							

trainings) 25	29	30	22	30	24	33		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Satisfaction rate 60 %	65 %	67 %	69 %	70 %	72 %	74 %	75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	90 %	

Methodology: Values in Baseline, Target in Milestones include 2 specialised trainings (except in 2014: only 1 specialised training)

Comment: This indicator has been elaborated for OLAF's Annual Management Plan 2014 in the light of the operational objectives in the Hercule III Regulation.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Technical Assistance (incl. IT support, at least 70 % of the budget)	24 02 01	20	11,7
2. Training and Conferences (incl. studies, maximum 25 of the budget)	24 02 01	30	4,2
3. Other actions (maximum 5 % of the budget) ⁽³⁾	24 02 01	p.m.	p.m.
Total		50	15,9

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Technical Assistance (incl. IT support)	F	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	P	21	18	23	22	20	20	
2. Training and Conferences (incl. studies)	F	15	15	30 ⁽⁴⁾	30	30	30	30
	P	29	30 ⁽⁵⁾	22 ⁽⁶⁾	33	24 ⁽⁷⁾	28 ⁽⁸⁾	
3. Other actions	F		0	0	0	0	0	
	P		1	0	0	0	0	

⁽³⁾ Regulation 250/2014 on the Hercule III Programme identifies the three types of actions listed above. The third type of actions ('other') contains activities that are not foreseen under the previous ones, but that might nevertheless be considered necessary to achieve the Programme's objectives. In 2015, this category was used to cover the costs of a survey amongst EU citizens on their attitudes towards illicit cigarettes.

⁽⁴⁾ The number of foreseen outputs has been increased from 15 to 30 and now includes all contracts and grants concluded for conferences, training and studies.

⁽⁵⁾ See footnote 7, supra.

⁽⁶⁾ In 2016, the number of procured Conferences organised by OLAF for the benefit of Member States had to be postponed to 2017 or could not take place. In addition, fewer applications were awarded a grant for the organisation of conferences. The remaining budget was transferred and used for technical assistance actions.

⁽⁷⁾ In 2018 fewer applications were received and awarded a grant under the 'Training' sectors. The remaining budget was transferred and used for organising specialised (procured) training.

⁽⁸⁾ Same as in previous year, in 2019 not all the available budget for training actions was consumed. The remaining funds were partly transferred and used for organising specialised training for law enforcement officials, the other part being used for technical assistance activities.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (Pericles 2020)**

Lead DG: ECFIN

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

The Pericles 2020 programme funds staff exchanges, seminars, trainings and studies for law enforcement and judicial authorities, banks and others involved in combating euro-counterfeiting. Actions can take place in the euro area, in EU countries outside the euro area and in third countries. Since 2015 applications by all 28 Member States' competent authorities can be introduced to receive co-financing. The Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) can also initiate actions to complement Member States' initiatives. The Pericles 2020 programme dedicates a bit more than € 7,3 million for the implementation of the programme, for the period 2014-2020.

EU added value of the programme

The Programme shall actively encourage and entail an increase in transnational cooperation for the protection of the euro inside and outside the Union and with the Union's trading partners, and with attention also being paid to those Member States or third countries that have the highest rates of euro counterfeiting, as shown by the relevant reports issued by the competent authorities; this cooperation shall contribute to the greater effectiveness of these operations through the sharing of best practice, common standards and joint specialised training.

Implementation mode

The Pericles 2020 Programme is implemented under direct management (DG ECFIN) and involves procurement and call for proposals.

- Bodies eligible for funding (call for proposals) under the Programme shall be the competent national authorities as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001.
- In implementing the procured actions, the Commission may choose to use the services of firms specialised in organising events under a framework contract.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)*****2017**

- Annual budget for the implementation of the 'Pericles 2020' Programme 2017 – Call for proposals ref. 2017 ECFIN 004/C5 was set at EUR 1 047 500. A total of EUR 1 047 478 was committed: 99.9 % of the budget was committed.
- 13 projects funded: 10 originated from the competent authorities and 3 were initiatives of the Commission.
- Funded applications: 8 are seminar/conferences/workshops, 4 staff exchanges, and 1 purchase of equipment.
- 5 actions were implemented in 2017, while 8 actions were implemented in 2018.
- Estimated number of participants: 756.

2018

- Annual budget for the implementation of the 'Pericles 2020' Programme 2018 – Call for Proposals ref. 2018 ECFIN 006/C5 was set at EUR 1 055 100. A total of EUR 993 388 was committed: 94.15 %, of the budget was committed.
- 11 projects funded: 8 originated from the competent authorities and 3 were Commission initiatives.
- Funded applications: 5 are seminar/conferences/workshops, 4 staff exchanges, and 2 purchase of equipment.
- 5 actions were implemented in 2018, while 6 actions were implemented in 2019.
- Estimated number of participants: 568.

2019

- Annual budget for the implementation of the 'Pericles 2020' Programme 2019 – Call for Proposals ref. 2019 ECFIN 006/C3 was set at EUR 1 072 400. A total of EUR 1 064 821 was committed: 99.3 %, of the budget was committed.
- 13 projects funded: 10 originated from the competent authorities and 3 were Commission initiatives.
- Funded applications: 7 conferences, 3 technical trainings, 2 staff exchanges and 1 workshop.
- 7 actions were implemented in 2019, while 6 actions will be implemented in 2020.
- Estimated number of participants: 565.

Key achievements

The latest data for the defined programme indicators (further details are provided in the ‘Performance information’ section) is as follows: 559 000 counterfeit euro banknotes and 187 602 counterfeit euro coins detected (2019), 23 illegal workshops (mints and print shops) dismantled (2018), and 5 932 individuals arrested (2018). However, these results, while linked to the protection of the euro are not directly linked to the programme implementation.

Mid-term evaluation

The key findings of the latest evaluation: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the mid-term evaluation of the Programme for exchange, assistance and training for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (‘Pericles 2020’ Programme) COM/2017/0741 final, have been presented in the Programme Statements of the Draft Budget 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

2020 will feature the implementation of 5 projects originating from the competent authorities of euro area Member States and 1 Commission action, financed under the 2019 budget (2019 commitments).

The programme highlights Member State work on reaching and educating officials in China, Latin America, the Balkan Area and Eastern Europe, as well as in the EU.

The 2019 Pericles commitments to be implemented in 2020 reflect a high diversification of the type of actions, distributed between seminars, staff exchanges, technical trainings and a workshop. Establishing and maintaining contact to discuss issues of euro protection with law enforcement, bank representatives and judiciary officials will contribute to the overall stability of the currency, to further closures of workshops, illegal print shops and mints, and to additional arrests of criminals as well as to important seizures of counterfeit euros before entering into circulation.

The payment appropriations for 2020 (current nomenclature’s budget line 01.0204) will cover the pre-financing payments for the actions awarded a grant in 2020 and for the payment obligations for outstanding commitments in earlier years. These payments will be made in line with the relevant grant/contract provisions.

The payment appropriations for 2021 will cover the pre-financing payments for the actions awarded a grant in 2021 (future nomenclature’s budget line 06.0301) and for the payment obligations for outstanding commitments from the Pericles 2020 programme (future nomenclature’s budget line 06.039901). These payments will be made in line with the relevant grant/contract provisions.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission proposed a continuation of the programme for the next multiannual financial framework:

- Commission’s proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the ‘Pericles IV programme’);
- Commission’s Proposal for a Council Regulation extending to the non-participating Member States the application of the, EU Regulation establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the ‘Pericles IV’ programme).

General objective: To prevent and combat counterfeiting of the euro and related fraud, to enhance the competitiveness of the Union’s economy and securing the sustainability of public finances.

Specific objective: To protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by MS and assisting the competent authorities in developing a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

Financial envelope: The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027 shall be subject to the approval by the EU legislator.

Implementation mode: Direct management through grants or public procurement.

- Entities eligible for funding under the Programme shall be the competent national authorities as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001;
- Eligible actions include: exchange and dissemination of information through workshops, meetings and seminars, including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff; technical, scientific and operational assistance; research (e.g. to improve security features of currency); purchase of equipment to detect and analyse counterfeits to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities of third countries for protecting the euro against counterfeiting.

The priorities as set out in the Pericles Strategy are to be endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG), as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001. In order to ensure business continuity, in principle, the priorities for 2021 will be same as those for 2020:

- Supporting activities aimed at improving cooperation among those Member States which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits;
- fostering cooperation with authorities of those third countries where there is suspicion of or evidence for counterfeit euro production;
- maintaining an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in South Eastern Europe;
- topical developments: Security features of euro coins, the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1210/2010 concerning authentication of euro coins and handling of euro coins unfit for circulation, distribution of counterfeits and high quality components on the internet, support for the establishment/reinforcement of National Central Offices

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme) and repealing Council Decisions 2001/923/EC, 2001/924/EC, 2006/75/EC, 2006/76/EC, 2006/849/EC and 2006/850/EC	2014 – 2020	7,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	7,3
Total	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	7,3

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	1,072	99,29 %	1,080	99,44 %	1,100	0,00 %	0,850	12,63 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	1,079	98,65 %	1,087	98,80 %	1,107	0,00 %	0,857	13,34 %

(*) 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

Pericles 2020 is achieving its objective of protecting euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and fraud by supporting the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities. The programme has made a substantial contribution to the further improvement of coordination and cooperation at international, European and Member States level, as well as the creation of more solid structures for the protection of the euro. The programme also contributed to the adoption of legislation aimed at improving euro protection and the establishment of national central offices.

The mid-term evaluation of the programme concludes that all findings converge towards a positive overall assessment. In particular, it notes that in terms of effectiveness, Pericles 2020 actions were typically implemented as planned and achieved the intended outputs, and evidence suggests that the outputs delivered did translate into tangible outcomes. Participant feedback provided immediately after events shows a high degree of appreciation, with 97 % expressing a positive or highly positive assessment. More importantly, survey results show that a large share of participants claimed to have learned about best practices, acquired useful skills, and established contacts with colleagues in other countries. The quality of actions was also judged positively by the authorities involved.

Available evidence suggests that the outputs delivered did translate into tangible outcomes, although there are some variations across the various groups and the type of progress recorded. Improvements in operational capabilities and the adoption of improved methods are emphasised by third country authorities and by individual participants in the Programme's initiatives. A different situation is found regarding the improvements in international cooperation. In this case, the most positive results were achieved by the competent national authorities (CNAs), ECB and Europol. Positive developments are also reported by third country authorities and by individual participants, but to a less extent. This dichotomy in results well illustrates the challenges faced by the Programme, which is confronted with a widely diversified audience, with different agendas, levels of capabilities, and needs that are not always easy to reconcile.

One of the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation is to encourage more competent national authorities to apply to the programme. This could be achieved by a more intense marketing strategy and the establishment of contacts with high level decision-makers to ensure the opportunities of the programme are well understood.

Despite the fact that the phenomenon seems to be currently under control, counterfeiting continues to be a major threat to the euro. The increased number of counterfeit banknotes, the rise of ‘sophisticated’ counterfeits, the increasing availability of technology and the interest in counterfeiting of Organised Crime Groups requires a continuous attention.

The Pericles 2020 programme currently uses a set of four specific quantitative performance indicators as laid down in the basic legal act: the number of (i) counterfeits detected, (ii) illegal workshops (print shops and mints) dismantled, (iii) individuals arrested, and (iv) penalties imposed.

Despite the fact that the performance indicators are linked to the protection of the euro and the results for these indicators approach their targets, the primary challenge is that the link with Pericles 2020 actions is not direct: other external factors can influence the indicators, and they primarily measure the repression (and not the prevention) aspect of the phenomenon.

Quantifying the impact of a capacity building initiative in terms of operational results is an exercise fraught with difficulties due to the influence of a host of intervening factors, and this is particularly the case of initiatives intended to protect against criminal activities, the magnitude of which is almost by definition unknown.

Subject to this major caveat, there is evidence that, in selected situations, the Programme has indeed exerted a direct tangible influence on euro protection operational activities. Moreover, for indicators (iii) and (iv) it has proved difficult to acquire the data and/or to adequately measure the indicator.

Therefore, for the future programme, indicators (iii) and (iv) shall be replaced with a qualitative indicator which is measurable through the output of the implemented actions, thereby ensuring that there will be an effective performance framework in place.

As part of the Commission proposal for the future Pericles IV MFF programme, the implementation results for the specific objectives of the programme are proposed to be monitored and measured through the following key performance indicators:

- level of counterfeit euro banknotes and coins (before and after circulation);
- number of counterfeit workshops dismantled;
- feedback received from participants in the actions financed by the programme

General objectives

General Objective 1: To prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union’s economy and securing the sustainability of public finances

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To protect the euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop between themselves and with the European Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practices, also where appropriate, including third countries and international organisations

Indicator 1: Number of counterfeits detected								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Banknotes: 606 000				+/- 5 % compared to 2011			Keep counterfeits under control in an average +/- 5 % compared to 2011	Keep counterfeits under control in an average +/- 5 % compared to 2011
	Actual results							
	838 000	899 000	684 000	694 000	563 000	559 000		
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Coins: 157 000				+/- 5 % compared to 2011			Keep counterfeits under control in	Keep counterfeits under control in an average +/- 5 % compared to

							an average +/- 5 % compared to 2011	2011
Actual results								
192 195	146 899	150 258	160 914	179 353	187 602			

Indicator 2: Number of illegal workshops dismantled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
45.00				46.35			47.25	47.25
	Actual results							
	37.00	32.00	29.00	22.00	23.00			

Narrative: Target: 5 % increase from 2011
Milestone 2017: 3 % increase from 2011

Indicator 3: Number of individuals arrested								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
6 858							7 061	7 061
	Actual results							
	7 946	8 879	8 724	7 494	5 932			

Indicator 4: Number of penalties imposed								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
				3 % increase compared to 2011			5 % increase compared to 2011	5 % increase compared to 2011
	Actual results							

Comment: Data unavailable due to lack of reporting mechanisms in MS

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Pericles grant programme: Seminars	01 02 04	5	0.40
2. Pericles grant programme: Staff Exchanges	01 02 04	4	0.30
3. Pericles grant programme: Studies	01 02 04	1	0.20
4. Pericles grant programme: Purchase of equipment	01 02 04	1	0.05
5. Procurement: Seminars	01 02 04	1	0.15
6. Procurement: Staff Exchanges	01 02 04		
7. Procurement: Studies	01 02 04		
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Pericles grant programme: Seminars	F	3	4	5	5	5	4	5
	P	2	6	4	5	2	8	
2. Pericles grant programme: Staff Exchanges	F	3	5	2	3	4	4	4
	P	2	3	3	4	4	2	
3. Pericles grant programme: Studies	F	1		1			1	1
	P	2		1				

4. Pericles grant programme: Purchase of equipment	F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	0		1	1	2		
5. Procurement: Seminars	F	4	4	3	3	2	2	1
	P	4	2	4	3	3	3	
6. Procurement: Staff Exchanges	F							
	P		1					
7. Procurement: Studies	F							
	P							

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS)****Lead DG: OLAF****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS) is an umbrella term for a set of anti-fraud applications operated by OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office) under a common technical infrastructure aiming at the timely and secure exchange of fraud-related information between the competent national and EU administrations, as well as storage and analysis of relevant data. The AFIS programme encompasses two major areas, Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters and Irregularities Management.

AFIS supports Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters with collaboration tools such as VOCU (Virtual Operations Coordination Unit) used for Joint Customs Operations secure web mail (AFIS Mail), specific information exchange modules and databases like CIS+ (Customs Information System) and FIDE (Customs Investigation Files Identification Database), analysis tools like A-TIS (Anti-Fraud Transit Information System) and electronic workflow applications like ToSMA (Tobacco Seizures Management Application).

AFIS also provides the IMS (Irregularities Management System), a secure electronic tool which facilitates the Member States' obligation to report irregularities detected in agricultural, structural, cohesion and fisheries funds, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (ISF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) as well as pre-accession aid, and which supports the management and analysis of irregularities.

The AFIS Portal is a single and common infrastructure for the delivery of the above-mentioned services to nearly 8 800 registered end-users in more than 1 900 competent services from Member States, partner third countries, international organisations, Commission services and other EU bodies. AFIS is increasingly used by partner third countries, including China.

EU added value of the programme

The need for EU involvement in the context of mutual administrative assistance and customs cooperation was already recognised by the European legislator with the adoption of Regulation 515/97. By the very nature of customs fraud, occurring by definition among at least two countries, there is a continuing necessity for centralised action at EU level. Effective sharing of information and wide-scale fight against breach of customs legislation cannot be conducted by national customs authorities only at a reasonable cost. Systemic collection of the data required to analyse customs risks which pose a threat to the EU and its Member States would constitute a disproportionate effort for the individual Member States and can be achieved more effectively and efficiently by action at EU level.

Therefore, action at EU level enables a significant improvement in risk management and the fight against customs-related fraud, by increasing the available evidence, improving the possibilities for risk mitigation and detection and repression of fraud and rendering the action more efficient and effective.

Additionally, the AFIS Portal enables substantial economies of scale and synergies in the development, maintenance and operations of such a wide and diverse set of IT services and tools.

AFIS supports the protection of the EU financial interests and has a positive effect on the EU budget. It prevents losses of revenue far higher than the programme's actual budget. By supporting the detection of cases of misdescription of origin ⁽¹⁾ or undervaluation ⁽²⁾, AFIS applications prevent the loss of millions of Euro in customs duties and VAT. In addition, they prevent the loss of excise duties, by enabling Member States to perform seizures of illicit cigarettes ⁽³⁾. Just the seizures of 56 million cigarettes alone during one single JCO in 2017 prevented the loss of €12 million in customs duties and taxes ⁽⁴⁾.

However, AFIS also contributes to non-monetisable values. By supporting the seizure of counterfeit goods, such as counterfeit semiconductors ⁽⁵⁾ or fake automotive spare parts ⁽⁶⁾, it contributes to the protection of health and safety of EU citizens, and by

⁽¹⁾ Customs (import duties) tariff rates may vary significantly according to the country of origin. Imported goods from certain countries are subject to the EU anti-dumping and countervailing duties. By misdeclaring the origin of goods, an importer can fraudulently declare goods under a lower tariff and avoid anti-dumping duties.

⁽²⁾ Import duties and VAT depend on the value of goods. By declaring a much lower value on import, a company can fraudulently reduce import duties and VAT.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/olaf-member-states-seize-140-million-cigarettes-detain-32-smugglers>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/26-06-2017/operation-renegade-halts-thousands-potentially-dangerous-auto-spare-en>

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.eenewseurope.com/news/operation-wafers-over-one-million-counterfeit-semiconductors-seized-reports-esia>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/big-olaf-bust/>

supporting the seizure of illicit goods, such as endangered animal and plant species (CITES) ⁽⁷⁾, it also contributes to the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

The operational activities under AFIS constitute a valuable support to Member States' and Commission's operational and investigative work aiming at detecting customs infringements, recovering customs duties, and enhancing customs cooperation in the anti-fraud area. The efforts made in this reporting period in addressing identified shortcomings have contributed to increase the level of trust, participation and satisfaction of Member States' competent authorities.

Implementation mode

The programme is implemented through direct management by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) using procurements.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The annual work programmes for the implementation of AFIS for the period 2017-2019 have been mostly executed as foreseen, but some delays in previous years of the programming period required an adjustment of the original milestones for this reporting period and of the targets for 2020.

The interface between DG TAXUD's COPIS (anti-Counterfeit and Piracy System) and CIS+ went finally live in 2019.

Key achievements

The first version of a built-in online analytical tool, which facilitates the exploitation of data in IMS by the users themselves, went live in July 2019.

Furthermore, in this period, the permanent physical (Permanent Operational Coordination Unit – POCU) and IT infrastructure (Virtual Operation Coordination Unit – VOCU) for the support of JCOs has been regularly used by Commission and Member States, as well as third countries and other organisations on numerous occasions. In 2019, VOCU has been used in 13 operations, which constitutes a new record. During one of the operations, JCO Hygiea, which was carried out within the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and coordinated by OLAF using VOCU, approximately 200,000 pieces of counterfeit perfumes, toothpastes, cosmetics, 120 tons of counterfeit detergents, shampoos, diapers as well as more than 4.2 million of other counterfeit goods (battery cells, footwear, toys, tennis balls, shavers, electronic devices, etc.), 77 million cigarettes and 44 tons of counterfeit water pipe tobacco have been seized by the participating Asian and EU customs authorities ⁽⁸⁾.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The underlying legal base for AFIS, Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters ⁽⁹⁾, as lastly amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/1525 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 ⁽¹⁰⁾, is currently being evaluated.

Forthcoming implementation

The development of a web service for CIS+, which would allow the connection of national customs systems, is planned for 2020. Such an interface would facilitate the automated import of cases from national systems into CIS+ and avoid that the same information has to be entered multiple times in different systems by Member States' authorities. This will contribute to increase the number active customs fraud cases, which are available in the Mutual Assistance databases, but also improve the completeness and quality of the available cases.

The main legal base for AFIS, Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97, has been amended in 2015, and since September 2016 two new major repositories, the Container Status Messages (CSM) directory and the Import, Export and Transit (IET) directory, have been added to AFIS. New releases of the CSM and IET directory are planned for 2020, which will provide additional features, such as enhanced search and data export capabilities, to improve the usability of the systems for analytical and investigative purposes. This will support the competent authorities in preventing, detecting and investigating customs fraud cases and, consequentially, lead to an increase of the number of active fraud cases in the Mutual Assistance databases.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The successor of the AFIS programme is encompassed within the new Anti-Fraud Programme ⁽¹¹⁾ (PAF). The new programme, which put together the programmes Hercule III and AFIS, is designed to support and complement Member States in preventing and fighting fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU, and supporting mutual assistance in customs and agricultural matters. It

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/21-05-2019/fighting-crime-real-time-olaf-and-belgium-customs-lead-international_en

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/09-10-2019/operation-hygiea-olaf-asian-eu-customs-lead-large-scale-operation_en

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 82, 22.3.1997, p. 1.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 243, 18.9.2015, p. 1.

⁽¹¹⁾ COM(2018)386 final of 30 May 2018.

will contribute to the achievement of the political objective to support Member States in countering fraud and other illegal activities, ensuring that no taxpayer's money is diverted from its intended goal.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97 amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 766/2008, Regulation on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters Council Decision 2009/917/JHA, Decision on the use of information technology for customs purposes	2014-2020	51,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	6,4	6,9	6,6	7,2	7,7	7,2	7,5	49,4
Total	6,4	6,9	6,6	7,2	7,7	7,2	7,5	49,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	7,195	99,90 %	7,755	96,43 %	7,454	13,63 %	6,559	29,36 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	7,195	99,90 %	7,755	96,43 %	7,454	13,63 %	6,559	29,36 %

(*) 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 programme is well on track for the delivery of its general and two specific objectives, but for one of the three indicators for specific objective 1 the 2019 milestone has not been met and 2020 target might not be achieved.

The interface with DG TAXUD's COPIS went finally live in 2019. The start of the development of this interface, which was originally foreseen for 2014, was delayed to 2017, due to the late go-live of COPIS and the need for a following stabilisation phase for this system.

Due to this delay, relevant IPR infringements, which have been reported in COPIS, are only available since 2019 as draft fraud cases in CIS+ for publication by Member States' customs services.

As a consequence, the 2019 milestone for the number of customs fraud cases being available in the Mutual Assistance databases (i.e. Indicator 1) has not been met and the corresponding 2020 target might not be achieved. However, thanks to the efforts made by the Commission services, such as the planned development of a web service for CIS+ allowing the connection of national customs systems, it is envisaged that the target will be met in 2022.

The evaluation reports of the participants to these JCOs show that this physical structure and AFIS application strongly facilitate the coordination tasks associated to JCOs with a large number of participants. The use of these facilities is frequently recommended during the evaluation of these operations by the participants. The fact that these facilities are also frequently used for operational activities in the area of law enforcement cooperation (free of charge for the participants), even though other institutions and organisations, like Europol or the World Customs Organisation, offer alternative solutions, is an additional proof of Member States' appreciation.

Following Member States' recommendations in previous years, OLAF has strengthened in the reporting period the involvement of Member States during all stages of development of new or updated AFIS applications, aiming at improving their usage and user satisfaction. Special workshops were organised for the new versions of AFIS Mail, CIS+ and IMS, which involved a large number of participants from the Member States. As a result, Member States acceptance and usage of the mentioned applications has significantly improved, along with the enlargement of their user base, as usage statistics and satisfaction reports demonstrate.

The 2019 satisfaction survey demonstrates that the majority of the users is satisfied with the AFIS applications. 84 % of the respondents agreed or slightly agreed that the AFIS applications they use most frequently, respond to their professional needs. Only less than 5 % of the respondents disagree to a certain extent (disagree: 1.5 % and slightly disagree: 3.3 %). 10 % of the users remain neutral.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To protect the financial interest of the Union thus enhancing the competitiveness of the European economy and ensuring the protection of the taxpayers' money

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To support Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters through the provision of secure information exchange tools for Joint Operations and specific Customs anti-fraud information exchange modules and databases such as the Customs Information System

Performance

Due to the late go-live of the interface with DG TAXUD's COPIS, relevant IPR infringements, which have been reported in COPIS, are only available since 2019 as draft fraud cases in CIS+ for publication by Member States' customs services.

As a consequence, the 2019 milestone for the number of customs fraud cases being available in the Mutual Assistance databases (i.e. Indicator 1) has not been met and the corresponding 2020 target will most likely not be achieved

Indicator 1: Number of active customs fraud cases for which information is available in the Mutual Assistance databases								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
8 000		12 000		17 000		21 500	24 000	24 000
	Actual results							
	10 000	12 000	13 800	16 324	18 340	18 639		

Comment: Milestone for 2017 reduced from 20 000 to 17 000 in 2016. New Milestone for 2019 added in 2016. Target reduced to 24 000 in 2016 (cfr. the programme performance update section).

Indicator 2: Number of Joint Customs Operations (JCOs) (including EU wide and regional operations) supported/year								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
3	4			5			5	5
	Actual results							
	6	7	11	11	5	13		

Comment: In 2016, 4 JCOs were co-organised by OLAF and a Member State and in total 12 JCOs were supported by OLAF. The Virtual Operations Coordination Unit (VOCU) module of AFIS was used in 11 of these JCOs. (One JCO was organised by the World Customs Organisation with intelligence support of OLAF, but without VOCU usage.) In 2017, 3 JCOs were co-organised by OLAF and a Member State and in total 11 JCOs were supported by OLAF. In 2018, 2 JCOs were co-organised by OLAF and a MS and in total 5 JCOs were supported by OLAF. The VOCU module of AFIS was used in 4 of these JCOs. (One JCO was coordinated by Europol with support of OLAF using AFIS applications, but without VOCU usage.) In 2019, 2 JCOs were led and additional 11 supported by OLAF.

Unit of measure: JCOs

Indicator 3: Coverage of A-TIS (Anti-fraud transit information system)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
At the end of 2013, A-TIS holds 16.5 million transit declarations (600 000/month) covering 70 % of the transit regime.		Entry into force of the reform of Regulation 515/97.	A-TIS to cover 100 % of transit declarations. New repository of export declarations developed.	New repository of import declarations developed.	New repository of Container Status Messages (CSMs) developed.	Statistical analysis tools for operational covering all repositories.	A-TIS to cover 100 % of transit declarations.	A-TIS to cover 100 % of transit declarations.
	Actual results							
		Regulation 2015/1525 amending Council	Repository of export declarations available	Repository of import declarations developed	Repository of CSM in production. Repository of	New repository providing a consistent		

		Regulation 515/97 entered into force on 8 October 2015	since 1 September 2016. A-TIS covers 78.32 % of the transit declarations.	and scheduled to go live in Q1/2018.	import declarations went live.	feature set for import export and transit declarations in development.		
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Comment: At the end of 2014, A-TIS holds 23.1 million transit declarations. The percentage refers to the period since the application of the new legal base for transit declarations. Not covered are transit declarations for common transit countries which did not consent to their usage (11.28 %), declarations for transit within a Member State which did not consent (4.02 %), technically malformed declarations which could not be processed (3.84 %) and declarations for common transit countries which gave their consent only after 1 September 2016 (2.54 %).

Specific Objective 2: To facilitate secure electronic communication tools for the Member States to fulfil their obligation to report irregularities detected in agricultural, structural, cohesion and fisheries funds as well as pre-accession aid.

Indicator 1: Availability of new irregularities reporting modules for the new programming period 2014-2020

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Development of new single harmonised module on-going.		Operational launch of new IMS version ready for reporting regulations for the MFF 2014-2020.	Online reporting and analysis system extended			Online analysis system to be extended	IMS system fully operational in all Member States and candidate countries with reporting and analysis tools.	IMS system fully operational in all Member States and candidate countries with reporting and analysis tools.
	Actual results							
		IMS 5 is scheduled to go in production on 1 April 2016.	IMS5 went in production on 1 April 2016.	Extension of online analysis tool, which will be made available in 2018, started.	Online analysis tool ready for testing in production.	Online analysis tool went live.		

Comment: Milestone has been rescheduled from 2016 to 2018. IMS5 will replace IMS4, the current operational system. IMS4 can be used to fulfil the reporting obligations of MFF2014-2020. The alpha-release of IMS5 was made accessible to all IMS-users in February 2016. The extended online reporting system IMS5 facilitates the reporting of irregularities for the following competences: agriculture, cohesion, fisheries, pre-accession, asylum and most deprived. The IMS online analysis tool has been ready for testing in production in 2018 but a recent release of the underlying software, on which the tool is based, made it necessary to perform additional checks before testing the tool in production. Therefore the corresponding milestone of performance indicator 1 of specific objective 2 for 2018 had to be rescheduled by one year to 2019.

Indicator 2: Number of Member States complying with obligations for reporting of fraudulent irregularities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Some Member States / Candidate Countries do not yet fully comply with their reporting obligations.	IMS refreshment training provided to MS		MS have been trained and set up to use IMS	MS and candidate countries use actively IMS reporting and analysis tools	MS and candidate countries perform proactive quality control on the data provided		The Commission can guarantee that the Member States have at their disposal all means and tools to comply with	The Commission can guarantee that the Member States have at their disposal all means and tools to comply with the reporting obligations

							the reporting obligations
Actual results							
	IMS 5 training was provided to all Member States.	IMS manual revised and updated. IMS 5 training was provided to all (potential) candidate countries.	IMS manual split into booklets. All MS and candidate countries use actively IMS for reporting. A handbook on irregularities reporting has been prepared together with national experts and disseminated to IMS users.		The data quality differs per country which is caused by a difference in the level of implementation of quality controls.		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. AFIS Registered Users	24 04 01	8 400	
2. JCOs organised	24 04 01	5	
3. MA Cases	24 04 01	24 000	
4. IMS Communication	24 04 01	30 000	
Total		65 405	7,2

The aforementioned outputs, especially AFIS Registered Users, MA Cases and IMS Communications, cannot directly be related to expenditures. The AFIS financing decision ⁽¹²⁾ allocates the budget according to the following categories:

1. IT studies, development and maintenance
2. Production services
3. Technical assistance, training coordination and quality control services
4. Use and maintenance of the Common Communication Network (CCN)
5. Acquisition, maintenance and updating of various types of software, hardware and related IT services

In line with the requirements ⁽¹³⁾, the IT expenditures within these budget sub lines can be allocated to the following (IT) cost categories: Development (43500), IS Maintenance (43800), IS Support (43850), Training (12500), ICT Infrastructure (43400), IS Licenses (43900) and non-IT expenditure (NO/IT).

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. AFIS Registered Users	F	12 100	13 300	8 100	8 200	8 300	8 350	8 400
	P	8 100	8 050	8 750	8 600	8 800	9 000	
2. JCO's organised	F	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
	P	4	3	4	3	2	13	
3. MA Cases	F	10 000	13 000	14 500	17 000	19 000	21 500	24 000
	P	10 000	12 000	13 800	16 324	18 340	18 639	
4. IMS Communication	F	21 000	22 500	24 000	25 500	27 000	28 500	30 000
	P	23 700	23 400	43 600	88 347	97 559	109 930	

⁽¹²⁾ E.g. the Commission Decision on the adoption of the work programme for 2015 and the financing for the implementation of the Anti-Fraud Information System, C(2015)684 of 13 February 2015

⁽¹³⁾ Note on tracking IT expenditures of DG BUDG, Ares(2015)5555824

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)****Lead DG: MOVE**

Associated DGs: CNECT, ENER

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

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services. CEF investments fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone.

The methods of implementation are:

- Funding of projects (works or studies) by means of grants and procurement: The Commission Work Programmes, either on annual, or multi-annual basis, define the priorities and the criteria, based on which the calls for proposals are launched and the applications are evaluated and recommended for funding. The list of projects (actions) selected for grants is scrutinised (examination procedure) by the relevant CEF Committee.
- Funding of projects by Programme Support Actions, as accompanying measures to deliver projects of common interest.
- Funding of projects by cross sectorial Financial Instruments Work Programmes. The Financial Instruments aim at providing private capital finance and enhancing the risk sharing. The instruments are in the form of debt or may be also in equity financing.
- Contribution to the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking which will pool European resources to develop top-of-the-range exascale supercomputers for processing big data, based on competitive European technology.

EU added value of the programme

In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, the objectives of the programme cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be addressed by the EU. Due to disparities in Member States' capacity to act and in order to ensure a coherent approach to EU project financing across the three sectors, action at EU level can better achieve the objectives pursued, by reasons of its scale and effects. More specifically, the EU level will provide economies of scale in the use of innovative financial instruments by catalysing private investments in the TEN and acceleration of the implementation of strategic projects and networks with high European added value by removing critical bottlenecks.

An integrated EU infrastructure funding framework will allow exploiting cross-sectoral synergies at project development and implementation level, enabling cost savings and/or more efficient exploitation and higher returns. Specifically for Telecommunications, allowing exchanges and collaboration between citizens, businesses and public authorities within and across European borders, there is a clear case for EU added value through coordinating and connecting Member State activities, thereby ensuring interoperability and EU-wide usability. Indeed, due to non-territoriality of digital service infrastructures, and often their inherently cross-border character such as for example in case of seamless cross-border eGovernment services, relevant objectives of Europe 2020 and the Digital Single Market can only be achieved by a pan-European coordinated infrastructure approach. The vision is to create a European ecosystem of digital services that will allow all citizens, businesses and administrations across the EU to fully and seamlessly benefit from living in a Digital Single Market. An integrated approach is also necessary to provide efficient investment vehicles for the deployment of state-of-the-art broadband networks. The intervention at EU level will attract new categories of broadband investors and project promoters, and encourage the replicability of innovative broadband projects and business models.

Implementation mode

CEF is implemented under the direct management mode by DG MOVE, DG ENER, DG CNECT and the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA). The CEF debt instrument delegated to the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the contribution to the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking are implemented under the indirect management mode.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation status (2017-2019)*****TRANSPORT**

CEF transport projects cycle:

At 31 December 2019, under the CEF Transport calls, 794 projects were selected for co-financing and individual grant agreements signed for a total CEF contribution of EUR 21.4 billion. This amount represents around 95 % of the total CEF transport budget. The

amount is slightly lower compared to the previous reporting due to the pro-active portfolio management by INEA. In fact, the ‘use it or lose it’ principle has been implemented systematically and projects which have not been able to use the allocated budget have been amended, allowing for the return of the concerned funds back to the programme.

In more detail, within the overall portfolio, 97 projects have been closed so far, and for 111 projects the EU funding has been reduced via an amendment. The resulting overall budgetary availability of more than EUR 2.5 billion is being reinjected into the programme via calls for proposals (out of which EUR 600 million have already been allocated).

Furthermore, 245 projects have been extended (on average by 15 months). The extension policy communicated to Member States and project promoters has the following main features: (a) an extension should not be longer than 24 months, under exceptional circumstances up to 32 months, (b) the absolute end date for all projects is set at 31/12/2023 and (c) activities covered by an ongoing grant agreement and ultimately not successfully implemented will not be selected under new calls for proposals.

Overall, it is estimated that by the end of 2019 around 50 % of financial progress has been reached for the CEF Transport portfolio (see indicator 1 ⁽¹⁾ of general objective 1).

Calculating the payment appropriations from the 2014 budget up to and including this draft budget for 2021, it is foreseen to disburse more than EUR 12.3 billion to project promoters by the end of 2021. The ongoing projects will incur further costs during the years 2022 and 2023 and the closure of all projects will take place in 2024 and 2025, which leaves sufficient time to absorb the remaining budget of EUR 10.9 billion.

Between 2017 and 2019, the Commission selected more than 184 projects under the CEF Transport programme, resulting from different calls for proposals launched over the years. This led to an additional EU-contribution of around EUR 3.7 billion, out of which EUR 2.1 already allocated and estimated amount of EUR 1.6 billion dedicated to on-going calls for proposals, currently triggering an overall transport investment of more than EUR 8 billion.

In particular, the following Calls for proposals were completed:

Year- Call launch	Call reference	Projects selected	EU-funding	Call Objectives
2017	2017 CEF Transport Blending Call- 1 st cut off	39	EUR 964.4 million	Support economically viable projects using private finance by providing an EU grant to bridge the funding gap
2017	2017 CEF Transport Blending Call- 2 nd cut off	33	EUR 385.2 million	As above, with a focus on innovation and new technologies projects, notably in the field of alternative fuels, in support of the Commission’s Clean Mobility policy
2017	2017 CEF Transport SESAR Call	14	EUR 286.2 million	Modernising Air Traffic Management (ATM) in Europe and providing a high performing ATM infrastructure that will enable the safe, efficient and environmentally friendly operation and development of air transport. Focus support harmonised ATM systems and standards in Europe
2018	2018 CEF Transport Multi-Annual call	67	EUR 408.3 million	The call covered funding objectives and priorities supporting the policy orientations of the 3rd Clean Mobility Package. The focus of financial assistance has thus been on transport digitalisation, road safety and multimodality.
2019	2019 CEF Transport Annual Call	31	EUR 93.5 million	The call allowed for financial assistance through grants for projects of common interest regarding cross-border sections, connections to and the development of maritime ports along the comprehensive network. Moreover, it focused on the mitigation of impact of rail freight noise and vibrations.
2019	2019 CEF Transport Blending facility	First cut-off date under evaluation, call still ongoing	EUR 198 million (indicative budget)	The rolling call will support two areas that will deliver on the Commission’s agenda for a clean and digital transport system: the deployment of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and the deployment of Alternative Fuels.
2019	2019 CEF transport multiannual	Under evaluation	EUR 1400 million (indicative budget)	The call aims at supporting the completion of the TEN-T network, with a specific focus on addressing bottlenecks, missing links and cross border sections along the Core Network Corridors and supporting passenger multimodality in urban nodes.

⁽¹⁾ Volume of private, public or public-private partnership investment in projects of common interest

The CEF Transport investments during the 2017-2019 period have anticipated and accompanied the definition of the European Green Deal strategy, launched by the new Commission at the end of 2019. In this framework, the CEF Transport programme has continued to foster the overall objective of completing the TEN-T network, allowing for improved modal shift results and the deployment of more sustainable and intelligent transport solutions. In addition, it continued to prioritise the co-funding of sustainable transport modes. In particular, the programme supported the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructures in Europe, allocating more than EUR 350 million co-funding to projects in this sector and triggering an overall investment of more than EUR 1.5 billion. As a result, the CEF Transport programme has played a key role for investments in greener solutions

In addition, two amendments to the CEF Transport multiannual work programme were adopted in April and in October 2019 with the aim of continuing supporting the completion of the TEN-T network, focusing on the decarbonisation and digitalisation of transport.

The first amendment to the multiannual work programme made available an indicative amount of EUR 200 million for the setup of the CEF Transport Blending Facility. The Facility builds on the positive experience of the 2017 CEF Transport Blending Calls and promotes the participation of private sector investors and financial institutions in projects contributing to the environmental sustainability and efficiency of the transport sector in Europe. The CEF Transport Blending Facility is the first form of blending operations launched within the Commission, according to article 159 of the financial regulation. It will support two areas that will deliver on the Commission's agenda for a clean and digital transport system: the deployment of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and the deployment of Alternative Fuels.

The Facility is implemented via a cooperation framework between the European Commission and Implementing Partners to support Blending Operations, i.e. investments combining the use of grants and/or financial instruments from the EU budget and financing from the Implementing Partners (via a loan, debt, equity or any other repayable form of support).

At the same time, the second amendment to the multiannual work programme made available an indicative amount of EUR 1.4 billion for the 2019 multiannual call for proposals. The call set itself in continuation with the previous funding opportunities and focuses on the support to the timely completion of the TEN-T Core Network, including the focus on specific digital elements and alternative fuels solutions, complementing the Blending Facility co-funding opportunities. This call attracted applications for more than EUR 4.5 billion of EU contribution which is an over-subscription of 3.2. The Commission has already announced that it will use the flexibility allowed to possibly absorb freed appropriations increasing the indicative budget of EUR 1.4 billion in case the submitted proposals are of high quality.

More information about the CEF Transport calls and selection decisions can be found at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure-ten-t-connecting-europe/reference-documents-work-programmes-selection_en.

ENERGY

On 31 October 2019, the Commission published its [fourth list of PCIs](#), which contains 149 projects, i.e. 100 electricity transmission and storage, 6 smart grid deployment, 32 gas, 6 oil and 5 cross-border carbon dioxide networks. Electricity and smart grids account for more than 70 % of the projects, mirroring the increasing role of renewable electricity in the energy system and the need for network reinforcements enabling the integration of renewables and more cross-border trade.

By the end of 2019, in total nearly 40 PCIs have been implemented and some further 79 PCIs are expected to be implemented by 2022. In the period 2014-2019 CEF Energy co-funding of a total of EUR 3.8 billion was allocated to 139 actions contributing to 95 PCIs. CEF Energy has helped to kick-off and implement key energy infrastructure investments in Europe.

In 2019, in the electricity sector, a grant of EUR 530 million was awarded to support the construction of the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France. The Celtic Interconnector is a new electrical link between France and Ireland which will be completed by 2026. It will have an approximate length of 600 km and a capacity of 700 MW, enough to power 450,000 households. The feasibility study and the initial design and pre-consultation for the Celtic Interconnector were also carried out with the support of the CEF programme.

In addition, one grant of EUR 10.29 million has been allocated to support the development of the Harmony Link Interconnector between Lithuania and Poland. The action is a part of the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity network with the European system.

Nine calls for proposals were launched under CEF Energy over the six years of this period, until the end of 2019. With reference to the implementation period 2017-2019, the European Commission has allocated:

- A total of EUR 873 million in CEF grants to 17 PCIs in 2017, 8 in the electricity sector and 9 in the gas sector. 4 were for construction works and 13 for studies.
- A total of EUR 848 million in CEF grants to 22 PCIs in 2018, 11 in the electricity sector, 5 in the gas sector, 3 for smart grids, and 3 for carbon capture technology. Under the first call 2018, a total of EUR 48.4 million in CEF grants was allocated to 8 PCIs to undertake studies, of which 4 are in the electricity sector, 2 in the gas sector, 1 for smart grids, and 1 for carbon capture technology. The financing decision under the second 2018 CEF Energy Call for Proposals was adopted in February 2019 (14 proposals: 7 for electricity, 2 for smart grids, 3 for gas and 2 for CO2 for a total amount of EUR 799 million.)

- A total of EUR 556 million in CEF grants to 8 PCIs in 2019. Of these grants, 6 were for projects in electricity sector and 2 for projects in the gas sector. 6 were for studies and 2 for construction works.

In particular, the following Calls for proposals were completed:

Year- Call launch	Call reference	Actions selected	EU-funding awarded	Call Objectives
2017	Sixth multiannual call for proposals	17	EUR 873 million	– Increasing competitiveness – Enhancing Union security of energy supply – Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment Promotion of safe, secure (incl. cybersecurity) and efficient network operation
2018	Seventh and eighth multiannual calls for proposals	22	EUR 848 million	
2019	Ninth multiannual call for proposals	8	EUR 556 million	

TELECOM

CEF Telecom supports the deployment of trusted cross-border digital service infrastructures (hereby referred to as ‘DSIs’) essential to trigger the digital transformation of public sector services in the Member States all for the benefits of citizens and businesses. DSIs are developed and operated through two main parallel investments. The ‘Core Service Platforms’ (CSP), are owned, by the European Commission, and are funded mostly via procurement contracts while ‘Generic Services’ (GS) are implemented via grants. The CSP are the central hubs that provide, for each digital service, trans-European connectivity, access and interoperability. GS on the other hand, are the links between the nationally developed solutions and the CSP. CEF Telecom also promotes free wireless connectivity in local communities and stimulates investment for deploying and modernising broadband networks – all essential elements for sustaining a Digital Single Market.

The fifth Work Programme for 2018 ⁽²⁾ adopted on the 5th of February 2018 and amended in November 2018 ⁽³⁾ is supporting the deployment, operation and evolutive maintenance of sixteen ⁽⁴⁾ digital infrastructures building on the investment done in previous years. In addition, three new building blocks were added to the CEF ecosystem, namely eArchiving, the Context Broker, and Big Data Test Infrastructure (last two embedded into Public Open Data DSI). In effect, EUR 84 million were allocated to the deployment of the Generic Services through calls for proposals managed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) and EUR 44 million to the Core Platforms supported mostly ⁽⁵⁾ through calls for tenders. The calls for proposals for Generic Services awarded 79.9 million to 123 projects deploying the ecosystem of DSIs supported through CEF.

The sixth Work Programme for 2019-2020 ⁽⁶⁾ adopted on the 14th of February 2019 and amended on the 28 February 2020 is supporting the deployment, operation and evolutive maintenance of eighteen ⁽⁷⁾ digital infrastructures building on the investment done in previous years. In addition, three new DSIs were added to the CEF ecosystem, namely European Digital Media Observatory, European Platform on Digital Skills and Jobs and Blockchain. In effect, EUR 44 million were allocated to the deployment of the Generic Services through calls for proposals managed by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) and EUR 39.8 million to the Core Platforms supported mostly ⁽⁸⁾ through calls for tenders. The first call for proposals for Generic Services awarded more than EUR 16 million to 23 projects in the areas of eID, eSignature, Europeana eDelivery, eInvoicing and Automated Translation. The second call is currently under evaluation.

As regards to connectivity actions, three call for proposals were launched under the WiFi4EU initiative for a total of 7 980 vouchers allocated to municipalities (EUR 119.7 million) granted to finance the installation of local wi-fi based connectivity in public spaces. Additionally, the CEF Telecom supported connectivity via technical assistance delivered through the Support Facility for the Broadband Competence Offices. As the first project has been signed only in January 2019, other performance figures, including total leverage at project level as well as number of households and premises connected or passed, will become available starting Q2 2020. Besides encouraging and supporting local public authorities to offer free Wi-Fi connectivity, **WiFi4EU** succeeded also to establish a direct link with local entities, create a community, and raise awareness of connectivity policies. A third of all European municipalities (26 500 registrations) participated to the three first calls with most applying within seconds from the time the call was opened. Following the award of the voucher, municipalities started rolling out their free Wi-Fi networks. 554 installations were declared by end of January 2020. The next 6-12 months will be crucial to accelerate the deployment of networks so as installation companies can be paid. It is expected that implementation will be completed between 2021 and 2023

⁽²⁾ C(2018) 568

⁽³⁾ C(2018) 7635 final

⁽⁴⁾ In particular in the areas of eIdentification, eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, On-line Dispute Resolution (ODR), Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), the European e-Justice portal, Safer Internet and Europeana. Please note P2P mobile Payment DSI was withdrawn through the Amendment of the 2018 Work Programme (i.e. C(2018) 7635 final)

⁽⁵⁾ With the exception of the calls for grants to support the operation and maintenance of the Core Service Platforms for EU eJustice and eArchiving.

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 1021 final, corrigendum C (2019) 2782 final and amendment C(2020) 1078 final.

⁽⁷⁾ In particular in the areas of Europeana, eIdentification, eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), the European e-Justice portal, eArchiving, European Digital Media Observatory, European Platform on Digital Skills and Jobs and Blockchain.

⁽⁸⁾ With the exception of the calls for grants to support the operation and maintenance of the Core Service Platforms for EU Student eCard and eArchiving.

CROSS-CUTTING (Financial Instruments)

Regarding CEF Financial Instruments, the Commission adopted Annual Work Programmes in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (the latest C(2016)1950 of 4 July 2016, amended on 6 December 2016 by Decision C(2016) 7828), which provide for a CEF Debt Instrument to enhance the financing of projects of common interest in the 3 CEF sectors. The management of the CEF Debt Instrument was delegated to the European Investment Bank (EIB) as entrusted entity. The Work Programmes also provide for the establishment of an Equity instrument in the telecommunications sector.

With regard to the transport sector, the total allocation to the CEF Debt Instrument as of 2019 accounts for EUR 206.35 million, where EUR 165.8 million was already paid to the EIB by the end of 2019. To date a total of EUR 14.3 billion of investments has been raised by the instrument, out of which EUR 5.8 billion since 2014. Several projects have been supported across rail, motorways, ports, shipping and alternative fuels deployment. In total, 20 projects have been signed, approved or are under approval.

The CEF Debt Instrument (CEF-DI) Delegation Agreement was amended in June 2019 in order to focus on green innovative investments, to ensure complementarity with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and to allow the absorption of NER 300 programme (managed by DG CLIMA). The amended CEF-DI Delegation Agreement introduces the 'Future Mobility' financial product to support high-risk deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, the roll out of innovative technologies and smart mobility services.

The CEF-DI pipeline was reviewed at the CEF DI Steering Committee of 22 November 2019, it foresees the full exhaustion of the CEF-DI budget and the reliance to NER300 contribution to cover upcoming operations. The amendment of the Delegation Agreement resulted in a list of projects for which EUR 1.8 billion investment is planned, including projects on the deployment of electric public buses and recharging infrastructure, the development of electric and hydrogen charging points, road to rail terminals and zero-emission inland waterway transport. The operations signed in 2019 for instance include the deployment of approx. 6 600 Alternative Current (AC) and 250 Direct Current (DC) charging stations in Italy; the acquisition of a total of 255 electric buses and associated charging infrastructure in the city of Hamburg; and the deployment of 15 000 leasing electric and hybrid vehicles across 6 EU countries.

In the energy sector, the first CEF Debt Instrument was expected to be concluded by the EIB in 4Q 2018 (relying on the credits committed 2014-2017). However, the financial closing of this operation was eventually cancelled by the project promoter. Therefore, the amount initially committed under CEF Debt Instrument for this operation (EUR 89 million) is available for other energy projects currently under appraisal by the EIB.

In the telecommunications sector, as regards to broadband, the guidelines of the CEF Debt Instrument have been revised on the basis of a common agreement with the EIB. Suitable projects are still to be identified by the EIB.

With regard to the CEF Equity Instrument, the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (hereafter, the 'CEBF') was successfully launched on 27 June 2018. The CEBF has so far raised EUR 420 million at first closing through commitments from the following investors: the EIB for EUR 140 million (out of which EUR 100 million are backed by EFSI); the European Commission, via the Connecting Europe Facility, for EUR 100 million; KfW for EUR 50 million; Cassa Depositi e Prestiti for EUR 50 million; Caisse des Dépôts for EUR 50 million; Cube Infrastructure Managers ('Cube IM') for EUR 5 million and an additional EUR 25 million from a European private investor. Additional (private) fundraising efforts are ongoing for subsequent closing(s) up until December 2019.

The first project has been signed on the 25th of January 2019 and concerns the deployment of a high-quality fiber-to-the-home (FTTH), open-access network for residential, business and public administration in the rural areas of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria regions – the two North-Western counties in Croatia – and to cover over 135 000 locations. This investment marks the inaugural project of the CEBF.

Key achievements

TRANSPORT

During 2019 around 100 CEF Transport Action have been closed, strongly contributing to the overall programme objectives. In particular, closed actions aimed at the removal of bottlenecks or missing links at cross border sections along the TEN-T Core Network, improved integration of transport modes, focused on the digitalisation of transport and supported decarbonisation through sustainable transport solutions.

Example of achievements reached in 2019 per transport mode are:

Railway: Knappenrode-Horka-German/Polish border section: upgrade, electrification and European Train Control System (ETCS) planning

This action contributed to the double-track upgrade and the electrification of the railway line between Knappenrode and the German/Polish border, along the TEN-T Core Network. The upgrade and electrification improved the rail freight transport connection between the German-Polish border to central Germany (Magdeburg) and further to Bremen/Bremerhaven and other destinations. It also contributed to the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Inland Waterways (IWW): Enhancing the efficiency of Hungarian River Information Services operations

The action contributed to the enhancement of the River Information Services (RIS) system in order to support efficient and safe inland navigation on the Danube. The works carried out through the action enhanced traffic management services, modernised on-shore RIS services and improved the quality of fairway information services data.

Maritime: Zero Emission Ferries – a green link across the Oresund

The action covered the introduction of new and innovative concepts and technology by converting two existing complex passenger ships – originally fuelled by heavy oil – to plug-in all electric powered operation using exclusively batteries. The action has brought a more environmentally friendly solution to a very busy maritime link, connecting the comprehensive TEN-T network ports of Helsingør (Denmark) and Helsingborg (Sweden). Moreover, the required power provision and charging installations in the ports/ferry terminals were realised. The project supported the development of clean Motorways of the Sea by testing and deploying new technological solutions in real operational conditions.

Road: Charging stations for electric vehicles in Slovakia and Poland (NCE-FastEvNet)

The action, a study with integrated pilot, was implemented in Slovakia and Poland along the North Sea-Baltic, Baltic-Adriatic, Orient/East-Med and Rhine–Danube Core Network Corridors. It deployed 10 multi-standard fast charging stations for electric vehicles in Slovakia and 75 in Poland, three of them including battery storage to cover peak demand. Overall, the action contributed to decarbonisation and roll-out of alternative fuels in the EU.

Air: Air Traffic Management (ATM) System Deployment

The action covered the first step of the Development Roadmap of Air Traffic Management (ATM) solution of the Baltic FAB (Functional Airspace Block) Lithuania-Poland. It contributed to efficient Single European Sky development and consolidation, and optimisation of Air Navigation Services (ANS) provision in the Baltic FAB. The Action was implemented in the Vilnius Area Control Centre and affects the full Lithuanian airspace.

ENERGY

At the end of 2019, 76 actions were ongoing amounting to EUR 3.57 billion of EU support distributed between four PCI thematic corridors in the electricity sector, four in the gas sector and two in thematic areas – smart grids and cross-border CO2 networks, linking the energy systems across Europe and helping the EU achieve its energy policy and climate objectives. 19 actions (studies) contributing to the implementation of PCIs were closed delivering among others cost-benefit analysis, advanced permitting, feasibility studies, and basic or detailed technical designs.

PCIs completed in 2019 and supported by CEF grants for works in previous years include:

- PCI 5.2 the Twinning of Scotland onshore system between Cluden and Brighthouse Bay (UK). The Action supported by CEF contributed to the implementation of this PCI by reducing compressor fuel gas usage and increasing pipeline storage and technical capacity, bringing about environmental benefits through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;
- PCI 8.1.1 the Balticconnector project aiming to interconnect the natural gas transmission networks between Estonia and Finland. Furthermore, Balticconnector contributed to the diversification of gas supplies in the Baltic region, enhancing competitiveness and strengthening the liberalization process of the gas markets in the Baltic States. The objective of the Actions supported by CEF was to carry out preparatory studies aimed at getting technical and financial information in order to obtain the necessary permits for the pipeline's offshore and onshore sections, prepare the Final Investment Decision (FID), and fully implement the construction of this PCI;
- PCI 4.4.1 the internal electricity line in Latvia, part of the cluster Latvia – Sweden electricity capacity increase. The Action supported by CEF contributed to construction of a double circuit 330kV and 110 kV overhead line from Ventspils-Tume-Imanta, the extension of the 330kV 'Imanta' substation for the transmissionline connection to the network, the construction of the new 330kV and extension of the existing 110kV 'Tume' substation, and the reconstruction of other substations.

In addition, other PCIs, which received the CEF support for studies on earlier implementation stages, were completed in 2019:

- PCI 1.7.2 the construction of the IFA2 project, new subsea electricity 320 kV – 390 kV HVDC link with a capacity of around 1000 MW between the UK and France. The objective of the Action supported by CEF was to prepare the necessary studies required to enable positive Final Investment Decision (FID) decisions and signature of construction contracts;
- PCI 7.1.1 Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) in Turkey, which will connect to the EU in 2020 via the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). The studies supported by CEF aimed to develop the software systems, sound engineering packages, allowing the minimisation of construction risks and safe transmission operations, environmental monitoring etc.

Significant progress in works has been achieved, among others, for:

- PCI 3.8.4 and PCI 3.7.4, internal electricity lines in Romania and Bulgaria (with status of CESEC projects). The CEF supported Actions contributed to the studies, pre-investment works and construction of the project;
- PCI 6.2.1 the Poland-Slovakia gas interconnector, the completion of which will be a significant step to enhance the resilience and diversification of the Union's gas supply. The scope of the Actions supported by CEF includes pre-investment

activities, the construction of the Slovak and the Polish sections of the pipeline as well as the installation of the auxiliary infrastructure on both sides;

- PCI 5.10 the TENP pipeline and its innovative deodorisation facility removing odorants in gas which enters the TENP pipeline from the South, in order to make the gas compliant with the national requirements for the German gas pipeline network. The new deodorisation plant will allow the import of gas from France via Switzerland into Germany. The Actions supported by CEF included the construction works and the technical and engineering studies of this PCI.

In 2017-2019 a total of about EUR 1.7 billion of CEF Energy funds have been allocated to the projects in electricity, smart grids and carbon dioxide transport sectors, which are contributing directly to Union's climate policy objectives.

TELECOM

The Connecting Europe Facility supports the deployment and promotion of 20 interoperable Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs), of Internet connectivity in local communities and broadband across the EU.

DSIs are based on mature technical and organisational solutions to support exchanges and collaboration between citizens, businesses and public administrations. The vision is to create a European ecosystem of interoperable digital services that will allow all citizens, businesses and administrations across the EU to fully benefit from living in a Digital Single Market.

Examples of achievements of selected DSIs up to date are reported below:

The **Cybersecurity** Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI) contributes to the EU preparedness to deal with cyber threats by increasing cybersecurity capabilities of key cybersecurity players addressed by the NIS Directive (2016/1148). These are the national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), operators of essential services (OES), digital service providers (DSPs), single points of contact (SPOC) and national competent authorities (NCAs). The Cybersecurity DSI also contributes to the implementation of the Cybersecurity Act (Regulation 2019/881) by supporting stakeholders involved in cybersecurity certification. To the moment, 57 projects for Cybersecurity are being deployed in 22 Member States. The 'CyberExchange' project for example, brings together 10 Member States: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Financial support is provided to strengthen the know-how and the capabilities of their national CSIRTs/CERTs, as well as their cross-border cooperation.

The **eHealth** Digital Service Infrastructure facilitates continuity of care and patient safety of citizens seeking cross-border healthcare, allowing health data to be exchanged across national borders. Cross-border ePrescriptions/eDispensations (eP) service patients being abroad to receive the equivalent medication that they would receive in their home country. The Patient Summary (PS) services provide health professionals with access to the verified key health data of a patient needing unplanned cross-border healthcare. In addition, eHealth DSI provides support to the European Reference Networks (ERNs). These are virtual networks bringing together healthcare providers and centres of expertise across Europe to tackle complex or rare medical conditions that require specialised treatment and a concentration of knowledge and resources. To the moment, 84 projects support eHealth interoperability and over 900 highly specialised medical teams join their forces within 24 ERNs. The cross-border exchanges of electronic Patient Summaries and ePrescriptions takes place since January 2019, with almost 8000 ePrescriptions already dispensed between Finland and Estonia and Croatia at the moment. Portugal will also join the ePrescription exchange in Q1 2020. In 2019, Czechia, Luxembourg, Croatia and Malta enabled the exchange of patient summaries – short forms of electronic health records, and Portugal joined them in early 2020. Additional 17 MSs are expected to exchange ePrescriptions and patient summaries by the end of 2022.

In the area of connectivity, the **Connecting Europe Broadband Fund**, established under CEF Equity Instrument with EFSI support is the main deliverable in the area of broadband in 2016 and 2017. The Fund was successfully launched on the 27th of June 2018, raising EUR 420 million at first closing through commitments from the European Commission as well as the EIB, three national promotional banks, and one private investor. The first project has been signed on 25 January 2019 and concerns the deployment of a high-quality fiber-to-the-home (FTTH), open-access network for residential, business and public administration in the rural areas of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria regions – the two North-Western counties in Croatia – and to cover over 135,000 locations. Since then, the Fund has signed two other projects, including a deal in Slovenia to invest into a high-quality FTTH, open-access network for residential, business and public administration in the country's rural areas and to cover over 240,000 locations. The fund manager is organizing a second fundraising round, following an investor event organized in Paris in November 2019 with participation from major institutional investors. **WiFi4EU** delivered on the political promise to attribute connectivity vouchers to about 8,000 municipalities. The municipalities started installing WiFi4EU networks in 2019.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluations have been presented in the Programme Statement 2019 ⁽⁹⁾.

Moreover, the Commission reported on the latest performance of the TEN-E framework in the Commission Staff Working Document (SWD(2019)395) accompanying the Commission Delegated Regulation amending TEN-E Regulation ⁽¹⁰⁾ (i.e. 4th PCI list; C(2019)7772). In June 2019 the Commission launched an evaluation of the TEN-E Regulation ⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/swd-2018-0044-mid-term-evaluation-cef-ia-part2.pdf>

At the end of 2019, the Commission has also started the process for the review of the TEN-T Regulation (EU) N° 1315/2013. It is expected that by the end of 2020, the evaluation procedure in line with better regulation principles would be completed. The related impact assessment should follow during 2021, allowing for the preparation of a proposal for the revision of the TEN-T Guidelines by the end of 2022.

Specific studies:

- **TEN-T Core Network Corridor studies:** Corridor studies for 2018-2019 (4th version) are currently under finalisation and are expected to be published before mid 2020. The studies will provide an updated overview of the TEN-T completion along the 9 Core Network Corridors and for the 2 horizontal priorities of European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and Motorways of the Sea (MoS). **(on going)**.
- **Study on the impact of TEN-T completion on jobs, growth and climate:** the study, completed in 2019, assessed the impact of the TEN-T policy on three principal objectives of EU policy-making: fostering growth, creating jobs and mitigating climate change. It concluded that the completion of the TEN-T networks would have positive impact on employment, GDP and reduction of emissions. Link towards the study: <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/studies/ten-t-growth-and-jobs-synthesis.pdf>

Forthcoming implementation

TRANSPORT

The majority of CEF Transport co-funded actions is expected to be completed between 2021 and 2023 and as the projects progress, consequent amounts of payment appropriations are needed in the coming years.

Moreover, in 2020, the CEF Transport programme is expected to deliver with additional co-financed projects, resulting from the 2019 CEF multiannual transport call and the CEF Transport Blending Facility. Furthermore, continuing with the very close monitoring of CEF Actions (in line with the 2018 Mid-term Review- MTR), in 2020, INEA and DG MOVE will further assess the progress of ongoing CEF Transport grant agreements. The result of this assessment might lead to additional amendments triggering additional freed appropriations to be used for CEF Transport calls to be launched before the end of 2020.

Within the same period, it is also expected that a greater number of the currently ongoing CEF Actions will be successfully completed, contributing to the programme's objectives and the achievement of the TEN-T transport networks' completion within the expected timeframe

ENERGY

The multiannual work programme 2020 under CEF energy was adopted in March 2020. It indicatively foresees one call for proposals with a total value of EUR 979 million. This multiannual work programme shall contribute to supporting energy infrastructure projects of common interest that have significant societal benefits and that ensure greater solidarity among Member States, but which do not receive adequate financing from the market. In line with Article 7(3) of the Regulation EU (No) 1316/2013 this multiannual work programme shall also contribute to programme support actions which contribute to the implementation of the TEN-E policy. Moreover, this multiannual work programme aims at financing actions contributing to the Union's mid-term and long-term objectives in terms of decarbonisation. Considering that the Green Deal Communication has further emphasized the key enabling role of energy infrastructure, including cross-border carbon dioxide networks, in the transition to a climate neutral economy, financial assistance should maximise its added value towards decarbonisation.

In 2020, there are no commitment appropriations for financial instruments (budget line 32 02 01 04).

CEF TELECOM

The WP 2019-2020 adopted on 14 February 2019 and amended on the 28 February 2020 outlines activities to be implemented in 2019 and 2020 (Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 1078 final). In 2020, CEF Telecom will continue the deployment and operation activities of 20⁽¹²⁾ DSIs supported in the previous years. Two sets of calls for generic services will be launched in 2020 supporting the uptake in the Member States of 15 of these DSIs. In addition, one WiFi4EU call will be launched in 2020, supporting local administration to provide free of charge Wi-Fi connectivity.

The Connecting Europe Broadband Fund has been commercially launched in June 2018. The Commission has already started investing the roll out of high capacity networks in underserved areas with a first project signed in January 2019. Additional (private) fundraising efforts are ongoing for subsequent closing(s) up until December 2020. The Fund is investing in broadband infrastructure networks across underserved areas in Europe. The launch of the investment platform was planned in the Commission's strategy 'Connectivity for a Competitive Digital Single Market – Towards a Gigabit Society' and it is an important step towards the deployment of the very high-capacity networks that Europe needs for its digital economy and society).

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/c_2019_7772_1_commission_delegated_regulation.pdf

⁽¹¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-3443380_en

⁽¹²⁾ European, Safer Internet, eIdentification, EU Student eCard, eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), European eJustice, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), eArchiving, European Digital Media Observatory, European Platform on Digital Skills and Jobs and Blockchain.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

As part of the next long-term EU budget (MFF 2021-2027), the European Commission proposed to renew the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a funding programme that supports the development of transport, energy and digital infrastructure within trans-European networks.

CEF will support infrastructure projects connecting the EU and its regions. It will also aim to better integrate the transport, energy and digital sectors, in order to accelerate the digitalisation and decarbonisation of the EU's economy. In particular, 60 % of the CEF budget will contribute to climate objectives in line with the EU's commitments under the Paris Agreement. Building on the success of the previous programming period (2014 -2020), CEF will also continue to bridge the investment gap in Europe and to generate jobs and economic growth.

Lastly, the facility will provide the opportunity to deploy technologies developed through the EU R&I programmes, boosting their market uptake and ensuring the Trans – European networks are equipped with advanced technology.

In the Commission's proposal for the CEF 2021-2027 programme, the general and cohesion envelopes for the transport sector, will be complemented with a new envelope dedicated to military mobility. The main objectives for the Transport sector will be:

- the support to the completion of an efficient, interconnected, interoperable and multimodal TEN-T Transport Network for the deployment of railway, road, inland waterway and maritime infrastructure, in line with TEN-T Regulation⁽¹³⁾, to which at least 60 % of the general envelope and 85 % of the cohesion envelope should be dedicated and;
- the modernisation of the same network through the support to actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility, to which at least 40 % of the general envelope and 15 % of the cohesion envelope should be dedicated.

In this framework and without prejudging the outcome of the ongoing MFF negotiations, services are already working on a first concept for the first multiannual work programme for the transport sector, which as a novelty, will cover the first three years of implementation of the new CEF programme. The work programme will focus on the support to infrastructural projects needed for the completion of the TEN-T network but will also put a lot of emphasis on sustainable transport modes, improving the modal-shift performance and aiming at contributing to the transport decarbonisation and digitalisation goals.

CEF Energy will provide financial assistance to a number of energy infrastructure projects that are critical to deliver the European Green Deal and the climate neutrality objective. Under the trans-European energy infrastructure, CEF policy will be focused on electricity interconnections, electricity storages, smart grid projects, and carbon dioxide transportation projects. To support the Union's decarbonisation objectives, internal market integration and security of supply, the priority will be given to technologies and projects contributing to transition to a low emission economy. In addition, the new CEF cross-border renewables window will foster regional cooperation in the area of the renewable energy and the market uptake of such projects.

Different from the current CEF Telecom programme, the digital strand of the forthcoming Connecting Europe Facility will focus on supporting investments for the deployment of digital connectivity infrastructures of common interest. The proposed budget for the period 2021-2027 would co-fund:

- the deployment of and access to very high-capacity networks, including 5G systems, capable of providing Gigabit connectivity in areas where socioeconomic drivers are located,
- the provision of very high-quality local wireless connectivity in local communities that is free of charge and without discriminatory conditions,
- uninterrupted coverage with 5G systems of all major transport paths, including the trans-European transport networks,
- deployment of new or significant upgrade of existing backbone networks including submarine cables, within and between Member States and between the Union and third countries,
- digital connectivity infrastructures related to cross-border projects in the areas of transport or energy and/or supporting operational digital platforms directly associated to transport or energy infrastructures.

Under the current legislative proposal, important efforts were deployed for the definition of a better performance framework. The dedicated parent DGs are closely cooperating with INEA in order to identify the best indicators at outputs, outcome and impact level, in order to improve the monitoring and reporting of the Programme.

⁽¹³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010 Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments (OJ L 169, 1.7.2015, p. 1).	2014 – 2020	30 442,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	5,8	5,3	5,0	4,6	4,1	4,8	4,3	33,8
Operational appropriations	1 958,8	1 416,4	2 116,6	2 451,4	2 729,6	3 705,0	3 991,3	18 369,1
Executive Agency	11,6	13,4	12,9	13,8	14,2	15,1	16,1	97,0
Joint undertaking						39,1	58,6	97,7
Total	1 976,2	1 435,0	2 134,5	2 469,7	2 747,9	3 764,0	4 070,3	18 597,6
<i>Contribution from Cohesion Fund</i>	<i>983,0</i>	<i>1 217,0</i>	<i>2 376,5</i>	<i>1 593,3</i>	<i>1 655,1</i>	<i>1 700,4</i>	<i>1 780,6</i>	<i>11 305,9</i>
Total with contribution from Cohesion Fund	2 959,2	2 652,0	4 511,0	4 063,0	4 403,1	5 464,4	5 850,9	29 903,6

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	3 763,983	99,86 %	1 756,552	99,82 %	4 070,302	96,51 %	2 102,395	23,45 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	3 894,479	99,73 %	1 780,519	99,57 %	4 081,554	96,33 %	2 115,134	23,62 %

(*) 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

In general, the approach of the Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 is good and will be kept in the next multiannual financial framework (see in more detail below). In particular, CEF is an effective and targeted instrument for investment in trans-European infrastructure (TEN) in transport, energy and the digital sector, it strongly contributes to the Commission's priorities on jobs, growth and investment, the internal market, Energy Union and climate and the Digital Single Market. The direct management of CEF grants has proven very efficient, with a strong project pipeline and a competitive selection process, a focus on EU policy objectives, coordinated implementation and the full involvement of Member States.

It is currently too early to conclude whether the programme's goals will be achieved as the nature of large-scale infrastructure projects makes it difficult to already present results. Nevertheless, the close monitoring of the projects provided by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) ensures to identify actions for which amendments are needed, making the instrument very reactive to new needs and constraints, and allowing for a swift re-allocations of the funds if needed. It should be noted that in this context, the targets presented in the indicators' sections are based on contracts signed: they do not represent the overarching and stable goals of the programme during the overall period but only the aggregation of targets for the contractually agreed project. Therefore, these targets are reviewed every year to integrate new signed grant agreements and the progress of on-going projects assessed by INEA.

Furthermore, the CEF parent DGs and the INEA have worked and will continue working to improve the programme's performance. In particular, following the mid-term evaluation of CEF and in line with the recommendations of some ECA special reports, areas for improvement were identified. Notably, due to differences in the sectoral legal frameworks, the programme faced the limitations for cross-sectoral synergies. In addition, it was found that the programme would benefit from more transparency and predictability.

As consequence, the draft CEF 2021-2027 legal basis under negotiation, for which a Common Understanding⁽¹⁴⁾ has been reached in March 2019, includes the possibility to adopt joint work programmes covering specific priorities of several sectors and the

⁽¹⁴⁾ The Common Understanding on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and

removal of obstacles that have hampered synergies in the current period. Alternatively, it would also be possible to include in sector specific funding synergetic elements pertaining to another sector. Moreover, in view of increasing transparency and predictability, limiting the procedures and ensuring overall consistency, the Common Understanding also contains the requirement to adopt the multiannual work programmes which include the timetable of the calls for proposals for the first three years of the programme, their topics and indicative budget as well as a prospective framework covering the entire programming period.

TRANSPORT

Projects co-funded under the CEF Transport aim at supporting the completion of the Core and Comprehensive Transport Networks, with a specific focus on the 9 Core Network Corridors (CNC). Moreover, the CEF co-financed projects back the achievement of a decarbonised and digitalised transport sector in Europe. In this framework, the CEF actions fosters the completion of a smart, high-performance and sustainable transport network, allowing seamless mobility for passengers and freight around Europe. This contributes to the overall EU policy goals of a complete single market, boosting jobs and supporting a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU

CEF Transport actions are usually characterised by long implementation periods as they refer to works for large and technically complex transport infrastructure projects, often entailing a risk component. In this framework, beneficiaries of CEF co-funding might experience delays during the projects' implementation. These refer mainly to public procurement issues (e.g. complaints/appeals during tender procedures) as well as legal and environmental issues (e.g. permitting, spatial planning, other authorizations and land acquisition). Moreover, technical issues related to unforeseen events (such as landslides), issues related to the political support to projects or to the securing of sufficient co-funding (national or other sources) might also occur during the implementation of CEF Actions.

These issues are not under the control of the Commission and their pre-identification at the moment of the projects' selection is usually not possible. Nevertheless, the Commission, through INEA, has adopted a number of mitigating measures, including a close monitoring of CEF Actions, providing for an optimal use of EU-funding. In particular, the agency assess reports, performs on site visits and follows-up with CEF beneficiaries on the delays experienced, ensuring a thorough assessment and identifying the actions for which amendments are needed (use it or lose it principle). This practice allows to reinject funds into new calls for proposals.

Moreover, learning from the experience of the first CEF Transport calls for proposals, the Commission has focused its attention on the careful assessment of the maturity award criterion and further guidelines for its assessment are expected to be implemented during the next programming period. Moreover, important progress have been achieved for the identification of new financing opportunities for transport infrastructure projects. Thanks to the new provisions of the Financial Regulation and the good results achieved by the CEF Transport Blending Call 2017, during 2019 DG MOVE conceived and launched the CEF Transport Blending Facility. The facility represented a first and unique opportunity to boost the participation of private sector investors and financial institutions in projects contributing to the environmental sustainability and efficiency of the transport sector in Europe. The Blending Facility is organised around several cut-off dates for applications. Currently, only the first cut-off date has been completed. As a result, eleven applications have been submitted, requesting grants worth EUR 86 million. These projects address the uptake of alternative fuels and the deployment of ERTMS. The Facility remains open for applications longer than classical calls for proposals, allowing for better predictability and mature projects. This increases the possibility of attracting bank co-financing, as well as ensuring project implementation in time and budget. Since its launch in mid-November, nine public financial institutions (also known as Implementing Partners), have already joined the Facility, of which nearly half are from cohesion countries or specializing in these countries. This gives the Facility a broader geographic coverage allowing for more projects to be signed.

Taking into consideration that results of CEF calls are still expected in the coming years (2020 and 2021), the indicators below include moving targets, as these latter are defined by the accomplishment of the number of CEF ongoing actions. This number is evolving in accordance with calls for proposals over the years. In this context, foreseen milestones are expected results by actions still ongoing while actual results correspond to outputs achieved by closed CEF Transport actions.

In conclusion, it can be confirmed that the long term success of the CEF Transport programme cannot be currently reflected in the indicators reported below, as the majority of the CEF Transport actions signed as outcome of past calls for proposals are still ongoing and their results (outputs) will be achieved only at the end of the current programming period and beyond (up to end of 2023). Moreover, the reporting on actual results can only be completed once each individual project is closed, the final report has been received and assessed, the outputs verified and the final payment (if need be) disbursed. In particular, it is to be noted that the average period between the end date of the project and its closure is around 15 months, as project promoters have 12 months to prepare and submit the final report and the final payment request and INEA pays in principle within 90 days after having received this request.

The current situation in terms of financial progress and amendments for each specific objective is presented in the following section.

ENERGY

CEF Energy is an integral part of the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) strategy. The TEN-E policy identifies nine priority corridors and three thematic areas in the field of cross-border energy infrastructure and establishes a biennial list of Projects

of Common Interest (PCIs) that helps the EU meet its short and long-term energy and climate objectives. PCIs are chosen for their significant expected impact on energy markets and market integration (covering at least two EU countries), and expected contribution to the EU's energy security. They aim at diversifying sources, increasing competition in energy markets by offering alternatives to consumers, and contributing to the EU's climate and energy goals by integrating renewables. CEF Energy was created to financially support the realisation of PCIs, and only activities related to their development are eligible for funding. The financial support under the CEF has enabled the implementation of a number of key energy infrastructure projects under eight priority corridors, four in the electricity sector, four in the gas sector and two in thematic areas – smart grids and cross-border CO₂ network. By the end of 2019, in total nearly 40 PCIs have been implemented and some further 79 PCIs are expected to be implemented by 2022.

The Transparency Platform provides for an interactive map with up-to-date information for each PCI: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/transparency_platform/map-viewer/main.html.

An indicator screening exercise was carried out in 2017 and showed that some indicators initially proposed for CEF Energy were too difficult and/or lacked sufficient clarity. Therefore, it was proposed already in previous Programme Statements to discontinue these few indicators. Building on this experience, work is on-going to develop improved and better tailored indicators for CEF Energy as part of the Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027.

For specific objective 4 to 6 ⁽¹⁵⁾, it is to be noted that the initial list of 248 energy infrastructure projects that are Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) is updated every two years. The selection of PCIs is an on-going process in order to cater for emerging projects geared to fulfil future needs. It is therefore of prime importance to indicate to which edition of the list indicator values refer to.

The success in awarding CEF Energy co-funding to numerous actions of the PCIs and its contribution to policy objectives of the TEN-E strategy may not be reflected yet in the indicators and results reported below due to the long implementation time of the grants for works for large and technically complex energy infrastructure projects. In addition to the long lead-time it takes before actual results will be reported, delays may occur for various reasons including securing sufficient co-funding (national or other sources), public procurement issues (e.g. complaints/appeals during tender procedures) as well as legal and environmental issues (e.g. permitting, spatial planning, other authorisations and land acquisition). Moreover, the reporting and monitoring on actual results will only be done with some delay once the project is closed after the final report has been received and assessed, the outputs verified and the final payment (if need be) performed.

A provision in the grant agreements requires project promoters to submit regularly an Action Status Report (ASR) to INEA. ASRs provide an overview on the technical and financial progress of the Action. In addition, PCIs are subject to yearly monitoring by national competent authorities and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) pursuant to Art. 5 of the TEN-E Regulation. This allows the Commission to monitor the PCIs progress and the implementation of the PCIs.

During the implementation of the programme 139 actions contributing to the implementation of PCIs were funded. This has significantly contributed to a better integrated EU energy market through strengthening cross-border connections aiming to end energy isolation and eliminate bottlenecks. CEF Energy also supports projects increasing security of supply in Member States where this issue is most pressing. Examples include the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania, the first gas interconnector between the eastern Baltic Sea region and continental Europe, and Balticconnector, the first gas interconnector between Finland and Estonia. Sustainability has been addressed by support to innovative electricity projects by co-funding important studies and works: a 600 km subsea link between Ireland and France, compressed air energy storage in Northern Ireland and a smart grids project between Slovenia and Croatia.

CEF Energy is a strong catalyst in bringing together project promoters, National Regulatory Authorities and government representatives to solve issues so that cross-border infrastructure projects can be realised. Its grants component is making the difference in promoting cooperation between countries to develop and implement energy interconnection PCIs that otherwise would not happen. This is especially the case for cross-border projects located in countries with smaller population sizes or in a more remote location, where energy tariffs would need to be increased substantially to cover the investment needs. The Celtic electricity Interconnector between Ireland and France and the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania are examples of projects that could not have been funded in a purely national context.

The Actions supported by CEF Energy are progressing well. Only 3 Actions have been terminated since the beginning of the programme. The majority of the closed Actions demonstrated full technical completion and proven record of the contribution to the PCI implementation. In some cases, delays affecting the end date of the Action are however observed, notably, in gas Actions. Main reasons for the delays relate to procurement, permitting, public acceptance, regulatory and political issues.

⁽¹⁵⁾ **Specific Objective 4:** Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders;

Specific Objective 5: Enhancing Union security of energy supply;

Specific Objective 6: Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and by the development of smart energy networks and carbon dioxide networks.

Concerning the specific objective 4 Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders, indicators 1 ⁽¹⁶⁾ and 2 ⁽¹⁷⁾ are based on the number of PCIs effectively contributing to the specific objectives. These have been monitored during the Programme implementation based on formal monitoring requirements for PCIs set out in the TEN-E Regulation (Art. 5, monitoring and implementation). Although their evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, these two indicators are kept until the end of the Programme and can be used ex-post.

Indicator 3 ⁽¹⁸⁾ lists the Member States that are above the 10 % interconnectivity target as mentioned in Recital 2 of the TEN-E Regulation. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, this indicator has been monitored during the programme implementation. It measures the ratio of the cross-border transmission capacity and the installed generation capacity in a Member State. It can also be used ex-post. In 2019, 17 Member states are at or above the 10 % electricity interconnection. Two electricity interconnection projects are planned to be commissioned in 2020, therefore France and Italy may get closer to the target, however, unlikely exceed the 10 % threshold. PCIs contributing to this specific objective are progressing, but some face significant delays in particular at the permitting phase, often due to public opposition.

In the indicator screening exercise carried out in 2017, indicator 4 ⁽¹⁹⁾ has been ranked low by DG ENER in terms of relevance to the budget, relevance to the programme, results and data accessibility. For example, price convergence in the electricity or gas sector is not only determined by the level of cross-border capacity changes but also by market design issues for electricity whereas for gas it depends on diversification and access to liquid markets as well as on third-party access to major pipelines. Moreover, the contribution of each specific project cannot be singled out without in-depth network modelling analysis. DG ENER has also expressed that indicator 5 ⁽²⁰⁾ relates more to security of supply and in addition is extremely difficult to measure. Notably the indicator in its current definition is not smart enough, as it lacks precision, is severely affected by seasonal changes in gas demand and would need to be applied to more than one pair of Member States, thereby resulting in many different values. Therefore, it is proposed to discontinue indicator 4 and 5.

Concerning the specific objective 5 Enhancing Union security of energy supply, it is important to note, that with the adoption of the third and fourth PCI lists, the number of gas PCIs has changed. On the current PCI list the number of gas PCIs has considerably decreased.

By the early 2020s, when the gas PCIs currently under implementation will be in operation, Europe should achieve a well-interconnected and shock-resilient gas grid and all Member States will have access to at least three gas sources or the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market. 23 Member States will have access to the global LNG market with increasing liquidity which is a key element to improve the Union's energy security through the diversification of gas sources.

Indicator 1 ⁽²¹⁾ refers to the number of PCIs still to be commissioned supporting the objectives. The indicator has been monitored during the Programme implementation and it can also be used ex-post.

Indicator 2 ⁽²²⁾ refers to natural gas storage only. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, the indicator has been monitored during the programme implementation on the basis of the formal monitoring requirements for PCIs set out in the TEN-E Regulation (Art. 5, monitoring and implementation). The indicator can be also used ex-post.

Indicator 3 ⁽²³⁾ is based on monitoring requirements set out in Regulation No (EU) 2017/1938 on the security of supply for gas, under which Member States have to report every two years to the Commission. The progress of the indicator is based on PCIs which are implemented. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, it has been monitored during the Programme implementation. It can also be used ex-post.

Indicator 4 ⁽²⁴⁾ contribute to the specific objective 6 only, not relevant for specific objective 5. The indicator is discontinued under the specific objective 5, but kept under the specific objective 6.

The progress of the indicator 5 ⁽²⁵⁾ is related to the number of PCIs actually being implemented which allow diversification of supply sources. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, the indicator 5 is monitored during the Programme implementation and was kept until the end of the Programme. It can also be used ex-post.

Indicator 6 ⁽²⁶⁾ is a 'meta-level' indicator and it is not smartly defined to refer to the policy objectives of the TEN-E Regulation, as it is being affected also by market design issues. Additionally, there is no definition of what is 'optimal use', which anyway will be seen differently for electricity and gas infrastructure. It is therefore proposed to be discontinued.

⁽¹⁶⁾ The number of projects effectively interconnecting Member States' networks and removing internal constraints

⁽¹⁷⁾ The reduction or elimination of Member States' energy isolation

⁽¹⁸⁾ The percentage of electricity cross-border transmission power in relation to installed electricity generation capacity in the relevant Member States

⁽¹⁹⁾ Price convergence in the gas and/or electricity markets of the Member States concerned

⁽²⁰⁾ The percentage of the highest peak demand of the two Member States concerned covered by reversible flow interconnections for gas

⁽²¹⁾ The number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes

⁽²²⁾ The number of projects increasing storage capacity

⁽²³⁾ System resilience, taking into account the number of supply disruptions and their duration

⁽²⁴⁾ The amount of avoided curtailment of renewable energy

⁽²⁵⁾ The connection of isolated markets to more diversified supply sources

⁽²⁶⁾ The optimal use of energy infrastructure assets

Regarding the specific objective 6 Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and by the development of smart energy networks and carbon dioxide networks, indicator 1 ⁽²⁷⁾ is based on network modelling analysis rather than on actual progress of PCIs for which no intermediate data over the years are available (only 2020). It can only be measured ex-post.

Indicator 2 ⁽²⁸⁾ has a number of limitations, as it is based on network modelling analysis rather than on actual progress of PCIs for which no intermediate data over the years are available. It can only be measured ex-post.

Indicator 3 ⁽²⁹⁾ was changed during the implementation of the programme. The demand response enabled by smart grid projects can be measured only ex- post and should not be mixed up with the number of PCIs supported by CEF. This part of the indicator has been discontinued. The number of smart grid projects supported by CEF, and that will be commissioned by 2020 was monitored during the Programme implementation.

Indicator 4 ⁽³⁰⁾ is based on network modelling analysis rather than on actual progress of PCIs for which no intermediate data over the years are available (only 2020). It can only be measured ex-post.

TELECOM

CEF Telecom supports the deployment of trusted cross-border digital service infrastructures (hereby referred to as 'DSIs') essential to trigger the digital transformation of public sector services in the Member States all for the benefits of citizens and businesses. DSIs are developed and operated through two main parallel investments. The 'Core Service Platforms' (CSP) are owned by the European Commission and are funded mostly via procurement contracts while 'Generic Services' (GS) are implemented via grants. The CSP are the central hubs that provide, for each digital service, trans-European connectivity, access and interoperability. GS on the other hand, are the links between the nationally developed solutions and the CSP.

Investment in the **core service platforms** covered their development, operation evaluative maintenance and upgrade. With an overall investment of almost EUR 200 million in the core service platforms, the Commission is enabling EU wide interoperability of specific services such as the Electronic Exchange of Social security information between Member States. The Core service platform of eHealth DSI enabled the interoperability and cross border use of ePrescription and eDispensation, as well as the exchange of Patient Summaries. In the Justice area it made possible the interconnection of Business Registers enabling citizens, businesses and public administrations to find in a single point information on companies and their subsidiaries opened in other Member States. And these are only a few examples.

The uptake of these services (supported through grants for **Generic Services**) in the Member States and EEA participating countries was reaching by the end of 2019 a portfolio of 500 projects most of them still under implementation. The first 'harvest' of projects closed allows however the identification of a set of success stories already (see section key achievements). These results suggest that the programme is on track to deliver on its objectives. With an EU contribution of almost 300 million and an overall leveraged amount of more than 400 million EUR, the ecosystem of CEF digital services is supporting European citizens, businesses and public administrations to interconnect and adapt their systems to become interoperable cross border. CEF investment in Generic Services is an effective incentive for achieving critical mass. The wide uptake of these services however needs to be complemented with further investments from the Member States. The benefits of the solutions supported by CEF are also confirmed by the further uptake activities identified in the Member States even beyond CEF support.

As highlighted in the CEF mid-term evaluation, in the case of some DSIs, like Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information or Online Dispute Resolution, EU Regulations and Directives require their deployment, and CEF Telecommunications is providing an essential incentive for speeding up this process and important financial support for the Member states to become compliant. Other DSIs like Cybersecurity, enable mechanisms to be used by Member States on a voluntary basis, by promoting actions that most likely would have not been carried out at EU scale without CEF support.

The deployment of DSIs has been marked by a considerable expansion of the ecosystem, passing from 8 to 20 DSIs supported in the last Work Programme. In effect, the programme started supporting the interoperability in a limited set of areas such as eGovernment, Cybersecurity and cultural sector. Over the years, the programme started enabling through various solutions the interoperability also in other areas such as health, justice, social security, education and skills to name a few. I practice this meant that CEF has supported and enabled the interoperability of EU businesses, citizens and public administrations in more and more sectors. Another important element marking the pace of implementation of the digital projects under CEF Telecom is the readiness for uptake in the Member states. In effect, the grants do not target the capacity building. CEF Generic Services fund of the link between the nationally developed infrastructures to the EC owned hub that enables the interoperability. This means in practice that the uptake actions are highly dependent on the readiness of the Member State to become interoperable in the areas supported by CEF DSIs (i.e. having the national solution in place).

General objectives

⁽²⁷⁾ The amount of renewable electricity transmitted from generation to major consumption centres and storage sites

⁽²⁸⁾ The amount of avoided curtailment of renewable energy

⁽²⁹⁾ The number of deployed smart grid projects which benefited from the CEF and the demand response enabled by them

⁽³⁰⁾ The amount of CO2 emissions prevented by the projects which benefited from the CEF

General Objective 1: Developing modern and high-performing trans-European networks and creating an environment more conducive to private, public or public-private investment

Indicator 1: Volume of private, public or public-private partnership investment in projects of common interest								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Transport:							34 277	49 265
	Actual results							
	807	2 140	5 332	9 937	15 746	24 035		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Energy:							3 658	7 902
	Actual results							
	19	170	328	543	1 114	2 369		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Telecom:							423	423
	Actual results							
	22	91	180	276	402	423		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total:							38 359	57 590
	Actual results							
	849	2 401	5 840	10 756	17 263	26 827		

Narrative: Target: After 2020

Comment: The data measure total investment (i.e. eligible costs) for all signed CEF grant agreements (i.e. data do not measure overall investments in the entire TEN-T network, to which various other actors – including Member States, structural funds and private sector – contribute).

Source: INEA – Costs correspond to the latest available information (grant agreements and Action Status Reports) for CEF Transport/Energy actions. Costs are attributed to the year in which they have been, or are expected to be, incurred. For CEF Telecom no yearly split is available, costs have been assigned to the year of signature of the grant agreement. For CEF Telecom lump sum actions, the EU contribution was considered as costs. For CEF Synergy the costs have been allocated under Transport and Energy sector based on the activity sectors. The costs are indicated in EUR million and cumulated over the years.

Unit of measure: EUR million

Indicator 2: Volume of private investments in projects of common interest achieved through the financial instruments under the CEF Regulation

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2022
Transport: 0				400	500	1 700	2 600	2 600
	Actual results							
	0	0	375	611	206	20 635		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2022
Energy: 0							up 2 100	5 000-10 000
	Actual results							
	0	0		700	5 000	5 000		

Comment: The payment to the European Investment Bank covers the contribution to a Green Shipping Guarantee Programme, established under the CEF Debt Instrument. The Green Shipping Guarantee Programme, which will be rolled out under the CEF Debt Instrument and European Fund for Strategic Investments, is expected to finance EUR 3 billion of investments. The payment of 2017 refer to the projects: Port Of Cork – Ringaskiddy Port Development and HAFEN LINZ TENINFRASTRUKTUR.

The target 2020 for Energy includes the projected CEF Debt operation in the energy sector and TEN-E projects completed with the financing mobilised under EFSI to which CEF contributed financially [e.g. BRUA project, TAP].

For the digital sector, the take-up of the Financial Instruments under CEF is slower than expected due to implementation of the European Fund for Strategic Investments and some Public Private Partnership projects being financed from appropriations under the 2007-2013 period. This corresponds to the private investor contribution to the Connected Europe Broadband Fund. Please refer to comment under Specific Objective 8.

Indicator 3: Volume of private investment in fast and ultra-fast broadband internet

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
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Milestones foreseen							2020
						500 (public + private)	At least a third of the expected 1 000-1 700
Actual results							
0	0	0	0	0			

Narrative: Target: Projection of private investment between 2011 and 2020

Comment: Estimate based on the structure of the investment platform, pooling resources from private and public resources, as well as on the investment guidelines with foresee minority stake participation at project level. This corresponds to the private investor contribution to the Connected Europe Broadband Fund. Please refer to comment under Specific Objective 8.

Indicator 4: Volume of public and private investment in projects of common interest for fast and ultra-fast broadband internet funded by CEF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Private investments: 0	189	0	0		Telecom: 200-340 private investor contribution at Fund or at project level (CEBF)	26	500 (public + private)	189
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	100 CEF contribution committed to the fund, whose launch is foreseen for 2018.	Fund launched only in June 2018 with first project financed in January 2019.	3 projects signed for commitments up to EUR 90 million		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Public investments: 0	189	0	0	Expected 100 CEF contribution next to 290 other public funds to create an Equity Fund		26	390	390
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	100 CEF contribution committed to the fund, whose launch is foreseen for 2018.	Fund launched only in June 2018 with first project financed in January 2019.	3 projects signed for commitments up to EUR 90 million		

Narrative: Target: Private investments raised by Axione project, financed under the project bond pilot and now incorporated in the CEF portfolio. Public funds target (EU, EIB, NPBI) plus expected 1 000-1 700 plus private investment

Comment: Please refer to comment under Specific Objective 8.

Unit of measure: EUR million

General Objective 2: To enable the Union to achieve its sustainable development targets of a minimum 20 % reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, a 20 % increase in energy efficiency and raising the share of renewable energy to 20 % by 2020

Indicator 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2008	Milestones foreseen							2030
Transport: 1 101							338	881
	Actual results							

	1 020	1 051	1 079	1 093	1 097			
2013	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Energy: 19 %							20 %	20 %
	Actual results							
	23 %	22 %	23 %	23 %	20 %			

Narrative: Baseline: 846 Mt CO2 eq. (1990)

Target: Transport: 881 Mt of CO2 eq. (level in 2030) (20 % reduction by 2030 compared to 2008)

Comment: PM 2.5 – the latest available data measurements for transport (excluding aviation cruise and international shipping) are – 2008-2015: – 34.5 %; The latest data available on greenhouse gas emissions statistics for transport, including international aviation, published by the European Environmental Agency based on the data sent by countries to the UNFCCC and the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism (EU Member States) is for 2017.

Availability of Data: 2019: Not yet available

Source: European Environment Agency

Unit of measure: Million tonnes CO2 equivalent

Indicator 2: Increase in energy efficiency								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Transport:	Actual results							2020
		0.4 % below the final energy consumption target of 1 086 Mtoe	2 % above the final energy target of 1 086 Mtoe for 2020	3.3 % above the final energy consumption target of 1 086 Mtoe				
	2013	Milestones foreseen						
Energy:	Actual results							20 %
		3.1 % above the 2020 target for the primary energy consumption of 1 483 Mtoe	4 % above the target for primary energy consumption of 1483 Mtoe	5.3 % above the target for primary energy consumption of 1 483 Mtoe				
	2014	Milestones foreseen						

Narrative: Milestones: Energy: Commission’s Report on Member States’ progress towards their indicative targets for 2020 (COM(2017) 687) published in November 2017.

Energy: In 2014 the EU was already 2.2 % below the final energy consumption target of 1 086 Mtoe for 2020, but still 1.6 % above the 2020 target for primary energy consumption of 1 483 Mtoe.

Comment: This indicator is defined according to the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU, applicable to the EU overall economy. Transport contributes without a specific sectoral target, as mentioned in the Connecting Europe Facility Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013. Baseline is PRIMES 2007 in 2020, which includes policies to be implemented up to 2006 with an oil price of EUR 56.83 per barrel and reference year 2005. Calculated as Gross Inland Consumption minus Final Non-Energy Use Consumption. It is to be noted that the data are collected with a value n-2 (e.g.: data for 2018 will be available in 2020 after summer). NOTE: The CEF will be contributing to this target but CEF is not the key driver. Main drivers for attaining the energy efficiency targets are the legislation in the energy efficiency field, namely the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD), Labelling and Ecodesign and national policies/programmes.

Availability of Data: 2018 & 2019: Not yet available

Source: Eurostat, Commission studies.

Unit of measure: Mtoe (Metric tonnes of CO2 or equivalent)

Indicator 3: Share of renewable energy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Transport: 4.80 %	Actual results							10.00 %
							10.00 %	
	5.90 %	6.00 %		7.56 %	8.30 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020

Energy: 16.00 %							20.00 %
	Actual results						
	16.40 %	17.04 %	17.50 %	18.00 %			

Comment: The CEF will contribute to this target but it is not the key driver. The share of renewables in energy use in transport is derived according to the definition set in the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. Commission’s Renewable Energy Progress Report (COM(2017) 57 final) adopted on 1/2/2017.

Energy:

– RES in final energy consumption Trajectory with interim targets contained in Annex 1b of Dir. 2009/28/EC: 2011/2012: 10.8 %; 2013/2014: 12 %; 2015/2016: 13.7 %; 2017/2018: 16 June 2015: Commission’s Renewable energy progress report (COM(2015) 293 final)

– RES in final energy consumption Trajectory with interim targets contained in Annex 1b of Dir. 2009/28/EC: 2011/2012: 10.8 %; 2013/2014: 12 %; 2015/2016: 13.7 %; 2017/2018: 16 %April 2019: Commission’s Renewable energy progress report (COM(2019) 225 final)

Availability of Data: 2019: Not yet available

Source: Eurostat. Eurostat Shares Survey – press release of 23 January 2020 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10335438/8-23012020-AP-EN.pdf/292cf2e5-8870-4525-7ad7-188864ba0c29>.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Removing bottlenecks, enhancing rail interoperability, bridging missing links, and improving cross-border sections

Performance

Specific objective 1. These projects currently correspond to EUR 17.7 billion of EU contribution and their overall financial progress by the end of 2019 is estimated to be 47 %. Changes to the initial implementation plans have occurred for several projects with 188 formal amendments signed for 160 projects. In line with the overall framework set by DG MOVE, 140 projects have been extended (on average 18 months) and for 71 projects the funding was reduced. Overall, freed appropriations of EUR 2.3 billion are reinjected via new Calls for Proposals.

Indicator 1: The number of new or improved cross-border connections								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Number of bottlenecks on cross-border connections (new or improved) which are expected to be addressed by the actions for which CEF grants were awarded: 0	Actual results							82
	0	0	0	1	1	2		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for achieving this indicator:	Actual results							1 704 205
	328	4 408	12 633	25 835	42 744	65 674	1 008 149	

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for achieving this indicator.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Number of bottleneck and in EUR million respectively.

Indicator 2: Km of lines in service equipped with the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS), linked to TEN-T								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Km of track-side to be equipped with ERTMS through actions funded by CEF grants (double-track equivalent): 5 000	Actual results							6 537
					30	30		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme

Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							7 191	15 551
	Actual results							
	25	184	499	1 185	2 114	4 145		

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for achieving this indicator.

Comment: According to the Commission Staff working document on the state of play of the implementation of the ERTMS Deployment Plan (published 14.2.2014).

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Km and EUR million respectively

Indicator 3: The number of removed bottlenecks and sections of increased capacity for all modes on core network corridors which have received funding from the CEF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Number of bottlenecks addressed/to be addressed by CEF grants:			2	8	17	58	182	306
	Actual results							
			2	8	14	16		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							243 894	370 125
	Actual results							
	5 959	14 263	3 577	67 491	110 336	167 682		

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: The bottleneck is considered to have been addressed in the year during which the action was/is expected to be completed.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Number of bottleneck and in EUR million respectively.

Indicator 4: The length of the inland waterway network by class in the Union

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Km by Inland Waterway (IWW) class to be upgraded by CEF grants: 95.2				1	2	186	1 931	2 822
	Actual results							
				1	2	2		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							13 126.0	224 316.0
	Actual results							
	168.0	768.0	2 366.0	3 862.0	5 885.0	859.0		

Methodology: Results are cumulative over the years.

Narrative: Km by Inland Waterway (IWW) class to be upgraded by CEF grants. The upgrade is attributed to the year in which the CEF funded action is expected to be completed.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Km

Indicator 5: The length of the railway network in the EU-28 upgraded following the requirements set out in Article 45 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total Gauge: -Freight only: 18 073km	0	0	0	9	37	60	675	1 158
-Passenger only: 14 674km	Actual results							
-Mixed lines: 34 484km				9	22	22		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total Electrification: -Freight only: 18 073km					51	350	1 501	2 055
-Passenger only: 14 674km	Actual results							
-Mixed lines: 34 484km					51	51		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total Freight: -Freight only: 18 073km				9	150	153	1 577	2 743
-Passenger only: 14 674km	Actual results							
-Mixed lines: 34 484km				9	22	40		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total of currently estimated costs: -Freight only: 18 073km							117 597	197 674
-Passenger only: 14 674km	Actual results							
-Mixed lines: 34 484km	3 165	6 643.0	13 457	26 031	4 410	72 778		

Methodology: The upgrade is attributed to the year in which the CEF funded action has been completed. Results are cumulated over the years.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Km

Indicator 6: Setting up of the core network corridors structures with designation of Coordinators, creation of Corridor Forums and approval of work plans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Core network corridors:				3rd Work Plans (Compliance & Mapping and decarbonisation and climate change adaptations)			4th Work Plans (Compliance & Mapping and decarbonisation and climate change adaptations)	4th work plan	
	Actual results								
		1st Work Plans agreed (May 2015)	2nd Work Plans adopted and approved by all Member States	Preparation of 3rd Work Plans	3rd Work Plans adopted and approved by all Member States	preparation of 4th work plan			
	Milestones foreseen							2020	

Approval of work plans:				3rd Work Plans (Compliance & Mapping and decarbonisation and climate change adaptations)			4th Work Plans (Compliance & Mapping and decarbonisation and climate change adaptations)	4th work plan
	Actual results							
		1st Work Plans agreed (May 2015)	2nd Work Plans adopted and approved by all Member States	Preparation of 3rd Work Plans	3rd Work Plans adopted and approved by all Member States	preparation of 4th work plan		

Narrative: Baseline: No corridor existing

Specific Objective 2: Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems in the long run, with a view to preparing for expected future transport flows, as well as enabling the decarbonisation of all modes of transport through transition to innovative low-carbon and energy-efficient transport technologies, while optimising safety

Performance

163 CEF Transport projects are contributing to specific objective 2. These projects currently correspond to EUR 0.9 billion of EU contribution and their overall financial progress by the end of 2019 is estimated to be 44 %. Changes to the initial implementation plans have occurred for several projects with 63 formal amendments signed for 55 projects. In line with the overall framework set by DG MOVE, 43 projects have been extended (on average 13 months) and for 10 projects the funding was reduced. Overall, freed appropriations of EUR 54 million are reinjected via new Calls for Proposals. For additional explanations on how to interpret the indicator results of this specific objective, please refer to the general note in the 'Programme performance' section above

Indicator 1: The number of supply points for alternative fuels for vehicles using the TEN-T core network for road transport in the EU-28

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total: Number of supply points for the alternative fuels to be set-up by CEF grants. Baseline (2012) data Electric public recharging points: 10 250 CNG refuelling stations: 2 800 LNG road refuelling stations: 23 Hydrogen refuelling stations: 90	Actual results							12 933
			9	254	677	1 130	3 224	
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
LPG:	Actual results							51
			0	0	11	51	51	
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
CNG: 2 800	Actual results							421
			0	3	48	71	166	
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
LNG: 23	Actual results							236
			0	4	26	47	148	

			0	4	6	6		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Hydrogen: 90			0	0	0	3	58	122
	Actual results							
			0	0	0			
2012	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Electric: 29 800			9	247	592	958	2 801	12 103
	Actual results							
			9	247	285	370		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							1 644	21 607
	Actual results							
	5	159	755	1 729	361	10 246		

Methodology: Costs and results are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator.

Source: Source INEA: Foreseen milestones are expected results by still ongoing CEF actions. Each supply point is assumed to be operational in the year in which the CEF funded action has been completed. A CEF-funded action can include several supply points. The number of supply points is attributed to the year when the full action defined in the grant agreement has been completed (e.g. if a grant stipulates the creation of 100 supply points, the action is only considered as completed in the year when all 100 supply points have been set up. All the 100 supply points are then attributed to that year, even if most of them had already been set up in previous years).

Unit of measure: Investments: EUR million

Indicator 2: The number of inland and maritime ports of the TEN-T core network equipped with supply points for alternative fuels in the EU-28

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Maritime port equipped with alternative fuel supply points by CEF grants: 1	0				3	9	15	25
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	1	1		
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Inland port equipped with alternative fuel supply points by CEF grants: 1	0					2	8	11
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0			
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Maritime ports: estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							575	7 481
	Actual results							
	7	88	341	658	127	3 319	0	
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Inland port: estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							887	1 055
	Actual results							
			6	15	76	413	0	

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator. Inland and maritime ports to be equipped with alternative fuel supply points by CEF grants. The ports are considered to be equipped with supply points in the year in which the CEF funded action is expected to be completed.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Investments: EUR million

Indicator 3: Number of fatalities in road transport accidents								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
31 500				19 000			≤ 15 750	≤ 15 750
	Actual results							
	26 000	26 100	25 600	25 300	25 100	24 700		

Comment: CEF is not directly contributing to this target.

Availability of Data: 2019: data estimated, Final data is not available before May 2020

Source: EC DATA https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_19_1990

Specific Objective 3: Optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing interoperability of transport services, while ensuring the accessibility of transport infrastructures

Performance

268 CEF Transport projects are contributing to specific objective 3. These projects currently correspond to EUR 2.9 billion of EU contribution and their overall financial progress by the end of 2019 is estimated to be 69 %. Changes to the initial implementation plans have occurred for several projects with 123 formal amendments signed for 101 projects. In line with the overall framework set by DG MOVE, 75 projects have been extended (on average 13 months) and for 30 projects the funding was reduced. Overall, budgetary reflows of EUR 175 million are reinjected via new Calls for Proposals. For additional explanations on how to interpret the indicator results of this specific objective, please refer to the general note in the 'Programme performance' section above

Indicator 1: The number of multimodal logistic platforms, including inland and maritime ports and airports, connected to the railway network

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Entire TEN-T network: Maritime ports connections:	Actual results							
2012	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
CEF grants: Airports connections: 0	Actual results							9
				3	5	6	8	
	0	0	0	3	5	5		
2012	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
CEF grants: inland port: 0	Actual results							5
					1	2	5	
	0	0	0	0	1	1		
2012	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
CEF grants: maritime port: 0	Actual results							16
					1	2	9	
	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Total of currently estimated costs:	Actual results							8 321
							6 541	
	139	422	1 207	2 412	3 871	5 242		

Comment: This indicator is to be discontinued. Data can be provided only for CEF not for the entire TEN-T network.

Source: INEA

Indicator 2: The number of new or improved rail-road terminals								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Improved rail-road terminals:						3	7	9
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
New rail-road terminal:					1	3	5	6
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0			
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							2 419	3 981
	Actual results							
	2	5	209	714	1 065	1 718		

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Rail road terminals to be connected to the rail network (new or improved) by CEF grants. The terminals are considered to have been realised in the year in which the CEF funded action is expected to be completed.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Investment sub indicator: In EUR million

Indicator 3: Number of improved or new connections between ports through motorways of the sea								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Number of connections to be improved or newly created by CEF grants:			4	11	13	17	25	29
	Actual results							
	0	0	4	11	11	11		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:							7 982	847
	Actual results							
	397	1 359	2 483	3 725	4 754	6 617		

Methodology: Costs are cumulated over the years.

Source: INEA

Unit of measure: Investment sub indicator: In EUR million

Indicator 4: The number of kilometres of inland waterways fitted with RIS								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Number of kilometres of inland waterway financed with CEF grants:				192	570	757	847	847
	Actual results							
				142	570	570		
	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
Estimated total private,							19	19

public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator:	Actual results						
	1	6	61	152	185	19	

Methodology: KM of IWW fitted with RIS by CEF grants. Results are attributed to the year in which the CEF funding action is due to be completed. Results are cumulated over the years.

Narrative: Indicator to be discontinued

Comment: Sub indicators: Coverage with ENC for Class Va+ waterways, Coverage of class Va+ waterways equipped with shore based inland AIS infrastructure, Commercial vessels equipped with inland AIS, Electronic reporting for BtA and AtA Communication are discontinued as CEF did not support such investments

Source: INEA

Indicator 5: Synchronisation of the deployment process of SESAR related technology

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
	- Adoption of the first common project - Appointment of the SESAR Deployment Manager (DM) by the Commission - first CEF call for proposals for SESAR implementation projects	- Awarding of grants to 1st batch SESAR implementation projects - CEF call for proposals (General & cohesion envelopes) for SESAR implementation projects - Specific grant agreement with the DM	- Awarding of grants to 2nd batch of SESAR implementation projects - Approval of revised deployment programme - Specific grant agreement with the DM	Approval of revised Deployment Programme – Awarding of grants to SESAR implementation projects.	Approval of revised Deployment programme – Awarding of grants to of SESAR implementation projects	Finalisation of the Commission’s assessment of the DM’s proposal for the Pilot Common Project Review (Article 6 of Reg. (EU) 716/2014).	Deployment of SESAR ATM solutions included in the Pilot Common Project	
	Actual results							
	- Pilot common project adopted (Reg. (EU)716/2014) - DM appointed on 5/12/2014 - CEF Call launched 9/2014	- DM coordinates proposals under 2014 CEF call – EUR 318 million awarded from CEF to SESAR implementation projects - SGA signed with the DM - CEF Call for proposals launched on 11/9/2015	- DM coordinates proposals under 2015 CEF call – additional EUR 525 million awarded from CEF to SESAR implementation projects - Approval of the 2015 Edition of the Deployment Programme - 2nd and 3rd Specific Grant Agreement signed with DM	SESAR DM and Commission services discussed the proposal for an update of the Deployment Programme. CEF grants awarded to SESAR implementation projects following the 2016 CEF call for proposals.	2018 Edition of the SESAR Deployment Programme approved (C(2018)8560). CEF Grants awarded to a new cluster of SESAR implementation projects (CEF 2017 SESAR dedicated call for proposals). DM coordinates 349 projects relating to the Pilot Common Project (PCP) PCP implementation projects received EUR 1.35 billion from CEF. 71 % of the PCP deployment activities were	The Commission finalised the review of the pilot common project. It is preparing a legislative proposal establishing a new common project on the basis of the results of the review that is expected to be adopted at the end of 2020. As of 2019, 8 actions including 349 projects relating to the Pilot Common Project (PCP) were awarded CEF co-funding for a total value of EUR 1.35 billion (since 2014) for a total investment of EUR 2.94 billion. The SESAR deployment manager coordinates these projects. Which involve 94 entities from 27 Member States and 5 third countries. By the end of 2019, 118 projects were completed. 100 of them entered in operations delivering benefits to the European air traffic network in terms of reducing flight delays (363 000 minutes saved). Reduced fuel consumption	Deployment of SESAR ATM solutions included in the Pilot Common Project	

					either completed or in progress of which 24 % completely implemented (92 projects).	(38 000 tons of CO2 saved) and reduced flight time (738 00 minutes saved). No new grants were awarded for the PCP in 2019. But a new call for proposals focussing on 'implementing interoperability of flight data processing systems' was launched.		
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Narrative: The SESAR development phase is delivering essential ATM solutions that require a synchronised deployment in the European ATM network.

A SESAR deployment framework was established in 2013 (Reg. (EU)409/2013) to ensure the timely and synchronised deployment of SESAR Solutions. The framework and its instruments shall be set up and activated throughout the 2014-2020 timeframe

Comment: A SESAR deployment framework was established in 2013 (Reg. (EU)409/2013) to ensure the timely and synchronised deployment of SESAR Solutions. The framework and its instruments shall be set up and activated throughout the 2014-2020 timeframe. Indicator number 5 as foreseen by article 4.2 (c) (iv) of the CEF Regulation has been divided in three table to facilitate reading by sector. Work is undertaken to complement by 2017 this indicator with a numerical indicator corresponding to the percentage of 'SESAR ATM solutions (included in the Pilot Common Project) deployed', based on the reported progress by the implementing stakeholders of the SESAR Deployment Programme.

Indicator 6: Kilometres of roads covered by (real-time) Traffic Information Services or equipped for (dynamic) Traffic Management, including speed related ITS services (Variable Message Signs or equivalent means)

Comment: DG MOVE has been working with Member States over the past two year to identify new KPIs for ITS. An external study was conducted to identify the most promising KPIs, followed by consultations with Member States' experts and discussion in the ITS Committee in 2016, to finalise a list of deployment and benefit KPIs, as well as financial indicators. A list of KPIs has been drawn up, which Member States have been asked to use in their reporting exercise under the ITS Directive. The first national ITS reports including these KPIs, on a voluntary basis, were delivered in 2017-2018. Only part of the Member States (40 % of MS + Norway) provided figures for KPIs, at least partially. Although not optimal, this allows to draw some conclusions for the contributing countries, at least regarding deployment: a very high level of coverage of information gathering infrastructure and of real-time traffic and freight information services on the TEN-T road network, a more limited coverage for other services. Benefit and financial KPIs were reported less frequently, which was to be expected as this information may need more investigations and/or data collection over a longer period. The Commission published on 8th October 2019 the analysis of the Member States' reports, including a detailed analysis of the KPIs provided (see pp. 34-39 as well as individual figures in Annex I, of the report <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019SC0373&from=EN>). Next national ITS reports are due by end of August 2020.

Indicator 7: The level of deployment of VTMS

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							End of programme
100 000 000		Nearly all commercial vessels equipped with inland AIS (app. 11.750 vessels)		VTMIS Increase by 10 %			VTMIS Increase by 20 %	VTMIS: Increase by 20 %
Actual results								

Narrative: This indicator is no longer relevant. It confuses AIS and VTMS. AIS is stipulated in the VTMS Directive in two main ways – Carrier requirement (implementing the IMO requirements) and receiver requirements. The latter has been fulfilled for years as all MS with a coast have set up receivers and hence coverage along the EU coasts. The carrier requirements of AIS is based on the level of new vessels entering the market and sailing on EU ports. This in turn depends on overall economic factors and the world economy (imports/exports). For the moment there is a stagnation in new vessels entering the market due to the economic downturn. VTMS use, meaning the use of the Integrated Maritime Services and the 2 new reporting messages into the system, Security and Waste, apart from the already required Port plus message, has brought about an increase in the use of the reporting going into the system, probably exceeding 10 %.

Source: PLATINA 7RFP research project.

Unit of measure: AIS (Automatic Identification System) positions recorded per month

Expenditure related outputs

In order to align the reporting on the expenditure related outputs between Transport, Energy and Telecommunications, the outputs have been defined as 'grants awarded' or 'expected to be awarded' per budget line. Reporting for the forthcoming year on a specific priority/ project is approximate, as the grant agreements are allocated based on the competitive selection and award procedure.

The amounts are already allocated on the multi-annual basis to the specific projects, they are reported in this table as 'grants awarded'. The number related to the annual work programme (AWP) for financial instruments corresponds to the expected number of operations that the appropriations available under the AWP could support.

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number (foreseen)	EUR

Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2020 call for proposals under Multi Annual Working Programme Transport	06 02 01 01	155	1 760 069 805
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2020 call for proposals under Multi Annual Working Programme Transport	06 02 01 02	105	333 547 370
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2020 call for proposals under Multi Annual Working Programme Transport	06 02 01 03	180	450 642 618
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2020 call for proposals under Multi Annual Working Programme Transport	06 02 01 04	170	1 774 181 625
Allocation to the Financial Instruments projects	06 02 01 05*	0	0
Programme Support Actions 2020 (all lines) Art 5(2)(a) in the Multi annual Work Programme			
Total			4 318 441 418

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
First call for proposals (2014) under Multi Annual and Annual Work Programmes for Transport C(2014) 1919 and C(2014) 1921: number of grant agreements signed	F							
	P		263 grants agreements signed for multi annual financing					
Second call for proposals (2015) under the Multi Annual Work Programme C(2014) 1921 as amended: number of grant agreements signed	F							
	P			189 grant agreements signed				
Third call for proposals under the Annual and Multi Annual Work Programmes C(2016) 6380 and C(2014) 1921 as amended: expected number of grant agreements	F				130			
	P				122			
Annual call 2016 under the Annual Work Programme C(2016) 1778: transport- energy synergy call	F				8			
	P				7			
Annual Call 2016	F				45			
	P				28			
Annual Call 2016 Rail Noise	F							
	P							
Annual instalment to the Financial Instruments Work Programme 2014	F							
	P			1**				
Annual instalment to the Financial Instruments Work Programme 2015	F							
	P		0					
Annual instalment to the Financial Instruments Work Programme 2016	F				2			
	P							
Multi Annual Call 2017 Blending – 1	F					39		
	P					39		
Multi Annual Call 2017 Blending – 2	F					47		
	P					33		
Multi Annual Call 2017 SESAR	F					19		
	P					14		
Multi Annual Call 2018	F					84		
	P					67		
Annual Call 2019	F						39	
	P						39	

*An output is a call for proposals under a multi-annual work programme (MAWP) for grants or an annual work programme for financial instruments. ‘Number’ corresponds to the foreseen number of grants (for studies and for works) to be attributed following evaluation of a call for proposals.

* The total number of grants for the Synergy Call cannot be split between transport and energy. The total is therefore reported under both sectors.

** For Financial Instruments, the first Green Shipping Guarantee was signed in 2016. EUR 37.5 million and EUR 23.6 million were paid to the EIB in 2016 and 2017. The EIB has presented a provisional pipeline for additional transactions to be signed in 2019.

Specific Objective 4: Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders

Performance

For additional explanations on how to interpret the indicator results of tis specific objective, please refer to the general note in the ‘Programme performance’ section above.

Indicator 1: The number of projects effectively interconnecting Member States’ networks and removing internal constraints								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
173					30	38	40	40
	Actual results							
				12	30	38		

Narrative: In 2017-2019: 106 electricity transmission and storage, 4 smart grid deployment, 53 gas, 6 oil, 4 cross-border carbon dioxide network.

Indicator 2: The reduction or elimination of Member States’ energy isolation								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
9					9	8	6	6
	Actual results							
				9	8	8		

Comment: While the challenges remain important for peripheral or isolated Member States, by implementation of several projects of common interest the isolation is reduced in several parts of the EU (The Commission Staff working Document (C(2019)7772).

Indicator 3: The percentage of electricity cross-border transmission power in relation to installed electricity generation capacity in the relevant Member States								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
16	16				17		24	24
	Actual results							
	17			17	17	17		

Source: ENTSO-E

Unit of measure: The Member States that are above the 10 % interconnectivity target as mentioned in Recital 2 of the TEN-E Regulation.

Indicator 4: Price convergence in the gas and/or electricity markets of the Member States concerned

In the indicator screening exercise carried out in 2017, this indicator has been ranked low in terms of relevance to the budget, relevance to the programme, results and data accessibility. Therefore, it is proposed to discontinue this indicator.

Indicator 5: The percentage of the highest peak demand of the two Member States concerned covered by reversible flow interconnections for gas

In the indicator screening exercise carried out in 2017, this indicator has been ranked low as in terms of relevance to the programme, results and data accessibility. Therefore, it is proposed to discontinue this indicator.

Expenditure related outputs

See table under specific objective 6

Specific Objective 5: Enhancing Union security of energy supply

Performance

For additional explanations on how to interpret the indicator results of tis specific objective, please refer to the general note in the ‘Programme performance’ section above.

Indicator 1: The number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
				40	38		11	11

Actual results							
				40	38	28	

Narrative: Baseline: Number of countries having 3 major supply sources of gas for the EU in addition to liquefied natural gas (LNG)

Comment: 28 PCIs supporting EU's security of supply are still to be commissioned.

Unit of measure: Number of PCIs supporting EU's security of supply to be commissioned

Indicator 2: The number of projects increasing storage capacity								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
7			6	6	6	4	2	2
	Actual results							
				6	6	4		

Comment: 4 PCIs in gas underground storage: actual reference is the 3rd PCI list (PCIs to be commissioned). 2 storage projects expected to be commissioned.

Unit of measure: PCIs

Indicator 3: System resilience, taking into account the number of supply disruptions and their duration								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
3		21			22		22	22
	Actual results							
		19	22	21	20	18		

Narrative: Baseline: Gas: 3 MS do not meet the N-1 formula (as defined in Regulation (EU) No 994/2010) – Bulgaria, Greece and Portugal

Target: Gas: N-1 is met by 22 MS (all except Cyprus, Malta as long as they do not have gas system and Luxembourg, Slovenia, Sweden which have a derogation)

Comment: NB: The indicator is based on monitoring requirements set out in Regulation No (EU) 2017/1938 on the security of supply for gas, under which Member States have to report every two years to the Commission (last report: 2016) The progress of the indicator is based on PCIs which are implemented. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, it can be monitored during the Programme implementation and can be kept until the end of the Programme. It can also be used ex-post.

Indicator 4: The amount of avoided curtailment of renewable energy

Narrative: Data not relevant to the specific objective 5

Indicator 5: The connection of isolated markets to more diversified supply sources								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
19				22	23		26	26
	Actual results							
				23	23	26		

Comment: The indicator measures the number of Member States having access to at least two sources of gas is based on the interconnectivity level estimation by ENTSO-G.

NOTE: With the adoption of the third PCI list, the number of gas PCIs has changed. On the current PCI list, the number of gas PCIs has considerably decreased. The progress of the indicator is related to the number of PCIs actually being implemented which allow diversification of supply sources. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, the indicator can be monitored during the Programme implementation and it can be kept until the end of the Programme. It can also be used ex-post.

Unit of measure: The number of Member States having access to at least two sources of gas

Indicator 6: The optimal use of energy infrastructure assets

Indicator is not smartly defined to refer to the policy objectives of the TEN-E Regulation. Therefore, it is proposed to discontinue this indicator.

Specific Objective 6: Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and by the development of smart energy networks and carbon dioxide networks

Performance

For additional explanations on how to interpret the indicator results of tis specific objective, please refer to the general note in the 'Programme performance' section above.

Indicator 1: The amount of renewable electricity transmitted from generation to major consumption centres and storage sites

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
							90	90
	Actual results							

Comment: Data have been extracted on the basis of modelling results available in the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSOe) in the context of the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2016 (indicator B3 of the ENTSO-E cost benefit analysis). This indicator provides a standalone value associated with additional RES available for the system. It measures together the reduction of renewable generation curtailment in MWh (avoided spillage) and the additional amount of RES generation that is connected by the project. The value represents an estimation of contribution to the indicator by the PCIs financed under CEF in the electricity sector, which will be commissioned until 2020 (14 PCIs).

Unit of measure: GWh

Indicator 2: The amount of avoided curtailment of renewable energy

Narrative: Data not relevant to the specific objective 5

Indicator 3: The number of deployed smart grid projects which benefited from the CEF and the demand response enabled by them

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
					1		1	1
2	Actual results							
					0			

Comment: There are 4 projects supported by CEF.

Unit of measure: Smart grid projects

Indicator 4: The amount of CO2 emissions prevented by the projects which benefited from the CEF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
							5 000	5 000
	Actual results							

Comment: The indicator reflects the characterisation of the evolution of CO2 emissions in the power system, as a consequence of the renewable energy which is integrated by means of the PCIs. The values have been calculated on the basis of the ENTSO-E TYNDP 2016 (indicator B5 of ENTSO-E cost benefit analysis, scenario 2020). The data represent the contribution to the indicator by the PCIs financed under CEF in the electricity sector which will be commissioned until 2020 (14 PCIs). 5000 kT/year represents 47.17 % of expected CO2 emissions prevented by all electricity PCIs commissioned until 2020. The indicator does not take into account other sectors, like gas.

Unit of measure: kT/year

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number (foreseen)	EUR
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2020 call for proposals under Multi Annual Work Programme for Energy	32 02 01 01	6	449 196 000
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2018 call for proposals under Multi Annual Work Programme for Energy	32 02 01 02	6	414 528 000
Allocation to the grants from the 2014-2018 call for proposals under Multi Annual Work Programme for Energy	32 02 01 03	6	414 498 586
Allocation to the Financial Instruments projects	32 02 01 04	0	0
Programme Support Actions 2020 (all lines) Art 5(2)(a)		7	1 310 000
Total		0	1 279 532 586

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2014-2020	F		50					
	P		33					
First call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2015-2020	F		15					
	P		18					
Second call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2015-2020	F			30				
	P			15				

First call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2016-2020	F			20				
	P			9				
Second call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2016-2020	F				18			
	P				18			
Call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2017-2020	F				25			
	P				16			
Call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2018-2020	F					53		
	P					22		
Call for proposals under MAWP CEF-Energy 2019-2020	F						8	
	P						8	
Annual work programmes for financial instruments 2014, 2015, 2016	F			5				
	P			pm				
Call for proposals under the AWP 2016 for synergy in energy and transport	F				8			
	P				7			

*An output is a call for proposals under a multi-annual work programme (MAWP) for grants or an annual work programme for financial instruments. ‘Number’ corresponds to the foreseen number of grants (for studies and for works) to be attributed following evaluation of a call for proposals.

* The total number of grants for the Synergy Call cannot be split between transport and energy. The total is therefore reported under both sectors.

Specific Objective 7: To contribute to the interoperability, connectivity, sustainable deployment, operation and upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures and coordination at European level

Indicator 1: Facilitating digital interaction between public administration and citizens/ businesses

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Citizens using public services online: 56.90 %	Actual results							70.0 %
	56.9 %	57.0 %	59.7 %	58.5 %	64.3 %	67.3 %		
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Businesses using public services online:	Actual results							100.0 %
	46.6 %	73.0 %						

Comment: Percentage of internet users needing to submit forms to the public administrations who chose the online channel.

Source: Digital agenda scoreboard

Unit of measure: Percentage of internet users needing to submit forms to the public administrations who chose the online channel

Indicator 2: Availability of cross-border public services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
66.2 %	Actual results							100.0 %
	66.2 %	65.0 %	69.5 %	72.0 %	73.3 %	77.7 %		

Narrative: Target is laid out in the Regulation (EU) 283/2014 on the guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure

Comment: It is a composite indicator that comprises: eGovernment Services for Businesses (DESI indicator) and Citizens mobility – online availability (Digital scoreboard).

Source: eGovernment Benchmark report

Unit of measure: Citizens submitting filled forms to digital public services (Percentage of individuals that needed to submit forms). Target percentage of the cross-border public services.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR
Digital service infrastructures developed and deployed across Europe	09 03 03	18-20	125 964 990
Total			125 964 990

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1 Digital service infrastructures developed and deployed across Europe with the support of CEF	F	8	11	14	14	16	18	18-20
	P	8	11	14	14	16		

The outputs refer to the cumulative number of Digital Service Infrastructures that are being supported. Support can take the form of procurement, when it concerns the core service platforms or of grants when it concerns generic services.

Specific Objective 8: To contribute to the efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks

Indicator 1: Level of fast broadband coverage (e30 Mbs)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							
0	Actual results							
						4 539		

Comment: The number of premises passed with connectivity above 30Mbps, related to CEBF support, was 4 539 at the end of 2019.

Indicator 2: Level of subscription to broadband connections above 100 Mbs

Comment: The Commission does not expect to be able to collect this information from the current projects (they are infrastructure deployment projects, not service providers).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR
Broadband roll-out projects launched via the use of Financial Instruments	09 03 02		p.m.
Total			p.m.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CEF Work programme 2014 C(2014)9588	F	2						
	P	0						
Annual work programme for Financial Instruments 2016	F			5	45			
	P			pm	pm			

Specific Objective 9: Encourage and support entities with a public mission, such as local public authorities, to offer free Wi-Fi connectivity in the centres of community life (e.g. in and around public buildings, health centres, parks or town squares)

Indicator 1: The number of operational free Wi-Fi access points supported by CEF								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							
	Actual results							
						450		

Indicator 2: The number of daily connections generated on free Wi-Fi access points supported by CEF in a given year

Comment: The information is not yet available: the methodology to calculate this indicator is still under validation.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Under the CEF, the transport strand has co-financed investments for transport infrastructures to support Member States for the completion of the Trans-European Network for Transport (TEN-T). In this framework, the CEF has focused its intervention on sustainable transport modes and towards a de-carbonised transport system. For this reason, the CEF Transport has contributed to the national emissions reduction targets in the context of the 20 % cut in greenhouse gas emissions within the climate and energy targets 2020.

CEF Energy has focused its support on electricity projects contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by increasing grid capacity to integrate power produced from renewable sources. As a result, CEF Energy has contributed to the 20 % cut in greenhouse gas emissions within the climate and energy targets 2020.

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

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
Contributing to sustainable and low carbon TEN-T and TEN-E networks	2 123,4	2 192,9
Total	2 123,4	2 192,9

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1 129,5	1 029,8	1 736,5	1 578,0	1 683,0	2 123,4	2 192,9	11 473,1

(*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 total amount corresponds to around 40 % of CEF allocation to transport and energy sectors (all budget lines) including the contribution from the Cohesion Fund and to the financial instrument lines. The telecommunication sector does not contribute directly to the mainstreaming of climate action.

Contribution to financing clean air

During the period 2014-2020 the CEF programme has contributed to clean air objectives through investments in the transport and energy sectors. In particular:

CEF Transport

TRANSPORT SECTOR	Actual Funding	%	Result
Inland Waterways	1.174.431.984	40%	469.772.794
Maritime	1.226.954.404	40%	490.781.761
Rail	14.519.607.439	40%	5.807.842.975
Alternative fuel infrastructure	932.382.444	40%	372.952.978
Nodes of the Core Network Priority	177.107.330	100%	177.107.330
TOTAL CEF TRANSPORT	18.030.483.601,10		7.318.457.838,48

CEF Energy

ENERGY SECTOR	Actual Funding	%	Result
CO2	9.696.215	0%	-
Electricity	2.083.019.906	40%	833.207.962,32
Gas	1.513.149.948	40%	605.259.979
Smart Grid	134.543.582	40%	53.817.433
TOTAL CEF ENERGY	3.740.409.650,67		1.492.285.374,27

The amounts in the above tables refer to signed Grant Agreements. Additional grant agreements contributing to clean air objectives are expected to be signed during year 2020 and 2021.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The CEF transport programme aims at contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, CEF Transport supports SDG 9 through investments for building transport infrastructures that are resilient, including the necessary technology to ensure a proper monitoring of the newly built infrastructures in case of natural catastrophes; SDG 11, promoting infrastructural investments for road safety, notably by allowing an optimal use of public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations and co-funding the improvement of multimodal passenger terminals connecting two long-distance transport modes in urban nodes; and SDG 13, promoting the de-carbonisation of transport with a specific focus on alternative fuels infrastructures.

As regards the energy strand, CEF Energy supports SDG 9 through the investments aiming to increase the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders; SDG 13, financing the actions contributing to the decarbonisation and enabling the transition to a climate neutral economy; SDG7 by promoting investments contributing to further integration of the internal energy market and to sustainable development, in particular, by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and by the development of smart energy networks.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

TRANSPORT

On 4 July 2016 the Commission adopted Annual Work Programme C(2016)1950, amended on 6 December 2016 by Decision C(2016) 7828, which provides for the financing of projects of common interest under the *CEF Debt Instrument* by means of delegation to the European Investment Bank as entrusted entity. The total allocation to the CEF Debt Instrument as of 2019 accounts for EUR 206.35 million, where EUR 165.8 million was already paid to the EIB by the end of 2019. To date a total of EUR 14.6 billion of investments has been raised by the instrument, out of which EUR 6.1 billion since 2014. Several projects have been supported across rail, motorways, ports, shipping and alternative fuels deployment. In total, 23 projects have been signed, approved or are under approval.

The CEF Debt Instrument (CEF-DI) Delegation Agreement was amended in June 2019 in order to focus on green innovative investments, to ensure complementarity with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and to allow the absorption of NER 300 programme (managed by DG CLIMA). The amended CEF-DI Delegation Agreement introduces the 'Future Mobility' financial product to support high-risk deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, the roll out of innovative technologies and smart mobility services.

The CEF-DI pipeline of February 2020 foresees the full exhaustion of the CEF-DI budget and the reliance to NER300 contribution to cover upcoming operations. The amendment of the Delegation Agreement resulted in a list of projects for which EUR 2 billion investment is planned, including projects on the deployment of electric public buses and recharging infrastructure, the development of electric and hydrogen charging points, road to rail terminals and zero-emission inland waterway transport. The operations signed in 2019 for instance include the deployment of approx. 6 600 AC and 250 DC charging stations in Italy; the acquisition of a total of 255 electric buses and associated charging infrastructure in the city of Hamburg; and the deployment of 15 000 leasing electric and hybrid vehicles across 6 EU countries.

ENERGY

In the energy sector, no project has been financed so far under the CEF Debt Instrument due to the effect of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) over the energy project pipeline and any new energy project to be financed under the Debt instrument will rely on credits committed before 2016.

TELECOM

The CEF Broadband Fund (CEBF) has signed its maiden project in Croatia on 25 January 2019 for an expected contribution of EUR 30 million (equity capital). The project aims at deploying high-quality fiber-to-the-home (FttH), open-access network for residential, business and public administration in the rural areas of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria regions – the two North-Western counties in Croatia – and to cover over 135 000 locations. The CEBF intends to provide up to EUR 30 million in equity (preferred shares and shareholder loan) out of total CapEx of EUR 64 million.

Since then, the Fund has signed two other projects, including a deal in Slovenia to invest into a high-quality FTTH, open-access network for residential, business and public administration in the country's rural areas and to cover over 240 000 locations.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs**Interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA²)****Lead DG: DIGIT****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The ISA² Programme (spelled ‘ISA square’), is aimed at facilitating efficient and effective electronic interactions, cross-border or cross-sector, between European public administrations and between them, and citizens and businesses, in order to enable the delivery of electronic public services and to support the implementation of EU policies and activities. The Programme shall develop interoperability solutions autonomously or complement and support other Union initiatives.

EU added value of the programme

ISA² continues and capitalises on the results of the previous ISA programme, broadening its scope to the interactions between public administrations, citizens and businesses.

Important contributions of the ISA² programme are to:

- the Public Sector Modernisation: Interoperability is a necessary condition for the modernisation of public administrations, in particular for ‘one-stop-shop’, ‘once only principle’ or ‘end-to-end services’;
- the Digital Single Market (DSM): Actions identified as fundamental to the DSM initiative, such as the revised European Interoperability Framework and the European Catalogue, are supported by ISA² programme preventing the emergence of electronic barriers;
- other EU policies: Almost all EU policies depend for their implementation on the availability of ICT systems that support the interconnection between Member State administrations. The ISA² programme supports the implementation of such interoperable systems either by funding or by providing tools to help the interconnection and implementation of these systems.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Informatics (DG DIGIT) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management mainly through public procurement.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation status (2017-2019)***

The programme has so far been implemented efficiently with 87.42 % of the execution of the actions during 2019 ⁽¹⁾. The 2019 work programme, like all 2016 – 2018 work programmes of ISA², was performed as envisaged without delays or unforeseen events impacting the objectives stated in the legal decision of the programme. The two biggest packages in terms of funding are the:

- Supporting instruments for public administrations (EUR 6.03 million) – as the new Interoperability Academy action is proposed to enter in this category and is containing action with a high priority that would give more impact to Public Administration and Citizen.
- Supporting instrument for EU Policies (EUR 7.99 million) mostly due to the Common Information Sharing Environment for the Maritime Domain action (CISE) and support to the systems for the implementation of the Single Digital Gateway Regulation.

Key achievements

The intermediary targets have been met, with eleven key interoperability enablers and twelve supporting instruments for public administrations in use by European public administrations. For example, by systematically supporting Member States in the implementation and monitoring of the European Interoperability Framework (EIF) and the state-of-the-art of Digital Public Administration, ISA² programme has effectively delivered on its objective to develop, maintain and promote a holistic approach to interoperability in the Union in order to eliminate fragmentation in the Union’s interoperability landscape. It is expected that timely monitoring of the EIF will help Member States to identify efficiency gains for public service delivery. In 2019, the National Interoperability Framework Observatory defined and tested with some Member States a comprehensive methodology to assess the level of implementation of the EIF across the EU and collected the first results that will be published in the first half of 2020. Some

⁽¹⁾ Update of the programme’s dashboard <https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/dashboard/programme/efficiency>

of the indicators used in the methodology will also be used as of 2020 for EU semester monitoring and will be part of Digital Europe Programme (DEP) indicators. Several studies and digital government factsheets^(?) were produced compiling interesting findings on the state-of-the-art and major trends regarding interoperability and digital transformation in public administration over the last 10 years right until today, like the adoption of ICT-friendly laws. The 2019 EU semester report shows how the European Structural and Investment funds are addressing the main trends in this area, such as the development of electronic skills, the implementation of eJustice measures or eProcurement.

There has been a very active engagement with stakeholders from all levels of public administrations, central, regional and local, businesses, SMEs and start-ups in numerous events like: Smart Cities, Regions Week, Start Up Europe, WebSummit, GovTech Summit. The programme was represented in more than 29 events during 2019. The increased awareness of the benefits of interoperability has been confirmed by the success of the SEMIC Conference and the Sharing & Reuse Conference. The interest of Member States has also increased via, inter alia, the active participation to the CIO meetings and workshops during the year. The latter have received very positive feedback and there is demand for continued organisation of such events.

Through the ELISE action, which aims at supporting the implementation of INSPIRE Directive, there have been activities: to develop geospatial interoperability tools (such as the ARE3NA platform, the Re3gistry and web-search tools); to pilot new activities on energy efficiency and marine spatial data sharing; to launch a pilot for an EU gazetteer service; and to propose the Geo-Knowledge Base service.

Developing common vocabularies and data models (semantic interoperability), delivers on its objective to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations on the one hand, and between European public administrations and businesses and citizens on the other. It also contributes to the development of a more effective, simplified and user-friendly e-administration at the national, regional and local levels of public administration. Member States are keen to share their experience on how solutions such as Interoperability Maturity Assessment of a Public Service, European Interoperability Reference Architecture, and European Legislation Identifier are helping them in the digitalisation of their public administrations and ensuring interoperability. Core vocabularies provided by ISA² programme support a wide number of European Commission's policies and their implementation in the Member States.

EU Open Data Portal as well as National Portals benefit from Asset Description Metadata Schema (ADMS) in describing in a uniform way their assets (i.e., their name, their status, theme, version, etc.) and where they can be found on the Web.

ISA² programme also supports major policy domains like the Single Digital Gateway Regulation providing expertise to DG GROW, as well as technical solutions and frameworks to the Member States to meet the legal and technical requirements, and foster the interoperability of the IT systems to be rolled-out by the Commission and Member States.

In addition, the success of ISA² can be illustrated by an intensive cooperation with other programmes and projects of the EU, such as Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Structural Reforms Programme (SRSP), projects from Horizon 2020. Some of ISA² actions and pilot solutions have proved to be so successful and impactful, that CEF Telecom programme has proposed to finance them as building blocks: TESTA (Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations) secure network service and Big Data test infrastructure. Horizon 2020 projects are reusing ISA² created solutions such as European Single Procurement Document, EU Public License and others.

By systematically screening new EU legislation – under preparation by the Commission – for possible ICT and interoperability impacts –, and by following them up with the lead DG when needed, the ISA² programme effectively delivers on its objective 'to identify, create and operate interoperability solutions supporting the implementation of Union policies and activities.' In 2019, the programme's legal interoperability team screened 203 initiatives – announced on the 'Have your say' Europa webpage –, and pre-assessed 103 out of them using its new 'legal interoperability screening methodology'. Preparations also started to update Tool #27 of the Commission's Better Regulation Toolbox, which points towards support sources available for policymakers and ICT specialists, such as the 'ICT Impact Assessment Guidelines'. These guidelines stress the importance of timely assessing ICT impacts in order to identify and deploy reusable components, thus saving the efforts linked to new developments, and to ensure thorough planning of IT implementation.

Evaluation/studies conducted

In line with article 13 of the programme's legal basis, the Commission finalised the interim evaluation of the ISA² programme in 2019. The evaluation study supporting the interim evaluation was published in June 2019, and the Commission adopted its report on the 'Results of the interim evaluation of the ISA² programme' (COM(2019) 615 final) on 23 September 2019.

The interim evaluation confirms that ISA² performs well in all evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value, utility and sustainability):

- The objectives pursued by ISA² are still pertinent, and the results achieved so far are aligned with these objectives.
- The programme's implementation is progressing as planned, with strong internal coherence among the various ISA² actions.

(?) <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/nifo-national-interoperability-framework-observatory/digital-government-factsheets-2019>

- User satisfaction with the ISA² solutions – like EUSurvey, Joinup or the European Interoperability Reference Architecture – is positive.
- The programme has reinforced its links with other EU programmes, such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Horizon 2020 or the Structural Reform Support Programme, which often reuse or promote the take-up of the ISA² solutions.
- ISA² also interacts with initiatives such as the Single Digital Gateway, the Digital Single Market Strategy, the eGovernment Action Plan, the Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment, and the rolling plan for ICT standardisation.
- Stakeholders in particular agree on the EU added value of the programme: ISA² plays a central role in improving the interoperability landscape in the EU and its absence would jeopardise the efforts of European public administrations to improve interoperability and to foster the ICT-based modernisation of the public sector in Europe.

The main areas for possible improvement that the report mentions are:

- Awareness-raising: The interim evaluation underlines the importance of reaching out beyond national administrations and targeting regional and local administrations too.
 - When assessing the programme's relevance, several stakeholders pointed out the additional need to ensure more collaboration and exchanges with regional and local administrations in order to increase awareness of interoperability and the take-up of ISA² solutions at the subnational level. Since 2016, the ISA² programme has been actively working on raising public administrations' awareness on interoperability in general: it adopted its communication strategy and engagement plan in 2017 and organised 10 major events between 2016 and 2018, with an average of 211 participants per event. Based on the feedback received during the interim evaluation, it is time to design some promotional activities targeted to regional and local administrations. A recent example is the ISA² programme's support to the Join, Boost, Sustain initiative ⁽³⁾, paving the way for the digital transformation in cities and communities.
 - User centricity: The results of the evaluation suggest that the programme's utility could be increased by better considering user needs. Notably, some users signalled the following specific areas for improvement: a) providing (more) support to users of ISA² solutions; b) improving the quality of existing solutions by addressing users' feedback; c) involving users not only in the testing phase of solutions, but also in the design phase.
 - To this end, the ISA² programme's communication team and action owners already make an effort to capture users' feedback and information on additional needs related to existing solutions. Their outreach activities made it possible to put together a number of user testimonials ⁽⁴⁾, which support the promotion of the solutions. Also, action owners' attention was drawn to the need of demonstrating user-centricity when compiling the last iteration of the ISA² rolling work programme.
 - That said, according to the results of the stakeholder consultation activities led during the interim evaluation, the user satisfaction with the ISA² solutions tends to be positive with only 7 out of 110 stakeholders reporting 'limited satisfaction'. As the programme is ongoing the interim evaluation gives still a partial view; it is expected that the take-up and completion of ISA² solutions will increase, thus improving the way that solutions meet user needs and, in turn, increasing overall user satisfaction.
 - Sustainability: The evaluation found that it is vital to preserve and increase the ability of European public administrations to work together towards attaining mutually beneficial goals after the ISA² programme ends.
- When assessing the EU added value of the ISA² programme, the interim evaluation found that the programme plays an essential role in setting up a uniform interoperability landscape in the European public sector. ISA² also helps to develop and deploy cross-border and cross-sector digital solutions among Member States' administrations, and to advance common policies as they greatly rely on these interconnected and interoperable networks and systems.

In order to maintain the above-listed benefits, the following actions have been taken or are underway:

- Action owners were asked to address the sustainability of their actions and related solutions in the last iteration of the ISA² Work Programme. They had to assess whether their solution/action should qualify for funding under the upcoming Digital Europe programme or could be taken over by other programmes or open source communities, for example.
- Ongoing efforts are made to reinforce the synergies between ISA² and other EU programmes to promote the EIF and interoperability in general and to facilitate the broad reuse of the ISA² solutions. For example, the ISA² team provided extensive feedback on and follows closely the Member States' funding requests and execution under the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP).

⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/join-boost-sustain-european-way-digital-transformation-cities-and-communities>

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/home_en

- Interoperability forms part of the proposed Digital Europe Programme in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027) and the ISA² team is closely associated to the ongoing work preparing the take-off of this instrument.

The work to improve the highlighted areas has already started in 2019, as indicated in the programme performance section.

Forthcoming implementation

The upcoming ISA² work programme will support activities to maximise interoperability impact at national and Union levels. These two coming years will be transition years, closing the ISA² programme and launching the activities under the new Digital Europe Programme. With regard to the closing of the ISA² programme, in 2020, special emphasis will be given to:

- Support Open Source Software and Sharing & Reuse framework
- JOINUP evolution and continuation of federation with other repositories as it has been done with Spain. Increase the publication of Linked Open Data;
- Intensify the support to policies such as Single Digital Gateway with the modernisation of the eGov Core Vocabularies and APIs Chatbots;
- The interoperability academy launch has been a success and in 2020 will be populated with eLearning for EIF and for different solutions supporting the digital transformation. It will create the ground of the network of national (and some international) initiatives;
- Monitor and evaluate the European interoperability framework with the developed integrated mechanism. The factsheets will be published as Linked Open Data (LOD) and the mechanism will support also the EU Semester;
- Through the Legal interoperability action continue the support to the initiatives related to making better legislation (better regulation and assessment of digital impact);
- Evolution of the legislative tools (LEGIT) being adopted by several Member States.
- Continue to engage with interoperability stakeholders including capturing their needs for the future (this includes the closing event, cooperation with CEF telecom and the work on the interoperability action under the Commission's 'Europe fit for the digital age' strategy);
- Continue work on data management and their semantics (this includes support to the implementation of the Single Digital Gateway regulation);
- Continue the support to the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive on the creation of a European Union spatial data infrastructure for the purposes of EU environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment, through actions targeting interoperability of location data.

Outlook for the 2021 – 2027 period

The Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 434, repeals the Decision (EU) 2015/2240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 establishing a programme on interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA² Programme), as of the January 1st, 2021.

Subject to the negotiations in the adoption process, the Proposal for Regulation COM(2018) 434, establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027, covers the scope of the ISA² Programme mainly in the provisions of the Specific Objective 5, 'Deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability'. Consequently, it also addresses the sustainability of the interoperability agenda, identified as an area for improvement in the interim evaluation of the ISA² programme.

In this context, the main activities foreseen are:

- Contribution to the Open Data platform: take up of the semantic interoperability activities (standards DCAT-AP, core-vocabularies and governance guidelines);
- Contribution to the Digital Transformation Platform Eco-System, which will support the digital transformation of public administrations across Europe and the interoperable cross-border digital government;
- Implementation of the interoperability incubator to ensure cross-border collaboration between different Member States digitalisation agencies as well as involving actors in the GovTech sector from the private sector. This will foster the development and rapid uptake of new digital services and will put in place the right mechanism to ensure Interoperability by default;
- Continue the support to the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive on the creation of a European Union spatial data infrastructure for the purposes of EU environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment, through actions targeting interoperability of location data;
- Ensure respect of core interoperability principles across the programme, and monitor and evaluate the European interoperability framework.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Decision (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council No 2015/2240 of 25 November 2015 establishing a programme on interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA ² programme) as a means for modernising the public sector	2016 – 2020	130,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support			0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	2,0
Operational appropriations			24,4	25,1	25,8	26,7	27,1	129,2
Total			24,8	25,5	26,2	27,1	27,5	131,2

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	27,092	100,00 %	24,934	98,71 %	27,530	7,73 %	25,400	23,32 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	27,995	99,14 %	26,161	98,49 %	28,435	8,00 %	26,395	24,98 %

(*) 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

As elaborated under section II.2, the Commission’s report on the ‘Results of the interim evaluation of the ISA² programme’ – [COM\(2019\) 615 final](#), adopted on 23 September 2019 –, confirms that ISA² performs well in all evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value, utility and sustainability). The objectives pursued by ISA² are still pertinent, and the results achieved so far are aligned with these objectives. Stakeholders in particular agree that ISA² plays a central role in improving the interoperability landscape in the EU and its absence would jeopardise the efforts of European public administrations to improve interoperability and to foster the ICT-based modernisation of the public sector in Europe.

The key performance indicators associated to the programme’s general objective – see below – confirm the good performance of the programme. Concerning the key interoperability enablers, the programme even over-performed compared to plans. This is explained by better than expected government interoperability acceptance and by faster than expected technological progress. Indeed, Member States positions have evolved from hesitantly to very actively involved and requesting intensified common investment in interoperability enablers. (see also above under II.2)

The areas identified for possible improvement include a) awareness raising, b) user-centricity and c) sustainability. As suggested by the key achievements of the programme under section II.2, in 2019 significant efforts were made to address these areas, as follows:

- a) Awareness-raising: The ISA² team actively engaged with stakeholders across 11 countries from all levels of public administrations, central, regional and local, businesses, SMEs and start-ups in numerous events like: Smart Cities, Regions Week, Start Up Europe or the WebSummit. The team’s involvement in the [Join, Boost, Sustain](#) initiative merits special attention as through this channel the programme can get in touch with stakeholders in cities and communities directly. The ISA² programme also intensified its cooperation with other programmes and projects of the EU, such as Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Structural Reforms Programme (SRSP) and Horizon 2020 thus reaching a broader audience. The cooperation has been increased via joint organisation of the events, sharing of the results and relevant content, provision of advice and support.
- b) User-centricity: [The ISA² solutions](#) support the work of many different users ⁽⁵⁾. Member States shared their experience on how ISA² solutions (such as the Interoperability Maturity Assessment of a Public Service) are helping them in facilitating digitalisation in national public administrations. Several Commission’s initiatives, like the Single Digital Gateway, the EU Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) or the TOOP project are benefitting from ISA² solutions as well. Some solutions (including the EU Survey) are available for businesses and citizens too. To better satisfy existing and future users’ needs, user-centricity was a key aspect, which was considered at the submission and assessment of proposals for the last (2020) ISA² Work Programme. In practice, this means that action owners of existing solutions may consider providing more

⁽⁵⁾ Further information can be found on the ISA² solutions usage map, available at https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/solutions_en

support to their users, address users' needs in an agile manner. JoinUp is a leading example for such efforts. There are some actions, which invite the potential users of their future solution to participate in its design phase. For example, the Legal interoperability ISA² action builds its Better legislation for smoother implementation community in such an open, collaborative way.

- c) Sustainability: To maintain the uptake of existing ISA² solutions, the programme works closely with other EU funding instruments. By having provided detailed feedback on the Member States' requests under the SRSP 2020 work programme, the ISA² team identified synergies with various national initiatives. Subject to the negotiations in the adoption process, the Proposal for Regulation COM(2018) 434, establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027, covers the scope of the ISA2 Programme mainly in the provisions of the Specific Objective 5, 'Deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability'. The content of the Digital Europe programme takes into account the findings of the interim evaluation, such as putting together CEF building blocks and ISA² solutions under the same digital transformation platform. This means that the funding of the afore-mentioned ISA² solutions will be maintained after 2020.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations and between them and citizens and businesses, in order to enable the delivery of electronic public services supporting the implementation of Union policies and activities

Performance

Refer to Programme performance as there is only one objective.

Indicator 1: the number of key interoperability enablers								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
3			9	9	9	10	10	10
	Actual results							
			9	9	11	11		

Comment: The number mentioned in the baseline for both indicators for the years 2017-2020 could only be estimated. This is because the number of solutions produced by the ISA2 actions depends on the number and the type of proposals submitted by the Member States and Commission services and accepted for implementation in each annual work programme. As a result of the actions proposed in 2016 and 2018, the number of key interoperability enablers produced in 2018 was already higher than estimated in 2015 when the first programme statement was being prepared.

Indicator 2: the number of supporting instruments for public administrations delivered to and used by European public administrations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
4			9	9	11	13	13	13
	Actual results							
			9	9	12	13		

Comment: The number mentioned in the baseline for both indicators corresponds to the major actions that were carried over to the new programme ISA2 and should not be confused with the amount of outputs created by the previous ISA programme.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Key interoperability enablers	26 03 01	11	5,8
Support the effective implementation of EU legislation	26 03 01	14	9,3
Supporting instruments for European public administrations	26 03 01	13	6,3
Accompanying measures	26 03 01	6	4,4
Monitoring activities	26 03 01	4	1,3
Total		48	27,1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)				
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Key interoperability enablers	F	9	9	11	11	11
	P	9	8	11	11	
Support the effective implementation of EU legislation	F	13	13	14	14	14
	P	13	13	14	14	
Supporting instruments for European public administrations	F	9	9	12	12	13
	P	9	8	12	13	
Accompanying measures	F	4	4	6	6	6
	P	4	4	6	6	
Monitoring activities	F	4	4	3	3	4
	P	4	3	3	3	

4. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

In particular SDG 8.2, related to economic productivity through technological upgrading and innovation. The programme’s main target group is the public sector, which contributes by 20 % to the EU GDP through procurement thus making it a key factor of the European and global economy. A modernised digital public sector means better public services, less bureaucracy and consequently more time for citizens and businesses to be productive in their core professional activities. In addition, the public sector holds and manages public data which if published as ‘open’ can create new innovative business thus increasing the market growth potential. It is estimated that full exploitation of open data can bring an overall market value of EUR 40 billion per year in the Union. The ISA² programme contributes to this objective with each of its actions, among which Application Profile for Data Portals in Europe (DCAT-AP), Core Public Service Vocabulary (CPSV) and European Single Procurement Document (ESPD). Said actions contribute to implementing open data portals, e-procurement and the Single Digital Gateway Regulation, each thus resulting in cost cuts and improved services for business and citizens. ESPD is a perfect example of how ISA² is helping to reduce bureaucracy – it serves as the one self-declaration form for all public procurement procedures in the EU. It makes it much easier to compete in the procurement process because bidders who have self-declared that they meet the criteria will only need to provide supporting evidence if they win the contract. The planned Govtech incubator under the DEP, based on the Innovative Public Service action, brings together public administrations and private sector players to experiment and bring towards maturity innovative tech applications.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The programme produces and sustains interoperable digital solutions, which are open and free to be reused and shared by everyone. This results in putting in place digital infrastructures of cross-border nature, which can enhance collaboration between countries and within them at regional or local levels. TESTA is an example of such cross-border infrastructure, which stands for Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations – provides a European backbone network for data exchange between wide varieties of public administrations. It is used by all Member states of the EU and by candidate countries. It provides guaranteed performance and a high level of security and has connections with all the EU Institutions and national networks. It caters for the exchange of both unclassified and classified information. In general, all ISA² funded models and solutions are publicly and openly available for reuse and additional development on the Joinup platform⁽⁶⁾. A dedicated licensing assistant supports administrations and business users in identifying the most appropriate public licence type⁽⁷⁾. To promote further the usage of the open and free solutions and frameworks, the programme participated to the European Region’s Week 2019, putting together different regions, Digital Innovation Hubs and potential future users from other public administrations.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

In particular to SDG 17.6 by promoting collaboration with third countries, international organisations or bodies, and pursuing the reuse of ISA² solutions thereof. The programme has already set up international cooperation with third countries such as the Uruguay, Ukraine, Western Balkans, Japan, Australia, Vietnam, etc. in the areas of semantic interoperability and solutions’ reuse. During 2019, 8 workshops and webinars were organised with the contribution of these different countries. These exchanges allowed to improve our frameworks and specifications with their experience and they benefit of all our work in this domain of data exchanges. The active participation in our events and webinars combined with an interest to collaborate is a key indicator showing the relevance of ISA² solutions for these countries. For example, in 2019 Ukraine followed the EIF and put in place a good base registry strategy, which has been key in their journey of digital transformation.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/joinup/news/joinup-licensing-assistant>

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

European statistical programme (ESP)

Lead DG: ESTAT

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

Political decision-makers and actors in the market constantly need statistics in order to take fact-based decisions and to monitor and evaluate their implementation. In order to provide an essential infrastructure for democracies and modern economies to function soundly and efficiently, statistics must be reliable, timely and independent of political influence. Together with the national statistical institutes and other national authorities responsible in each Member State for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics, Eurostat has created a partnership collectively called the European Statistical System (ESS).

The European statistical programme (ESP) as laid down in Regulation (EU) 99/2013⁽¹⁾ provides the framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics for a period corresponding to that of the multiannual financial framework. The statistics produced within the framework of the ESP are indispensable for EU decision-making and for the measurement of the performance and impact of key initiatives such as the Investment Plan for Europe, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Agenda on Migration, or the Energy Union.

The ESP is designed to provide quality statistical information in a timely manner while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields. It serves the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort.

EU added value of the programme

Only a coordinated approach to the development, production and dissemination of European statistics as provided for in the ESP guarantees the required coherence, comparability and common quality standards of the statistics that are relevant for EU activities. The programme delivers EU added value by providing trustworthy statistics while maintaining the balance between the needs of a wide range of users and the response burden on citizens and business. Moreover, EU added value is generated through the sharing of knowledge and 'best practices' across Member States and the development of new technologies, common tools and collaborative networks in the ESS with a view to taking advantage of possible synergies and avoiding duplication of effort, thus paving the way for a modern statistical production system equipped to meet future challenges.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for European statistics (DG ESTAT) is responsible for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The Annual Work Programme for 2019 referred to the second year to implement the extended European statistical programme (ESP) to 2020. The extension paved the way for a range of ambitious actions to give the ESS greater capacity and flexibility. In addressing high-level requests from policy-makers, the ESP extension included measures for higher-quality, timelier statistics to support the Commission's 10 political priorities and the European Parliament's political agenda. The 2019 work programme also aimed at advancing towards the completion of the European Statistical System Vision 2020 strategy. The strategy was adopted to cope with the challenges that the production of official statistics faced and identifies five key areas in which common action is needed in order for European statistics to be 'fit for the future': user needs, data sources, quality assurance, partnership, dissemination and communication. The strategy is progressing with the implementation of common projects carried out in the ESS, to be completed in 2020.

In 2019, 96.9 % of planned outputs were achieved or were on target. Those outputs with a status other than 'Achieved / On target' have been analysed in detail. None of them put at risk the fulfilment of the ESP objectives. The causes included dependency on contractors; issues related to priority, resource, and IT matters.

Corrective actions were identified and have been implemented. These actions included reviewing the IT planning procedure, in particular IT prioritisation and HR allocation.

⁽¹⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) No 99/2013](#)

Key achievements

Providing the European Union with statistics at European level that enable comparisons between countries and regions is a key task. Democratic societies do not function properly without a solid basis of reliable and objective statistics. On one hand, decision-makers at EU level, in Member States, in local government and in business need statistics to make those decisions. On the other hand, the public and media need statistics for an accurate picture of contemporary society and to evaluate the performance of politicians and others. While national statistics are important for national purposes in Member States, EU statistics are essential for decisions and evaluation at European level. Statistics can answer many questions: Is society heading in the direction promised by politicians? Is unemployment up or down? Are there more CO₂ emissions compared to ten years ago? How many women go to work? How is your country's economy performing compared to other EU Member States? Furthermore, international statistics are a way of getting to know your neighbours in Member States and countries outside the EU. They are an important, objective and down-to-earth way of measuring how we all live.

The performance indicators are all on a positive trend, improving compared to the previous years.

The statistical coverage, measured as the number of different statistics published on the Eurostat website, has increased by around 15 %, while the human resources available to produce them have not increased. This shows a rise in efficiency in the production processes, which is necessary to cover new demands for statistics. At the same time, the percentage of the statistics for which long-term series are available has also increased, allowing users to make comparison with the past for their analysis of the phenomena described by such statistics.

An improved effectiveness of the work done under the programme is shown by the increase, for all the programmes objectives, of the share of the planned results which were achieved or are on target, which has approached the ideal target of 100 %.

The indicators show also an increase in the quality of the data. The timeliness of the main quarterly and monthly statistics has improved, being released with a shorter time lag. Even for those statistics, as the Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) for which the target has not been reached, the situation has improved.

The statistics keep being relevant, as demonstrated by the increase of the number of data extractions made by external users from the Eurostat reference databases, which has reached 18.34 million. The statistics produced by Eurostat have also a great impact on the web. The number of times that Eurostat is mentioned is stable at the highest level reached so far, while the percentage of negative opinion is extremely low, showing trust in and satisfaction with the data.

Examples of the programme success stories:

- As in previous years, Eurostat provided in 2019 comparable, **reliable and timely information and thus supported the evidence-based implementation of EU policies**, in particular the 10 Commission Priorities and the Europe 2020 strategy
- Eurostat finalised from a statistical viewpoint the multi-annual (2016-2019) Gross National Income (GNI) verification cycle and identified the improvements needed concerning quality of sources and methods used by Member States to compile GNI. These improvements will lead to enhanced reliability, comparability and exhaustiveness of the data provided for EU GNI own resources purposes. In turn, **this will further improve the overall quality of national accounts and support the management and implementation of the EU budget**. In the area of own resources, efforts were intensified to meet the proposed new EU budgetary conditions based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste. These included preparing a methodology, making country visits and holding country specific meetings together with DG BUDG.
- Concerning the priority on a **deeper and fairer economic and monetary union**, Eurostat organised a consultation between Member States and provided advice to the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). This will greatly facilitate the phasing out of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF).
- Eurostat provided advice to several Member States on how to record investment and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), therefore **contributing to the undertaking of investment projects in the EU**. It also published a new version of the manual of government deficit and debt as well as a new manual of government expenditure by function (COFOG). These will both be of use when dealing with the future issues of government green investment.
- Eurostat contributed with new initiatives to implement a **resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy**. For the first time, Eurostat published energy footprints estimates for the EU. These data show the energy used throughout the production of goods and services up to the final product, the final user as well as the type of final use (final consumption, investment or export). The footprint data show the spill over effects of EU energy demand in the rest of the world. Eurostat contributed then to the development of harmonised risk indicators (HRI) on the sustainable use of

pesticides. It published methodological guidelines and the tools for calculating the HRIs, to assist Member States in fulfilling their obligations under Directive 2009/128/EC.

- **Timeliness of social and business statistics** will improve thanks to the adoption of the two new framework regulations, the one on social statistics (IESS) ⁽²⁾ and the one on European business statistics (FRIBS) ⁽³⁾. For the household budget survey and the time use survey, a deadline of 15 months for Member States to submit data has been fixed in the IESS. Concerning EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) already 20 Member States provide their data 6 months after the end of the data collection (reference year) while the legal deadline is 11 months. The target under IESS from 2021 data collection onwards is end of the year of data collection or 2 months after for income data. Microdata for researchers is also made available for nearly all Member States in autumn the year after the reference year against the current legal deadline of 14 months after. Various countries are now using or investigating the use of early registers releases on income data for providing EU-SILC data already by the end of the data collection year. The timeliness of structural business statistics data will be improved by the provision of more extensive preliminary data with the FRIBS implementation. The development of an IT infrastructure to support the exchange of micro-data was completed and is now being tested, to be used under FRIBS. The infrastructure is highly automated, allowing the submission and processing of millions of records from each EU Member State, via secure networks. The levels of IT security controls are to be certified by an independent third-party organisation.
- Eurostat **improved its statistical production methods, using new data sources and techniques**. In the field of the collaborative economy, Eurostat reached an agreement in principle with four major online platforms that are active in short-term accommodation rentals, for the transmission of data as of 2020. This agreement provides a framework where, in the future, international online platforms will send data directly to Eurostat as a single collecting point. This reduces the overall burden on enterprises, improves the quality of tourism statistics and provides better information on the size of the collaborative economy. The preparation of Eurostat's Trusted Smart Statistics Centre advanced. This aims at sustaining the production of official statistics based on new data sources (such as sensors and the internet of things (IoT)) and technologies (Trusted Smart Statistics), which will complement existing or produce new statistics to support the Commission's main political priorities. This will provide value added to users through improved timeliness, fill-in statistical data gaps, and make statistical services more flexible to adapt to new challenges.
- Eurostat **intensified and modernised communication and dissemination**. Through social media, it tweeted more than 1,300 messages in 2019, gaining over 10,000 new Twitter followers (now over 144,000 followers). Polls and Twitter chats were used to increase interaction with citizens and the media. Eurostat's Facebook page, with over 460 posts in 2019, now has more than 42,000 followers. Facebook posts reach a wide audience: a post on female managers, board members and senior executives gained almost one million views and more than 2,000 responses. The Eurostat website was viewed more than 38 million times in 2019, compared to 33 million views in 2018. The use of infographics to enhance the attractiveness of Eurostat's publications, news releases, news items and social media posts increased. A range of webinars explained Eurostat products to fact-checkers and data journalists, in view of their key role as transmitters of European statistics to society.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation ⁽⁴⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statement 2020.

The final evaluation will start in 2020 to be concluded by end of 2021, as requested in Article 15 of the amended ESP Regulation.

Forthcoming implementation

The main outputs expected to be achieved in 2020

Production and dissemination of the statistical products listed in Annex 4 'Catalogue of Statistical Products' of the Commission decision 'on the Financing of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2020 and the adoption of the work programme for 2020'.

Efficiency gains and quality improvements in the production of European statistics as well as enhanced flexibility and productivity across the European Statistical System. Better responsiveness to users' requirements and innovative communication of European statistics, use of new data sources, improved data exchange, and a new and future-oriented dissemination chain.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4375449/2019Second+mid-term+evaluation+of+the+ESP+2013-2017>

Other outputs listed in the Annex 3 ‘List of activities and outputs’ of the Commission decision ‘on the Financing of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2020 and the adoption of the work programme for 2020’.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The European Statistical Programme 2021-27 is included in the Commission proposal for a Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics ^(*).

Together with Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European statistics, the Programme provides the overall framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics for 2021-2027. European statistics are developed, produced and disseminated under that framework and in accordance with the principles of the European statistics Code of Practice through close and coordinated cooperation within the European Statistical System (ESS).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2020 (Text with relevance for the EEA and for Switzerland. Regulation (EU) No 1383/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17	2013 – 2020	452,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	2,9	2,9	3,0	3,1	3,2	3,3	3,3	21,8
Operational appropriations	53,4	54,9	56,4	58,0	58,5	72,2	74,0	427,4
Total	56,3	57,8	59,4	61,1	61,7	75,5	77,3	449,1

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	75,498	99,93 %	56,463	98,70 %	77,313	15,09 %	74,313	22,99 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	87,674	90,05 %	79,795	76,37 %	87,391	13,35 %	94,207	20,56 %

(*) 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 implementation of the European statistical programme is progressing well, producing significant results under the programme’s different objectives.

The general objective of the programme is for the European Statistical System to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe. The general good performance of the programme is shown by its performance indicator, measuring the Eurostat impact on Internet. The number of times that Eurostat is mentioned on the Internet is stable at the highest level reached so far, while the percentage of negative opinion is extremely low, showing trust in and satisfaction with the data produced.

The programme has four specific objectives.

The first one is to provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. The very good performance of Eurostat for such indicator is shown by the three related performance indicators. The statistical coverage, measured as the number

(*) REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014, (EU) No 258/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) 2017/826

of different statistics published on the Eurostat website, has increased by around 15 %. This demonstrates that demands for new statistics are being satisfied, thanks also to improvements in the production processes, as the available resources are not increasing. The second indicator shows that the statistics keep being relevant and used, as indicated by the increase of the number of data extractions made by external users from the Eurostat reference databases, which has reached 18.34 million. Finally, the effectiveness of the work made under the objective is also increasing, reaching a share of 97.4 % of all planned outputs, which were achieved or are on target.

The second specific objective is to implement new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements. The improvements in quality are shown by the first related performance indicator. The timeliness of the main quarterly and monthly statistics has improved, being released with a shorter time lag compared to the last day of the reference period. The effectiveness of the work made under the objective is also increasing, reaching a share of 95.8 % of all planned outputs, which were achieved or are on target.

The third specific objective is to strengthen the partnership within the European Statistical System and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide. It is thanks to such partnership that the production of complex statistics like the Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) is possible. The related indicator shows that the publication of the PEEIs has almost reached the legal target, while the production of the statistics on foreign trade with countries outside the EU is constantly in advance compared to the legal target. The effectiveness of the work made under the objective is also increasing, reaching a share of 96.2 % of all planned outputs which were achieved or are on target.

The fourth specific objective is to ensure that delivery of statistics is kept consistent throughout the whole duration of the programme, provided that this does not interfere with the priority-setting mechanisms of the ESS. The consistency is shown by the indicator measuring the percentage of the statistics, for which time series that cover 10 or more consecutive years are available, which increased.

Two mid-term evaluations of the ESP were performed, covering the years 2013-2014 ⁽⁶⁾ and 2015-2017 ⁽⁷⁾, and a progress report ⁽⁸⁾ on the implementation of the ESP, covering 2018 and the first half of 2019, was produced in 2019. The two evaluations and the progress report demonstrate that: (i) the current delivery mechanism works effectively; (ii) the programme is run efficiently; and (iii) is reaching its objectives. The ESP provides clear EU added value thanks to the harmonised provision of comparable and high-quality data for the EU. However, the evaluations also show the need to ensure adequate resources in the future for the modernisation of the statistical production processes. In addition, Eurostat needs to be able to respond to users' growing needs, especially concerning timeliness and coverage of new data for emerging policy needs, while becoming more agile and taking advantage of new technologies.

In June 2018, the Commission adopted the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 2021-2027 programme for the single market, the competitiveness of enterprises, including SMEs, and the financing of European statistics. The proposal includes general and detailed specific objectives on European statistics, aiming to ensure their visibility and its crosscutting character.

The structure of the future programme has been simplified compared to the current programme: the list of specific and detailed objectives has been simplified, and the priority areas, which created an overlapping supplementary categorisation, have been deleted. The streamlined programme would contribute to even more effective implementation.

The new programme will enable more timely and cost-effective production of European statistics, using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods and digital technologies to support the design, monitoring and evaluation of EU policies.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The European Statistical System to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe.

Indicator 1: Eurostat impact on Internet								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of mentions: 264 932					increase	increase	increase	increase
	Actual results				264 932	390 207	388 662	
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of					< 2 %	< 2 %	< 2 %	< 2 %

⁽⁶⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4375449/Report+to+EP+and+Council+on+the+implementation+of+the+ESP+2013-2017+%28Intermediate+%29>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4375449/2019Second+mid-term+evaluation+of+the+ESP+2013-2017>

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4375449/ESP_progress_report_2019.pdf

negative opinions: 0 %	Actual results						
				0 %	0 %	0 %	

Comment: New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

Source: Monthly report on Eurostat's impact on the web.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort.

Indicator 1: Statistical coverage (measured as number of indicators, sub-indicators and all their breakdowns)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
328 489 272					increase	increase	increase	increase
	Actual results							
				328 489 272	366 260 359	423 110 043		

Comment: New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

Source: Report on the content of Eurostat's public databases.

Indicator 2: Number of data extractions made by external users from Eurostat reference databases (EuroBase and Comext) via the Eurostat website (using the Data Explorer or Easy Comext) – Millions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
7.87	8.10	8.30	8.50	8.70	increase	increase	increase	increase
	Actual results							
	7.79	8.30	11.34	13.33	16.49	18.34		

Source: Monitoring reports on Eurostat electronic dissemination.

Indicator 3: Degree of achievement of the Specific Objective 1 measured as percentage of the achievement of the Outputs related to it

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	92 %	94 %	93 %	95 %	96 %	97 %		

Comment: Twice a year, DG ESTAT's units give a mark to each of the outputs under their responsibility. The marks are the following: 'Achieved', 'On target', 'Difficulties', 'Revised', 'Cancelled'. The percentages given in the table include 'Achieved' and 'On target'. The 'ideal' target is 100 % every year.

Source: ESTAT twice-yearly monitoring reports.

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs*	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Statistical activities-total	29 02 01	198	50.60
Of which:			
PA1: Europe 2020		1	0.17
PA2: Economic governance		21	2.78
PA3: Economic globalisation		8	2.70
PA4: Economic and social performance		25	9.84
PA5: Environmental sustainability		6	1.56
PA6: Business statistics		26	8.08

PA7: People's Europe		34	11.64
PA8: Geospatial, environmental, agriculture and other sectoral statistics		49	7.85
PA12: Dissemination and communication		23	4.37
PA13: Training, innovation and research		3	1.32

(*) In this context 'outputs' are understood as activities to be listed in the annex to the draft 2019 Annual Work Programme.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Outputs related to the Statistical activities	F	126	126	224	201	199	198	198
	P	110	121	208	201	191	186	

Specific Objective 2: To implement new methods of production of European statistics aiming at efficiency gains and quality improvements.

Indicator 1: Timeliness of a sub-set of the statistics provided by Eurostat measured as number of days between the last day of the statistics' reference period and the release day of the related news release

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Quarterly: 85.7					decrease	decrease	decrease	decrease
	Actual results							
				85.7	85.4	83.3		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Monthly: 35.9					decrease	decrease	decrease	decrease
	Actual results							
				35.9	36.0	35.6		

Comment: New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.

Source: Eurostat's news releases.

Unit of measure: Number of days

Indicator 2: Degree of achievement of the Specific Objective 2 measured as percentage of the achievement of the Outputs related to it

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Actual results								
	86 %	89 %	91 %	89 %	95 %	96 %		

Source: ESTAT twice-yearly monitoring reports. Twice a year, Eurostat units give a mark to each of the outputs under their responsibility. The marks are the following: 'Achieved', 'Not achieved', 'Output revised' (which are counted as 'Not achieved'). The target is 100 % every year.

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs*	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Statistical activities	29 02 01	65	22.23
Of which:			
PA9: European Statistical System (ESS) quality management		6	0.27
PA11: Multipurpose statistics and efficiency gains in production		59	21.96

(*) In this context 'outputs' are understood as activities to be listed in the annex to the 2019 Annual Work Programme.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Outputs related to the Statistical Activities	F	39	39	57	51	65	65	65
	P	34	38	52	54	62	68	

Specific Objective 3: To strengthen the partnership within the European Statistical System and beyond in order to further enhance its productivity and its leading role in official statistics worldwide

Indicator 1: Punctuality of statistics: average number of days in advance (positive) or delay (negative), in comparison to the legal target

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEIs): Euro Area – monthly series: –0.1	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0
	Actual results							
	-1.2	-1.8	-0.7	0.0	-1.1	-0.4		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEIs): Euro Area – quarterly series: –10.2	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0
	Actual results							
	-10.5	-10.3	-10.3	-11.2	-8.5	-5.0		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Foreign trade with countries outside the EU: Comext-Extra: data sent by MS to Eurostat: 3	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0	> 0
	Actual results							
	2	3	2	3	2	2		

Comment: New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020. The worsening of the average delay in the monthly statistics in 2018 was due to delays in March 2018 of two indicators related to short term business statistics, which were caused by the implementation of the change of the base year from 2010 to 2015. The value has improved in 2019.

Source: PEEIS: annual Status report on information requirements in EMU to the Economic and Financial Committee. The list of PEEIs is defined in the Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Eurozone statistics COM/2002/661. Source for Comext-Extra: Eurostat internal report on Comext database: More detailed information is available on demand.

Indicator 2: Degree of achievement of the Specific Objective 3 measured as percentage of the achievement of the Outputs related to it

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	93 %	94 %	93 %	100 %	86 %	96 %		

Comment: Twice a year, Eurostat units give a mark to each of the outputs under their responsibility. The marks are the following: 'Achieved', 'On target', 'Difficulties', 'Revised', 'Cancelled'. The percentage given in the table includes 'Achieved' and 'On target'. The 'ideal' target is 100 % every year.

Source: ESTAT twice-yearly monitoring reports. For 2018, Eurostat has analysed in details the outputs with a status other than 'Achieved / On target'. None of them put in danger the achievements of the ESP objectives. The causes can be broken down in the following main categories:

- Dependency on international partners, Member States, external contractors (and related administrative procedures).
- Priorities related issues.
- Resources related issues.
- IT related issues.
- Unexpected complexity or difficulties in the execution of the tasks

Corrective actions are being or will be soon taken – for instance reviewing the IT planning procedure, in particular prioritisation and HR allocation.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs*	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Statistical activities	29 02 01	24	1.17
Of which:			
PA 14: Partnership with the European Statistical System (ESS) and beyond		24	1.17

(*) In this context 'outputs' are understood as activities to be listed in the annexe to the 2018 Annual Work Programme.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Outputs related to the Statistical activities	F	17	17	28	14	28	24	24
	P	16	14	26	27	24	25	

Specific Objective 4: To ensure that delivery of statistics is kept consistent throughout the whole duration of the programme, provided that this does not interfere with the priority-setting mechanisms of the ESS.

Indicator 1: Percentage of the time series that cover 10 or more consecutive years								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
37.35 %					do not decrease	do not decrease	do not decrease	do not decrease
	Actual results							
				37.35 %	48.50 %	51.80 %		

Comment: New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Source: Report on the content of Eurostat's public databases.

Expenditure related outputs

There is no specific action (budget) allocated to the objective N°4.
All the actions related to it are fulfilling the specific objective N°1.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Gender mainstreaming

Eurostat is giving special attention to the gender perspective in its programme by provision and dissemination of gender and discrimination statistics as well as analysis on gender related aspects. Gender and discrimination statistics do not necessarily entail the collection of additional statistics from existing surveys but rather make full use of existing data to illustrate possible gaps e.g. between men and women. The main purpose of the activity is to extend the visibility of equality statistics available in the European Statistical System. In 2019 Eurostat disseminated gender pay gap data for 2017 and detailed gender and discrimination statistic.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Eurostat is called to regularly monitor progress towards the UN Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) in an EU context. For this purpose, it coordinated the development of the EU SDG indicator set, which consists of around 100 indicators. About two thirds of these indicators are produced by the European Statistical System (ESS). Against this background, it is of key importance to train the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in order to produce harmonised and comparable statistics in various fields (social statistics, environmental statistics, national accounts etc.). Moreover, the ESP programme also offers courses to further the understanding of indicator frameworks and the monitoring of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development.

Based on the EU SDG indicator set, Eurostat produces an annual monitoring report (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-statistical-books/-/KS-02-19-165>) assessing the progress of the EU towards the UN SDGs. The report is complemented by various communication products (website, data tables, digital publication, summary brochure) to target different user groups.

6. Programme related additional information

The current European Statistical Programme (ESP) originally covered the period 2013 to 2017. It has been extended by Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 to cover the remaining duration of the current multiannual financial framework until 2020. It entails some revised performance indicators.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

Specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing

Lead DG: FISMA

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The programme involves co-financing of activities of three organisations, namely the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation (IFRS Foundation), the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB). It contributes to the achievement of the policy objectives of the Union in relation to financial reporting and auditing. The IFRS Foundation develops international financial reporting standards (IFRSs) via its International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), while EFRAG provides the European Commission with endorsement advice on new or modified standards and monitors the standard setting activities undertaken by the IASB to ensure that European interests are safeguarded. The PIOB conducts oversight of three Standard Setting Boards supported by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in the areas of audit and assurance, education, and ethics with the aim of ensuring their public interest responsiveness.

EU added value of the programme

The strategic objectives of the programme include ensuring the credibility and the independence of the beneficiaries to promote the international use and the acceptance of financial reporting and auditing standards while also preserving the European Union's influence in the standard-setting process. This is particularly important for International Financial Reporting Standards, because they are incorporated into the European Union law and provide for the accounting framework applicable to the consolidated financial statements of companies issuing securities listed on the EU regulated market. The voluntary EU co-financing of the IFRS Foundation ensures a robust and transparent due process whereas the funding of EFRAG guarantees that the interests of European stakeholders are properly addressed in the international standard-setting process.

In addition to increasing the beneficiaries' independence and ability to carry out their public interests missions, the programme aims at establishing a level playing field for all stakeholders within the Internal Market. The European Union funding strives to ensure a fair contribution from all Member States across the Union and guarantees that the interests of all Member States are represented.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA) is the lead DG for the programme. The programme is implemented through direct management with annual work programmes in the form of operating grants.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The mission of the IASB is to develop a single set of high quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting standards based upon clearly articulated principles laid down in the conceptual framework. Financial statements prepared using IFRS provide a robust and comparable view of the financial performance and position of a company that is useful for investors, lenders and other creditors' decision-making and for fostering trust in the global financial system. In addition, the IASB is increasingly focusing on improving and supporting the implementation of existing standards.

Over the period 2017-2019, the progress made by IFRS Foundation was in line with its work programme. Four major standards were issued by the IASB: IFRS 9 – *Financial Instruments*, IFRS 15 – *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, IFRS 16 – *Leases* and IFRS 17 – *Insurance Contracts*. At the same time, the IASB published its updated *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework)* to describe the objective of and concepts for general purpose financial reporting. In 2018, the focus of the IASB agenda evolved from major standard-setting projects towards research projects, maintenance-type activity and initiatives aimed at improving the communication through financial statements. In 2019, the IASB also revised its new standard IFRS 17 – *Insurance Contracts at the request of major stakeholders including the EU*, as well as on the project to enhance the presentation of *Primary Financial Statements*.

During the same period, EFRAG fulfilled its work programme in a satisfactory manner, in line with the recommendations from the Maystadt Report of October 2013. EFRAG provided substantial comment letters to all new draft standards issued by the IASB at an early stage of the IFRS Foundation's due process. To support decision-making on endorsement, EFRAG issued timely advice on whether the final IFRS standards issued by the IASB complied with the technical criteria of the IAS Regulation, including the true and fair view principle and the conduciveness to the EU public good.

In 2019, as part of the Commission's Action Plan on *Financing Sustainable Growth* (2018), the scope of EFRAG work was widened with the establishment of a European Corporate Reporting Lab ('the Lab'), which became operational in February 2019, when the Lab's Task Force on climate-related reporting started its work. The Lab report on climate-related reporting was published on 6 February 2020. EFRAG also completed its work on the consequences of IFRS 9 on long-term investment and delivered its final advice to the Commission about the accounting treatment of equity instruments in January 2020.

The PIOB continued to carry out its oversight function of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the International Ethics Standards Boards for Accountants (IESBA), whereas the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) ceased to exist in 2019 with the completion of its work plan.

Key achievements

For 2019, the IFRS Foundation's main achievements include: (i) the publication by the IASB of a summary report on its Post-Implementation Review (PIR) of IFRS 13 – *Fair Value Measurement*; (ii) the IASB's start of the comprehensive review of the *IFRS for SMEs* Standard, and (iii) the publication of the IFRS Taxonomy 2019. Other work priorities included the proposed amendments to the new IFRS 17 – *Insurance Contracts* to provide meaningful support to entities implementing the standard, as well as amendments to various IFRSs to address undesirable consequences of the reform on interest rate benchmarks such as interbank offered rate (IBOR).

EFRAG consequently carried out important preliminary technical analyses on IFRS 17 and on the interest rate benchmark reform (Phase 1) and on their effects on financial reporting in 2019.

In response to the Commission's requests following the Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth (2018), EFRAG Lab appointed its first Project Task Force on climate-related reporting, which delivered its report in February 2020 ⁽¹⁾. EFRAG also completed its research work on the consequences of the IFRS 9 on long-term investment and provided a final report to the Commission in January 2020.

In term of progress, the international application and acceptance of IFRS in individual countries has increased. The analysis of 166 jurisdictions shows that IFRS Standards are required for all or most domestic publicly accountable entities (listed companies and financial institutions) in 144 jurisdictions. Most of the remaining jurisdictions permit the use of IFRS. In addition, 86 of the 166 jurisdictions either require or permit the *IFRS for SMEs* Standard. The European Union's commitment to IFRS has provided an impetus to the international acceptance of IFRS, which ultimately fosters the ability of European companies to trade, raise capital and expand internationally while benefiting from administrative savings.

During 2019, the PIOB actively supported the Monitoring Group – of which the European Commission is a member – which is developing a comprehensive reform package in the field of standard setting in audit and ethics for accountants. In order to increase transparency, the PIOB is now consistently publishing its recommendations and has launched a new website on 13 December 2019.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The latest fully-fledged evaluation of Regulation N°1606/2002 on the application of IFRS dates back to June 2015. This evaluation ⁽²⁾ reported that the use of IFRS had improved the transparency and comparability of financial reporting and thus enhanced the effective functioning of the EU capital markets and the single market. Another conclusion was that the adoption of IFRS had significantly increased the credibility and acceptance of IFRS worldwide and furthered the move toward a single set of globally accepted high-quality standards. But this evaluation also highlighted that the convergence programme, initiated in 2002 between the International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) and the US Financial Accounting Standard Board (FASB), had led only to partial convergence on financial instruments and leases. The IASB and the FASB have since given up their convergence project on inter alia the project to revise the reporting rules for insurance contracts.

In addition to the aforementioned evaluation, in October 2019, the European Commission published a report on the assessment of the achievement of the funding Programme in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 258/2014. This report confirmed the overall pertinence and coherence of the Programme, the effectiveness of its execution, and the overall and individual effectiveness of the beneficiaries' work programmes. It concluded the Union funding programme remains fully justified in the context of the EU's efforts to establish a Capital Markets Union and to safeguard financial stability. For efficiency reasons, the appraisal of this Programme was included as Annex 3 to the annual 2019 Report related to the activities of the IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB in 2019 ⁽³⁾.

Forthcoming implementation

EFRAG's work programme remains largely driven by the IASB's standard setting agenda. For 2020, the main endorsement work of EFRAG will relate to the revised IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts* and to the consequences of the interest rate benchmark reform on financial reporting (Phase 2). The revised IFRS 17 as well as amendments to IFRSs related to the interest rate benchmark reform

⁽¹⁾ Available at <http://www.efrag.org/Lab1>

⁽²⁾ COM(2015) 301 final – <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1584716393734&uri=CELEX:52015DC0301>

⁽³⁾ COM(2019) 549 final – <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1572432361115&uri=COM:2019:549:FIN>

are expected mid-2020. In 2020, EFRAG is therefore expected to provide the final endorsement advice and a comprehensive impact analysis to the European Commission on the revised IFRS 17, as well as on IFRSs amendments to several IFRSs related to the interest rate benchmark reform. Outreach with the financial industry sector will be part of the EFRAG due process.

The Commission's priorities spelt out in the Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth (2018) have also increasingly shaped EFRAG work. The report of a first Task Force established by EFRAG's Corporate Reporting Lab on climate-related reporting was published on 6 February 2020. A second project regarding reporting of non-financial risks and opportunities, and linkage to the business model, will start in 2020.

The core task of the PIOB will remain unaltered, i.e. the oversight of the IAASB and IESBA so that audit-related standards are responsive to the public interest.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission has proposed that over the course of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the Union funding provided to the IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB be included in the Single Market Programme [COM(2018) 441 final of 7.6.2018]. The aims are to support the development of high-quality international standards that underpin the implementation of Union legislation in the field of financial reporting and audit, thereby contributing to the transparency and liquidity of EU capital markets. During that period, in the light of the new Commission's priorities set out in the European Green Deal and in particular the review of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive, EFRAG will significantly increase its activities in the area of non-financial reporting including in supporting the development of non-financial reporting standards.

In line with the Commission's proposal for the new SMP and the LFS attached thereto, the 2021 commitment appropriations for the grants to the IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB will be of a similar value as in 2020.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 2017/827 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 establishing a Union Programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 (OJ L129, 19.5.2017, p. 24-26). Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing a Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 and repealing Decision No 716/2009/EC (OJ L 105, 8.4.2014, p. 1-8).	2014 – 2020	57,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations	6,8	8,0	8,1	8,2	8,2	7,9	8,8	56,0
Total	6,8	8,0	8,1	8,2	8,2	7,9	8,8	56,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	7,925	100,00 %	6,752	100,00 %	8,788	87,93 %	8,740	42,69 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	7,963	100,00 %	6,752	100,00 %	8,788	87,93 %	8,740	42,69 %

(*) 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 assessment of the funding programme carried by the European Commission in 2019 confirms the relevance and the added value of the EU funding programme. The funding programme also strengthens the legitimacy of the three beneficiaries (IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB) to serve the European public interest by developing and promoting European views in the field of financial reporting and auditing and ensuring these views are properly considered in the IASB and IFAC standard-setting processes.

The funding programme contributes to having highly reliable corporate reporting by companies. This in turn facilitates the optimal allocation of savings and the reduction of the cost of capital for companies in the EU and elsewhere.

In terms of achievements, the funding programme has enabled the three beneficiaries to develop standards which enhance the transparency and comparability of financial information about financial instruments, revenue recognition, and lease contracts. The ongoing 'Better Communication' project of the IFRS Foundation is an example to further improve comparability by strengthening consistency in the definition of key performance indicators and in the presentation of financial statements. The programme contributed to the global acceptance of IFRS as a reference set of high quality accounting standards.

EFRAG has also provided the European Commission with qualitative endorsement advice on new or modified standards and monitors the standard setting activities undertaken by the IASB to safeguard European interests. In that respect the Union programme has contributed to strengthening the capacity of EFRAG to carry out EU wide impact assessments of the broader economic consequences of new IFRS standards.

With regard to the financial independence of the beneficiaries, their funding diversification has increased their credibility and technical capacity. *However*, the objective to secure national financing regimes proportionate to a country's gross domestic product to finance the IFRS Foundation has not been achieved but the implementation of the Maystadt reform has broadened the constituency of EFRAG and contributed to better coordination between European stakeholders in the field of financial reporting.

As regards the PIOB, the EU grant has helped to attract other public sponsors and to ensure a minimum level of independency from IFAC and the auditing profession. However, the Commission services evoke the need to arrive at a more diversified fund base.

The Commission's assessment also identifies new challenges for the future that have emerged as part of the European Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth, which will require stricter scrutiny of sustainability impacts as part of the endorsement activities of EFRAG. This to compensate the fact that the IFRS Foundation limits its considerations on IFRS standard setting to reporting financial performance without a mandatory assessment of the broader impact of IFRS on the economy, or sustainability.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to improve the conditions for the efficient functioning of the internal market by supporting the transparent and independent development of international financial reporting and auditing standards

Indicator 1: number of countries using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
128	130		130	140	150	155	159	Maintain positive trend
	Actual results							
	130	130	133	140	159	159		

Indicator 2: percentage of standards endorsed in the EU compared to the number of standards issued by the IASB								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
89 %	96 %		96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	96 %	95 %	96 %	97 %	96 %	96 %		

Comment: The 2019 result will be available end of April 2020 when the final report on the implementation of the action by the beneficiary is due.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support to IFRS Foundation	12 02 03		4.9
Support to the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)	12 02 03		3.6
Support to the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB)	12 02 03		0.3
Total			8.8

4. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The funding programme contributes to improving the conditions for the efficient functioning of the Single Market by supporting the transparent and independent development of international financial reporting (including in relation to the interaction between and interdependencies of financial reporting and broader corporate reporting requirements) and auditing standards. This in turn facilitates the optimal allocation of funds by investors and the reduction of the cost of capital for EU companies. EFRAG endorsement advises to the Commission assess whether IFRSs are conducive of the European public good. EFRAG's work programme has also been increasingly shaped by the most recent Commission's Action Plan on *Financing Sustainable Growth* (2018). Recognising the importance of ensuring that accounting standards do not discourage sustainable and long-term investments, the Commission requested, as part of the 2018 Action Plan, that EFRAG explored potential alternative accounting treatments to fair value measurement for long-term investment portfolios of equity and equity-type instruments. On 30 January 2020 EFRAG issued its advice to the Commission. EFRAG recommended the Commission to follow-up with the IASB to consider the re-introduction of re-cycling through the Profit or loss statement of profits or losses realised upon the disposal of equity instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) ⁽⁴⁾. On 13 March 2020, EVP Dombrovkis requested the IASB to consider the issue ⁽⁵⁾. This is an example that the funding programme is in line with SDG 8, as it directly helps to promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

5. Programme related additional information

The Commission Services believe that the current EU co-financing has met the expectations and should be continued in the next Multiannual Financial Framework of 2021-2027. For that reason, the funding programme is set out in the Annex accompanying the (draft) Regulation for the Single Market Programme (SMP). Negotiations with the co-legislators regarding the future Multiannual Financial Framework are still ongoing.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://www.efrag.org/Assets/Download?assetUrl=/sites/webpublishing/Project %20Documents/1806281004094308/Technical %20advice %20letter %20Equity %2030 %20January %202020.pdf](https://www.efrag.org/Assets/Download?assetUrl=/sites/webpublishing/Project%20Documents/1806281004094308/Technical%20advice%20letter%20Equity%2030%20January%202020.pdf)

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm?do=search.documentdetail&Dos_ID=18970&ds_id=66506&version=1&page=1

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

Enhancing consumers' involvement in EU policy-making in the field of financial services

Lead DG: FISMA

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The objective of the programme is to give consumers and other financial services end-users a stronger voice in EU policy-making. Thus, the programme aims at involving consumers and other financial services end-users in Union and relevant multi-lateral policy-making in the area of financial services as well as informing them about issues at stake in the financial sector. Details on the history of the programme are available in the next section.

The programme has two beneficiaries: Finance Watch⁽¹⁾ and Better Finance⁽²⁾. Finance Watch is a non-profit association, its mission being to strengthen the voice of consumers and end-users of financial services and to defend their interests in the financial sector. Finance Watch strives to address also the bigger societal challenges related to finance, focusing on financial inclusion and sustainable finance. Better Finance is a European federation of investors, shareholders and financial services users, who are independent from the financial industry. Better Finance grew into a centre of financial expertise, advocating for an open, transparent and efficient financing of the real economy, served by financial institutions that keep in mind the interests of customers and the public.

Every year since 2011, both beneficiaries have been submitting work programmes annually focussing on activities that would broaden their outreach and sharpen their impact on EU policy-making in the area of financial services. In general terms, these activities include:

- publications of research and policy papers;
- activities engaging existing members and stakeholders (workshops, conference calls, public events, etc.), including in Member States;
- increased and diversified membership, in particular covering more Union Member States;
- communication and outreach activities, including organisation of high-level conferences, participation in hearings, good press coverage and social media activities, and financial education and training;
- increased representation of consumer and end-user interests in the Union policy-making through regular meetings with policymakers and through participation in expert or stakeholder groups with EU institutions and European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs).

EU added value of the programme

The new regulation establishing a Union programme for the period 2017-2020 follows on a previous pilot project and preparatory action, which were positively evaluated in 2015. In particular, the evaluation assessed positively the Union added value of the previous pilot project and preparatory action since national organisations dealing with various consumer issues lack technical expertise and cannot cover such a broad and highly specialised scope of policy areas related to financial services. In addition, no other similar organisations were identified at EU level at the time. The new regulation also complies with the subsidiarity principle since, in accordance with Article 5 of the Treaty on the European Union, its objectives cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can, by virtue of the scale and the effect of the action, be better achieved at Union level.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA) is the lead DG for the programme. The programme is implemented through direct management with annual work programmes.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

Through the pilot project and subsequent preparatory actions, the Commission awarded, via yearly calls for proposals, grants to two Brussels-based non-profit entities, Finance Watch and Better Finance since 2012. On 17 May 2017, a new legal basis entered into force transforming the former pilot programme into a multi-annual programme ending on 31 December 2020, hence ensuring that the interests of consumers and other financial services end-users continue to be represented in EU policy-making in the area of financial services.

The programme is being implemented as foreseen. The two beneficiaries effectively contributed to the objectives of the programme by performing research, advocacy and awareness raising in relation to a comprehensive range of EU financial legislation.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.finance-watch.org/fr>

⁽²⁾ <http://www.betterfinance.eu/>

In the first half of 2019, both beneficiaries dedicated their efforts to awareness raising in view of the EP electoral campaign and were seeking support from leading candidates in favour of consumers of financial services. These activities followed the EU policy and governance cycle as that was the right moment to plead for political commitment. On the other hand, because of the EP recess period (i.e. stalled legislative activities) there was a reduced need for advocacy.

In addition, Finance Watch invested its efforts in further specialising in sustainable finance and digital matters (namely, Libra cryptocurrency) while Better Finance, on the other hand, continued working on its research on pensions, investment funds and robo-investing.

Key achievements

The importance of this small programme outstrips its modest budget (EUR 1.5 million per annum). Through intensified advocacy actions with increased influence on policy-making, a better outreach to users of financial services, including a wider geographical coverage in the EU, the beneficiaries continue to substantially raise the profile of the interests of consumers and other financial services end-users in EU policy-making.

Better Finance has asserted itself as a specialised EU non-industry association with a primary focus on retail investments. In 2019, notwithstanding the EP electoral period, Better Finance kept researching, publishing and lobbying on its main topics, e.g. Pan-European Pension Product (PEPP), Sustainable Finance, Packaged retail and insurance based investment products (PRIIPs), Collective Redress and New Deal for Consumer. For instance, they published the reports ‘Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques: Attribution of profits derived from Securities Lending by UCITS Exchange-Traded Funds’ and ‘Study on the Correlation Between Cost and Performances in EU Equity Retail Funds’. They also provided 13 responses to public consultations/feedbacks, own-initiative publications and open letters on the above mentioned topics.

Finance Watch continued to develop comprehensive expertise in financial services policy. It was particularly active in the area of sustainable finance, a policy area of increasing importance. In this context, in 2019 Finance Watch published the third edition of the Global Green Finance Index, an index measuring the ‘greenness’ of financial centres. These achievements came ahead of the President Von der Leyen’s priorities for the new Commission, and demonstrate that Finance Watch activities are highly relevant and the organisation is equipped, in terms of expertise, knowledge and strategic outlook, to advocate for sustainable finance and for a green deal in the financial sector to the benefit of the financial services end-users and of the environment.

Evaluation/studies conducted

Evaluation of the pilot project and subsequent preparatory action took place in 2015 and the outputs of this evaluation were made publicly available in a Commission Staff Working Document ⁽³⁾ on DG FISMA’s website. This evaluation confirmed the EU added value of the programme, together with the effectiveness and relevance of the two organisations. The evaluation identified scope for improvement in the sustainability of the organisations’ business model in terms of diversification of financing and of the coverage of consumer perspectives. The two organisations have been trying to diversify their funding sources, however the Union contribution remains crucial for the implementation of their activities.

A thorough assessment of the programme is currently ongoing and its results are expected shortly. Preliminary results indicate that the involvement of citizens in financial policy matters continues to be a challenge and confirms the need of a dedicated programme.

Forthcoming implementation

In 2017, a new legal basis entered into force (See next section) transforming the former pilot programme into a multi-annual programme ending on 31 December 2020. The substance of the beneficiaries’ activities continues from predecessor initiatives. No changes are expected until end-2020. According to their work programmes and strategic priorities for 2020 and beyond, the two beneficiaries will continue to contribute to the achievement of the programme’s objectives. Better Finance plans to focus on: promoting the European capital markets to individual investors and SMEs; fair and equal access to redress for individual investors; consistent consumer protection rules, and promoting financial education. Finance Watch plans to focus on financial inclusion, on promoting simple and standardised financial retail products, including default options, as a way to avoid discrimination and improve financial inclusion, and on sustainability by raising awareness among citizens of the need to consume financial products with responsibility.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission has proposed that Union support for enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and civil society in financial services policy-making as well as for promoting a better understanding of the financial sector be continued during the 2021-2027 period under a new Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics [see COM(2018)441 final]. The 2021 work programme shall focus on the challenges posed to the financial services end users by the digitalisation of the financial sector and by the increasing call for sustainability.

In line with the Commission’s proposal for the new SMP and the LFS attached thereto, it is foreseen that in 2021 commitment appropriations for the grants to the Finance Watch and Better Finance will be of a similar value as in 2020.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/staff-working-document-22122015_en.pdf

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
OJ L 129, 19.5.2017, p. 17–23 Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020 (Text with EEA relevance.)	2017 – 2020	6,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations				1,1	1,5	1,5	1,5	5,6
Total				1,1	1,5	1,5	1,5	5,6

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	1,500	100,00 %	1,487	100,00 %	1,500	82,33 %	1,500	41,17 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	1,500	100,00 %	1,487	100,00 %	1,500	82,33 %	1,500	41,17 %

(*) 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

Since the launch of the programme in 2017 the two organisations have been successfully working towards the achievement of the programme's objectives. They have acquired the knowledge and expertise needed to participate in EU and other relevant multilateral policy-making in the area of financial services, in line with the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2017/826. In parallel, the two organisations built up a network and implemented a number of dissemination activities that enabled them to inform consumers and other financial services end-users as well as stakeholders representing their interests, about issues at stake in the regulation of the financial sector.

Preliminary indications from an assessment of the programme's implementation and its achievements are that the beneficiaries have contributed to EU policy-making by producing research aimed at measuring the impact of policies on consumers and then using this research to advocate for policy options that favour users of financial services. To this end, they have been publishing position papers and other policy-oriented materials, speaking at conferences/seminars, running campaigns, meeting policy-makers, organising events, proposing amendments and participating in stakeholders' groups. Although the two organisations have different focuses and expertise areas, they both prioritised some policy aspects and pursued them in line with the objective of Regulation 2017/826.

Nonetheless the preliminary results of the assessment also indicate that the involvement of citizens in financial policy matters continues to be a challenge. Yet it also continues to be important to further increase the active participation and involvement of consumers and other end-users of financial services in policy-making for the financial sector. Together this confirms the on-going need for a dedicated programme pursuing these objectives.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To further enhance the participation and involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union and relevant multi-lateral policy-making in the area of financial services

Indicator 1: Number of position papers and responses to public consultations for both beneficiaries (both a tangible output of advocacy activities)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
56					30	30	Maintain positive trend	Maintain positive trend
	Actual results							
					30	47		

Methodology: Absolute value – yearly

Specific Objective 2: To contribute to the information of consumers and other financial services end-users about issues at stake in the financial sector

Indicator 1: Number of Twitter followers – Twitter is an efficient means to distribute information and to link followers to websites or Facebook pages where more material can be retrieved

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 740					2 100	2 300	Maintain positive trend	Maintain positive trend
	Actual results							
					9 624	11 207		

Methodology: Absolute value – yearly

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Action grants awarded to two beneficiaries	12 02 08		1.5
Total			

4. Programme related additional information

On 15 June 2016, the Commission proposed a regulation to establish a Union Programme to provide support for the development of a financial expertise centre to the benefit of European end-users and other non-industry organisations with the objective to enhance the latter's capacity to participate in the Union policymaking in the area of financial services.

HEADING 1A: Competitiveness for growth and jobs

European Defence Industrial Development Programme

Lead DG: DEFIS

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) was adopted on 18 July 2018 for a two-year duration. It aims to support the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry, specifically in the development of prototypes, by supporting through the EU budget development projects jointly carried out by companies.

The programme will help creating a collaborative approach between defence industrial players of the Member States. The financial contribution of the EU will unlock development projects that otherwise would not have started due to their financing needs or the technological risks involved, leading to additional collaborative defence development projects.

Only collaborative projects will be eligible, and a proportion of the overall budget will be earmarked for projects involving cross-border cooperation between SMEs.

EU added value of the programme

The EU right to act on is based on article 173 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

The European defence sector is suffering from low level of investment and is characterised by fragmentation along national borders leading to persistent duplications. Besides, a look at the defence industries available in the EU, uncovers growing shortfalls, ageing technologies and a lack of new programmes, especially collaborative one. Cross border cooperation can help to better capture scale effects by reducing duplications and allowing for the development of the innovative products and technologies needed for defence capabilities.

Also, the lack of coordination and coherence between Member States is a source of competitive disadvantage for the European defence industry vis-a-vis its international counterparts. At the same time, it remains a major source of costs for the national budget and constitutes a significant impediment for the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Action at EU level will provide added-value by means of further stimulating industrial defence cooperation through positive incentives, targeting projects in the development phase of defence products and technologies that cannot be undertaken at national level in view of the costs and risks associated and improve interoperability.

The increased cooperation is expected to reduce wasteful duplications, dispersions and create economies of scale. This will eventually lead to lower unit costs, benefiting to the EU Member States.

The support of the European Union will allow the defence industry to allocate the necessary funding to projects that are frequently beyond the means of a single country: the nature of these projects and their costs make a trans-national cooperation necessary.

The common technical specifications that will be legally required by the Regulation will drive the Member States and their defence industry towards common standards, leading to a better and more efficient collaboration, and improve interoperability.

Implementation mode

The Programme is implemented by the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS) mainly in direct management through grants and, in exceptional circumstances, public procurement.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

EDIDP has a financial envelope of EUR 500 million for the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020. It is still in its early days of operation with a first round of calls for project proposals launched in spring 2019.

The Work Programme setting the funding priorities for 2019-2020 has been adopted on 19 March 2019. The identified categories of projects target capabilities that involve multinational collaboration of undertakings and Member States throughout the Union. Some categories target large and complex capability development projects, such as the European Command and Control (C2) system or a European Galileo PRS navigation receiver. The Work Programme foresees to support two projects that could receive direct awards: €100 million to support the development of the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (MALE RPAS) and €37 million to support the development of interoperable and secure defence communication systems for operations (ESSOR). These two projects will be implemented under indirect management (through a limited delegation of budget tasks) by the Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation (OCCAR), appointed by member states as programme manager. Following the adoption of the Work Plan, and in line with it, the Commission launched nine competitive calls for proposals with deadline for submission on 20 September 2019 and a further 12 calls have been launched in March 2020.

Key achievements

40 proposals have been received in answer to the nine competitive calls. This includes around 15 proposals for a specific SME call. The evaluation process is still ongoing.

Evaluation/studies conducted

On 7 June 2017, the Commission adopted the proposal of the programme accompanied by a Staff Working Document (SWD)¹, which analysed the objectives and the challenges (problems and problem drivers) and offered options as to how to tackle the identified problems. The SWD highlighted the need for an EU initiative aimed at supporting the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the European defence industrial base that will allow strengthening European strategic autonomy and reducing dependencies for key defence competencies and capabilities.

The SWD pointed out that cooperation is an effective way to achieve this, since it is likely that in the long run no single European country can afford to maintain a full spectrum defence industrial base and corresponding defence capabilities on its own. The EU can make a substantive contribution to fostering defence cooperation schemes and provide targeted incentives to support legal entities in developing new defence products and technologies while bearing in mind the specificities of the defence market where solely Member States as end users create the demand.

The SWD concluded that the European defence industry faces significant challenges linked to low investments in defence development projects, fragmentation and lack of cooperation and that EDIDP will bring significant value added by incentivising collaboration and unlocking additional defence development projects. It will foster the competitiveness of the European defence industry whilst the expected benefits will outweigh the costs.

The EDIDP Regulation provides for the Commission to regularly monitor the implementation of the programme and report annually on progress in accordance with Article 38(3)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Additionally, the Commission will draw a retrospective evaluation report to assess the progress towards the achievements of the objectives as set out in the EDIDP Regulation.

Forthcoming implementation

The priorities for 2020 are as follows:

5. Launching the EDIDP calls for 2020;
6. Adopting award decisions for the closed EDIDP calls for 2019 and signing the grant agreement with the beneficiaries;
7. Signature of a Contribution Agreement with OCCAR for ESSOR and MALE RPAS projects;
8. Preparing the work programmes for the success programme of the EDIDP; i.e. the European Defence Fund 2021-2027 and finalise the adoption by the co-legislators of the Regulation for the European Defence Fund 2021-2027.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

In 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a European Defence Fund (EDF) for the EU long-term budget for the period 2021-27. In preparation for this proposal, the Commission services carried out an impact assessment addressing the further implementation of the EDIDP after 2020. The Commission proposed a budget of EUR 13 billion for the European Defence Fund providing EUR 4.1 billion to directly finance competitive and collaborative research projects, in particular through grants and EUR 8.9 billion for development actions.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application		Reference Amount (EUR million)					
Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aiming at supporting the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defence industry	2019 - 2020		500,0					
	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support						1,8	0,5	2,2
Operational appropriations						243,2	254,5	497,8
Total						245,0	255,0	500,0

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52017SC0228>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	245,000	100,00 %	1,800	7,21 %	255,000	0,04 %	200,500	0,14 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	245,000	100,00 %	1,800	7,21 %	255,000	0,04 %	202,167	0,14 %

(*) 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 EDIDP Programme is designed to target the problems of the defence sectors identified in SWD (2017) 228 and its annexes accompanying the legislative proposal of the EDIDP.

Given that the Programme is in its very early days of implementation, no implementation report is available. In the same vein, given that the indicators are set at the level of funded projects and no projects have been selected yet for funding, at this stage of implementation (March 2020), it is not yet possible to report how the Programme is progressively delivering in addressing the identified problems.

The retrospective evaluation of the EDIDP will be aligned with the interim evaluation of the European Defence Fund 2021-2027 and take place after at least four years of start of the implementation of the latter.

Specific Objectives

Specific objective 1: To foster the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the EU defence industry, by supporting actions in their development phase

Indicator 1: Total value of funded cooperative projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
						250	500	500
	Actual results							

Expenditure related outputs

DG DEFIS cannot provide any figures yet as the evaluation process for the first 2019 call for proposals is still ongoing. To be further updated in the course of 2020.

Specific objective 2: To support and leverage the cooperation between undertakings, including small and medium-sized enterprises and midcaps, and collaboration between Member States in the development of defence products or technologies.

Indicator 1: Average number of Member States in which the undertakings participating in a consortium receiving funding are established

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
						5	5	5
	Actual results							

Indicator 2: Average number of companies involved as consortium members in a funded cooperative project

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
						5	5	5
	Actual results							

Indicator 3: Number of SMEs involved in projects funded

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
						60	120	120
	Actual results							

Expenditure related outputs

See comment for specific objective 1.

Specific objective 3: To foster better exploitation of the results of defence research and contribute to closing the gaps between research and development.

Indicator 1: Share of the projects funded that involve prototyping								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
						50%	50%	50%
	Actual results							

Expenditure related outputs

See comment for specific objective 1.

HEADING 1B:

Economic, social and territorial cohesion

HEADING 1B: Economic, social and territorial cohesion

European Social Fund (ESF)

Lead DG: EMPL

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Social Fund (ESF) is Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better and fairer job opportunities and supporting upskilling and reskilling. It invests in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job. ESF financing is improving job prospects for millions of Europeans, in particular those farther away from the labour market.

EU added value of the programme

The ESF is the EU's main financial instrument to support structural reforms in the fields of employment, education and training, with a direct link to the priorities and headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy in terms of employment, education and poverty. It contributes to the promotion of economic and social cohesion and social inclusion within the EU and serves as an instrument for financial solidarity and economic integration.

Ample evidence demonstrates that EU policies supported by the ESF would not have been implemented or would have been realised to a significantly lesser extent had it not been for EU investment. At the same time, through European funding, Member States invest in areas and target groups (or pursue reforms) which they would have not pursued – even when national funding is available. As such, the ESF acts as an important instrument to support reform efforts of many Member States in areas of crucial importance for the European economy, in line with recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester: reforms in labour market policies, youth employment, modernisation of vocational education and training, welfare system and administrative reforms. Member States consider that even when national resources are available to fund areas of social expenditure, the ESF has in fact provided the necessary incentive framework to deliver on long term investments supporting structural reforms (often in a sustainable manner spanning more than one political cycle) in line with the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) ⁽¹⁾.

The ex post evaluation of ESF during the 2007-2013 programming period showed that the fund brings significant and lasting effects in terms of volume, scope, role and process. The evaluation identified also aspects for improvements that have been addressed to a large extent in the 2014-2020 programming period. These refer notably to the closer alignment with EU and national priorities, keeping flexibility to adjust to emerging needs, ensuring coverage of disadvantaged groups, focusing on young and older people, promoting the customisation of support, strengthening the results orientation and synergies with other EU instruments. These include also addressing the limitations faced regarding the design of programmes, aggregation of data on participants and results. Other areas were considered in the context of preparations for the ESF post-2020, namely the continued need to simplify and reduce administrative burden.

The update of the 2007-2013 ex post evaluation data carried out to take into account the final reports submitted in 2017 also confirms the impact of the ESF, as each EUR 1 invested in ESF during the 2007–2013 programming period has led to an estimated EUR 3 increase in GDP by 2023, according to a simulation carried out by Joint Research Center (JRC) based on the RHOMOLO model.

Implementation mode

The European Social Fund is implemented under shared management. Delivery modes include grants, public procurement, calls for proposals and financial instruments.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The year 2019 has marked a further acceleration of ESF implementation despite important disparities between Member States and operational programmes. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2019 Summary Report ⁽²⁾ of the programme's annual implementation reports and progress reports covering implementation up to end 2018 was published on 17 December 2019. This report underlines that, for all ESI Funds taken together, project selection (financing decided) has more than doubled since the first strategic report in 2017, amounting to EUR 464 billion (72 % of total planned investment). It also shows that, for all ESI Funds taken together, 27 % of the allocation had been paid to Member States by the end of December 2018 (36 % by end October 2019). When considering the interim payments, the level of disbursements made in the current programming period is below that of previous periods and suggests that a stronger focus on spending is still required in the Member States. However, ESF has now reached cruising speed and the difficulties related to implementation, such as the late start of operational programmes at the

⁽¹⁾ Ismeri Europe (2018) 'Support of ESI Funds to the Implementation of the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and structural reforms in Member States' – <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/de79c16e-6eb4-11e8-9483-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/

beginning of the period, have already been addressed. Moreover, implementation progress and challenges are addressed in the ESF Technical Working Groups and ESF Committee meetings, which take place five times a year and gather Commission officials, Member States representatives and representatives from the social partners.

By the end of 2019, the project selection rate increased to 85 %. In 2019, nearly EUR 12.9 billion have been paid to the 2014-2020 ESF programmes (including pre-financing), lifting the absorption rate (interim payments made between 2014-2019 vs. 2014-2020 allocation) to 31 %. Consequently, the level of ESF expenditure certified to the Commission remained high in 2019, which is a confirmation that a mature phase of implementation has been reached for the majority of programmes. This paves the way for a strong contribution to the Europe 2020 objectives in this area.

In regards to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the mature phase of implementation continued in 2019. By the end of 2019, the total eligible cost of YEI operations selected for support was EUR 10.4 billion and nearly EUR 6.1 billion had been declared by beneficiaries. By end 2019, nearly EUR 5 billion had been paid to the Member States in relation to YEI (including interim payments and initial and annual pre-financing).

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)

Following the adoption of Delegated Regulation 2015/2195 ⁽³⁾ in July 2015, the Commission adopted eight amendments of the regulation and should adopt one further amendment by end 2020. So far, 20 Member States benefit from the legal certainty of having their simplified cost methodology and amount defined in advance and also from the consequent reduction in the administrative burden associated with reduced documentation that need to be retained for management verification. Since the start of the current programming period, the total ESF expenditure which has been reimbursed on the basis of unit costs and lump sums under Article 14(1) is approximately EUR 11 billion.

In 2018, the Commission also adopted EU-level SCOs under Article 14(1) of the ESF regulation for three new areas:

- training for the unemployed
- counselling services
- training for employed people.

Furthermore, following a call for proposals, the Commission awarded two pilot Joint Action Plans (one in Netherlands and one in Portugal). Their implementation will run from January 2019 until June 2020.

In 2019, the Commission published its Strategic Report based on the information included in the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) ⁽⁴⁾ submitted by the Member States. It was accompanied by an update and further development of the ESIF Open Data Platform. This strategic report is based on the Member States' implementation and progress reports on the 2014-2020 ESIF programmes until the end of 2018. The annual reporting cycle by Member States between 2015-2017 has pointed out substantial differences between less developed on the one hand, and more developed and transition regions on the other. The figures reported in the AIRs 2018 suggest that these differences are getting smaller, with implementation of ESF/YEI picking up steam in Member States and regions. Overall, implementation has been stable across the EU, allowing the 187 ESF operational programmes to continue investing in promoting sustainable employment, social inclusion and investing in education and institutional capacity.

Moreover, in 2019, the Commission carried out the performance review and the ESF performance reserve was allocated to 184 programmes ⁽⁵⁾ and 661 priorities. The performance of these priorities was assessed on the basis of the information provided by Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports that were due by 30 June 2019 and the pre-agreed milestones (both output and financial) set out in the performance frameworks included in the programmes.

Overall, ESF performing priorities represent 83 % of the performance reserve for the ESF (i.e. EUR 4.2 billion) that is definitively allocated on the basis of the Commission decisions on the performance review. The performance reserve of non-performing priorities, which is to be reallocated to performing priorities amounts to around EUR 740 million. An additional EUR 109 million was still under assessment at end 2019 due to concerns about the reliability of data. From this, the decisions on the performance review for two Member States were adopted in 2020 with EUR 100 million allocated to performing priorities. An amount of EUR 9 million remains to be reallocated from underperforming priorities to performing ones. Overall, following the performance review, 78 % of ESF priorities have achieved their milestones (517 priorities out of 661 achieved their milestones).

Key achievements

While implementation varies between Member States and operational programmes, in aggregated terms, the ESF and YEI actions delivered by end 2018 ⁽⁶⁾ supported 26 million participations, therefore, making a solid contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

⁽³⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2195 of 9 July 2015 on supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund, regarding the definition of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to Member States

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/

⁽⁵⁾ There are 187 ESF and YEI supported programmes out of which 3 are dedicated to technical assistance and therefore don't include performance frameworks/reserves.

⁽⁶⁾ Latest available data; 2019 data will be reported by the Member States in 2020 via the annual implementation reports.

Amongst all participants, 3.1 million people have found a job, including as self-employed, 3.7 million people have gained a qualification and 1.5 million were in education and training thanks to ESF or YEI support. By end of 2018, 2.7 million young people had benefited from the YEI.

Examples ⁽⁷⁾ of successfully implemented projects under the employment, social inclusion and education objectives include:

- In Portugal, the ESF-supported project at the Employment and Training Centre of Évora provides adult education and training to improve qualification, employability, social and vocational inclusion. Over 500 participants were supported, 60 % of which were employed 6 months after leaving. The total investment amounts to EUR 3.9 million, of which EUR 3.3 million from the ESF. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to: goal (1) *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*, goal (4) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all* and goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.
- The youth coaching ESF project ‘Industrial Quarter Youth Coaching’ in Austria has supported 2 000 young people. Participants were provided advice on entering the working life and taking advantage of educational opportunities. The total investment amounts to EUR 1.2 million, including EUR 610 000 from the ESF. This project contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal: (4) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all* and goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*.
- The ‘nidi gratis’ (‘free kindergarten’) initiative from the Lombardy region in Italy is an example of measure for social inclusion and for reducing gender gaps in employment. The initiative, with a total budget of about EUR 70 million, provided so far 30 000 low-income families free access to kindergartens for their 0-3 year old babies. This project contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal: (1) *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*, goal (3) *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*, goal (4) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, goal (5) *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all* and goal (10) *Reduce inequality within and among countries*.

Moreover, the ESF also contributes to climate objectives, notably through higher support to training and labour market measures linked to green jobs. For example, in Czech Republic the ESF supported 111 projects in the coal regions with the total allocation of EUR 21.3 million. More concretely, in the Nord-Moravia Region, the public employment service implemented an ESF supported project called ‘Outplacement’ which supported 265 miners by providing them trainings in welding, driving or professional licence and other skills. All these projects contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular to goal: (1) *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*, goal (4) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, goal (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*, goal (9) *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*, goal (11) *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* and goal (13) *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*.

Evaluations/studies conducted

As preparations for the future ESF+ programmes begin, the Commission has outsourced four thematic evaluations for all Member States covering 2014-2018 period to be completed by the end of 2020. These are:

- evaluation of the ESF/YEI support to youth employment;
- evaluation of the ESF support to employment and labour mobility (thematic objective 8 excluding support to youth employment);
- evaluation of ESF support to social inclusion (thematic objective 9); and
- evaluation of ESF support to education and training (thematic objective 10).

The conclusions of these evaluations will feed into the preparation of the next programming period 2021-2027.

The most advanced evaluation is on youth employment and the preliminary conclusions are the following:

- YEI has performed better in all respects compared to ESF funding programmed for youth employment (e.g. 52 % financial implementation against 27 % for ESF youth employment operations) which could be due to the implementation process (in particular the fact that the YEI was initially frontloaded for the first years of the programming period via additional initial pre-financing).
- YEI and the other ESF-funded youth operations are relevant for addressing the needs of young people. The efforts of the Member States to address these needs, combined with a general economic uplift following the latest financial crisis have yielded positive results. This is evident in the positive evolution of the labour market situation of young people since 2014 and the reduction of the ‘Not in Education, Employment or Training’ (NEETs) group in many Member States.

⁽⁷⁾ ESIF Annual Summary Report 2019, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/

- Existing evidence shows that YEI and other ESF-funded youth operations were coherent amongst themselves, notably due to the way they were designed and programmed. The key factors that contributed to this complementarity include the distinct types of operations supported, the capitalisation on past experience from similar operations and institutional cooperation / coordination amongst stakeholders.
- The YEI and ESF have had considerable volume effects by supporting interventions that were not funded by other national or regional programmes and allowing additional actions to take place. It also had important outlook effects by widening the scope of existing actions and expanding target groups or targeting groups not covered by national programmes.
- Based on the information available, transition rates to employment of participants in YEI/ESF operations generally improve with time. The employment impacts are sustainable for the low skilled, which were the main focus group of the operations, as well as the medium and high skilled.

The other three evaluations are in early stage and it is premature to draw any conclusions at this stage.

At the Member State level, an increasing number of evaluations have addressed mainly the implementation process and the progress towards achieving the targets set for the period 2014-2020. Despite the growing volume of completed projects, it is still too early to evaluate the results and impacts of the programmes. The main reason for that being that the start of impact evaluations, carried out by nature later in the programme cycle, has been delayed by the late start of the programmes and additional delays in completing many interventions ⁽⁸⁾.

The project ‘ESF data support centre’ will assist the Commission and the Member States in the future in reporting for the ESF+ (shared management strand), including methodological and harmonisation aspects. This data support centre will help fulfil monitoring and reporting obligations set out in the Regulations governing the ESF+.

Forthcoming implementation

Member States will submit their AIRs in 2020, which contain both quantitative and qualitative evidence on the implementation of the Funds.

Based on these reports, the four ESIF Directorate Generals will prepare an Annual Summary Report to the attention of the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. To accompany this report, EMPL, together with the other ESIF DGs, will also continue making relevant data available to all on an ESIF Open Data Platform.

In 2020, DG EMPL will continue providing technical and policy guidance on the operational programmes through the monitoring committees to ensure that the programmes are on track to deliver the expected results. DG EMPL will also continue to run the ESF Transnational Platform and be actively involved in transnational cooperation activities. After completing the evaluation for the new tender (expected in Spring 2020), DG EMPL will oversee the new contract and activities related to transnational cooperation between Member States’ ESF managing authorities and other stakeholders until 2021. The aim of the transnational cooperation platform is to foster mutual learning and good practice in all areas of ESF implementation, as well as to pave the way for the post 2020 programming period. Implementation of the programmes should continue at cruising speed in 2020, reinforcing the trend observed, as reported by the Member States in the annual implementation reports.

Project selection rates and interim payment requests are expected to increase steadily. Furthermore, DG EMPL will continue its work on the assessment of programme amendment requests submitted by Member States in order to ensure the policy and result-orientation of the ESF and YEI programmes.

In order to meet the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges, in 2020 the Commission adopted a series of amendments (the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus) which allow for an unprecedented redirection of Cohesion policy funds, including the ESF/YEI, to address the effects of the public health crisis. This allowed simplifying administrative procedures and reducing administrative burden for Member States. DG EMPL will continue working in close contact with the Managing Authorities to make sure that ESF/YEI resources are swiftly mobilized on the ground in order to allow for a prompt response to the crisis and a swift recovery. Managing Authorities are supported through regular bilateral contacts with DG EMPL geographical units and through the dedicated CRII Platform.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The proposal for the ESF+ Regulation 2021-2027 integrates the current ESF, YEI, FEAD, EaSI and the EU Health programme. The aim is to enhance synergy of actions, streamline management of priorities and reduce administrative burden. By building on the strengths of its components, the ESF+ will be the key funding arm for the European Pillar of Social Rights. It will also be key to align policy and investment priorities in the EU.

Trilogues are currently on-going on the ESF+ basic act. Once the negotiations are concluded, Member States are expected to formally submit programmes for 2021-2027. An initial pre-financing will be paid out of the 2021 commitment tranche at the start of the programmes to ensure that Member States have the means to kick off the preparations on the ground in a timely manner.

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Staff Working Document – Synthesis of the findings of the evaluations of European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes (SWD(2019) 445 final).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Total	11 483,9(*)	15 023,9	12 007,7	13 393,5	13 418,5	13 786,0	13 937,0	93 050,5
<i>Of which Youth Employment initiative to up allocation</i>	<i>1 706,6(*)</i>	<i>1 504,6</i>	<i>0,0</i>	<i>500,0</i>	<i>350,0</i>	<i>350,0</i>	<i>145,0</i>	<i>4 556,2</i>

(*)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	13 778,731	99,70 %	11 193,549	100,00 %	13 929,085	99,75 %	12 592,736	35,62 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	15 502,333	99,73 %	13 529,158	99,07 %	14 451,116	99,75 %	13 086,699	35,24 %

(*) 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 programme has experienced stable implementation, allowing Member States to continue investing in sustainable and quality employment, social inclusion, education and vocational training, and institutional capacity. Data reported increased significantly in 2019 after some late reporting from Member States in previous years and following the performance review carried out in 2019, which motivated programme authorities to report on all outputs in order to achieve their milestones.

More specifically, the ESF has been successfully promoting sustainable and quality employment by supporting 10.7 million participants by end 2018.

In the field of social inclusion, the ESF has been contributing to the EU2020 headline target of reducing poverty in the EU by targeting various specific groups, such as low-skilled, (long-term) unemployed, elderly, disabled and people with a migrant/foreign background. Member States allocated a variety of interventions to this objective also evidenced by its highest allocated budget. By end 2018, such investments supported 6.1 million participants, which led to 1.7 million positive results, such as finding a job, gaining a qualification or other improvements in terms of one's position on the labour market.

With regard to education and training, in total, 9.1 million participants are recorded for all operations, of which 3.4 million have reached an individual short-term result such as gaining a qualification, returning to education or training, or improving their skills.

Institutional capacity investments receive the lowest allocation with an overall EUR 4.7 billion available. The implementation of these investments is slightly behind that of other thematic objectives, with a project selection rate of 66.1 % by the end of 2018. This is due to the nature of the projects in this field, as system support measures typically require longer planning and more cooperation between the different partners in the design and implementation phase of a project. In terms of individual results, an increasing number of institutions implemented highly-performant IT systems, revised and/or simplified procedures and increased regulatory scrutiny that helped enhance their institutional capacity.

Based on the analysis of the 2018 AIRs from the Member States, the discrepancies between and within the Member States decreased considerably in 2018. This is due to the performance review carried out in 2019, which pushed Member States to report on as many achievements as possible in order to achieve their milestones. Another factor to consider is that implementation of ESF/YEI has now reached cruising speed, which has led to increased upward convergence across the EU.

The main implementation challenges relate to the programming requirements/features, such as complexity of programming and planning of the intervention, delays as a result of consulting different public administrations, administrative issues related to tender procedures, problems with the payment system, GDPR requirements and administrative burden of applicants. The second most mentioned challenge relates to delays at a governance level due to a focus on preparation/setting up organisation/programme management, not yet on attracting proposals. The third, most mentioned challenge relates to changing national/regional socioeconomic context, affecting performance of the programme. Such challenges are addressed in close cooperation with DG EMPL during the regular meetings held with programme authorities in the Member States or region, such as Annual Review

Meetings and Monitoring Committee Meetings as well as bilateral discussions with DG EMPL, whenever needed. Operational programmes are also adapted in order to better address new challenges or changes in the socioeconomic context which may arise during the course of the programming period and which could not be foreseen from the start. For example, such changes may be related to the evolving composition of the target groups, resulting in groups of individuals who are now more difficult to reach. Moreover, implementation progress and challenges are discussed in the ESF technical working groups and ESF Committee meetings, which take place five times a year and gather Commission officials, Member States representatives and representatives from the social partners.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

Performance

The total allocated ESF investments under this specific objective amount to EUR 40.4 billion for ESF 2014-2020 (EU and national share together), of which 68.9 % has been committed (for selected operations) by the end of 2018. The project selection rate is relatively uniform in the Member States, showing an overall steady pace of implementation at the EU level.

By end 2018, investments in sustainable and quality employment supported 10.7 million participants, which led to 3.7 million positive results. These positive results consist of people that found a job, gained a qualification or were able to improve their labour market position by means of ESF interventions.

Indicator 1: Number of participants benefiting from ESF under this thematic objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
21.7					14.6		17.3	17.3
	Actual results							
	0.5	1.0	4.1	7.4	10.7			

Methodology: Note 1: ‘Number of participants’ measures the number of participations per operation. Over the programming period, one person can participate in several ESF operations and be counted more than once. Compared to the 2007-2013 period definitions on the number of participations have been clarified to prevent double reporting of participations by the same individual in several activities within a single operation and to exclude indirect participants such as those benefiting from change in a system. This change in the definition of ‘participants’ is one of the reasons for lower achievements.

Note 2: Moreover, the cumulative achievement of the 2007-2013 programming period included a large amount of participants who were reported well after 2013.

Note 3: In the current stage of the economic cycle, the labour market pulls people in employment without public support, and outreach in this thematic objective is more difficult.

All these factors explain the downward revision of the target to 17.3 million participants, which is the extrapolation of the annual increases of the last two years. The adjustment was expected and made during the performance review stage.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Million (cumulative)

Indicator 2: Participants (unemployed or inactive) in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
14.0 %					24.0 %		24.0 %	24.0 %
	Actual results							
	7.7 %	10.3 %	16.5 %	17.1 %	24.2 %			

Methodology: These success rates were reported for participants in all investment priorities until reporting year 2017. Employment results depend on the nature of investment priorities (IP) and interventions. For comparative purposes, in Employment, results for participations in ‘Access to Employment’ activities during 2007-2013 period were 28 %, while for ‘Human capital and Social Inclusion’ activities employment results made up 10 % and 26 % of all reported results and correspondingly lower employment rates. However, especially in the education (TO10) and in the institutional capacity building (TO11) thematic objectives, and to a lesser extent, in social inclusion (TO9) too, placement into job is not among the typical, intended outcomes of the operations. While reporting the absolute number of participants in employment for the whole ESF remains relevant and continues to be reported in the ESIF Open Data Platform, for reporting success rates (number of job placements compared to unemployed + inactive participants at entry to ESF) is more relevant to be reported for the employment objective only. The break in the series starts from 2018 onwards.

Narrative: Baseline: Employment result estimate for participants in activities in 2007-2013 period.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)									
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of ESF participants (in million)	F	0.2	1.1	1.7	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6
	P	0.6	1.4	2.6	3.3	3.3					

Specific Objective 2: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination**Performance**

The ESF 2014-2020 is crucial to further complement national efforts towards achieving the Europe 2020 poverty headline target. In order to ensure that a sufficient share of resources is allocated to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, Article 4(2) of the ESF Regulation requests that at least 20 % of the total ESF resources in each Member State shall be allocated to this thematic objective. Although higher social spending is generally associated with stronger poverty reduction, important differences exist, suggesting scope for efficiency gains. On the other hand, the link between social assistance and activation measures should be strengthened by developing more personalised services and efforts to improve the uptake of measures by vulnerable groups.

This specific objective has been allocated a total of EUR 31.3 billion (EU and national share together), of which 71.4 % had been earmarked for projects selected by the end of 2018. While this project selection rate shows that progress is relatively well underway, some differences persist.

By end 2018, social inclusion investments supported 6.1 million participants, which reached a large variety of persons with different types of (vulnerable) personal backgrounds. Such investments led to 1.7 million positive results, such as finding a job, gaining a qualification or other improvements in terms of one's position on the labour market. This is an important achievement, especially when regarded in the context of the Europe 2020 headline target to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Indicator 1: Participants considered as part of disadvantaged groups that are reached by the ESF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
20.1 %	Actual results							40.0 %
	40.0 %							
	39.8 %	43.1 %	40.4 %	40.0 %	41.2 %			

Methodology: Target groups: Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); Participants with disabilities; Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children; Participants who live in jobless households; Other disadvantaged. These will be broken down by the different categories. Persons may cumulate several disadvantages. It should be noted that these indicators cover all actions under all thematic objectives.

Narrative: Baseline: Average programming period 2007-2013: Disabled, Migrants, Minorities & Others.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Indicator 2: Inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
	Actual results							16.0 %
	27.0 %							
	1.4 %	5.5 %	6.8 %	12.2 %	16.0 %			

Methodology: Note 1: This indicator had not existed in the previous programming period. The evidence from the current programming period shows that the target has to be revised. Under-reporting has to be taken into account too in the interpretation of the achievement: in operations where the intended outcome is other than job-search (e.g. 'in employment'), data on job-search may not be collected in some operations. Another element to be considered is that in many cases there may have been a change in the target groups and only those who are most difficult to reach have remained.

Note 2: Following the performance review, some of the targets have been revised downwards. However, milestones for 2018 have not been revised retrospectively, as they have already passed. That is why the target for 2023 is lower than the 2018 milestone.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Percentage of inactive participants

Indicator 3: Participants above 54 years of age.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
6.2 %	Actual results							6.0 %
	6.0 %							
	4.8 %	5.5 %	5.9 %	6.3 %	7.3 %			

Methodology: Note 1: Only a very limited number of operational programmes have targets set specifically for this category for the period 2014-2020. The target set for 2023 is therefore based on the results of the indicator 'Older people (55-64 years)' from the 2007-2013 programming period.

Note 2: Based on the first three reporting by all MS on common indicators (AIR submitted in 2016, 2017 and 2018), the initial milestone and target are maintained.

Note 3: The data reported in the table above is based on cumulative data. Overall, for the whole programming period, a share of 6 % of all participants is expected to be above 54 years of age. This is reflected in the milestone and target for this indicator.

Narrative: Baseline: Average programming period 2007-2013.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Percentage of all ESF participants

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Number of ESF participants (in million)	F	0.2	1	1.5	1.9	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3
	P	0.0	0.6	1.1	1.6	2.8					

Specific Objective 3: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning

Performance

In total, 9.1 million participants are recorded for all operations in the field of education, training and vocational training, of which 3.4 million have reached an individual short-term result. More than 2.2 million participants gained a qualification with support from ESF investments with an education objective, while another 791 thousand participants were in education/training upon leaving the intervention. As expected for operations that focus on education, these results are higher than for the number of participants that engaged in job searching or entered employment. In addition to these figures, a relevant result recorded in various programmes across education investments is related to improved skills (not necessarily leading to a qualification), which is registered for 1.2 million participants.

This objective has been allocated a total amount of EUR 39.2 billion (EU and national share together), which makes it the ESF's second largest specific objective, only slightly lower than the employment-related specific objective. Implementation is progressing relatively uniform across different types of regions; more and less developed regions have relatively similar project selection rates (68.5 % and 66.8 % respectively), while the transition regions have slightly higher project selection rates (74.5 %). Also in terms of participation and target achievement rates, no substantial differences were observed. However, some relevant differences can be observed between Member States. In Denmark, for example, with currently 10 639 participants (26.3 % of target), implementation is considerably behind the EU average. In its annual implementation report, Denmark indicates that this is related to a relatively low demand by employers to register their workers for long-term education courses. Danish authorities report that companies tend to focus more on meeting high short-term skills demands, rather than long-term training needs. Figures related to participation are relatively low also in Romania (8.7 % of target). Romanian authorities indicate that the insufficient administrative capacity and the inconsistent input received as a result have caused delays in setting up projects. In addition, they reported that the limited capacities of potential beneficiaries to develop robust project proposals has reduced the number of applications.

Indicator 1: Number of participants benefiting from ESF under this thematic objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
23.80	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.90		18.00	18.00
	Actual results							
	0.18	0.52	1.90	4.50	9.11			

Methodology: It should be noted that these indicators under this specific objective cover all actions under all thematic objectives, unless specified otherwise in the name of the indicator.

Note 1: Due to the multiannual nature of the programme and the large annual variances, comparing to a full programming period is the most relevant indicator.

Note 2: 'Number of participants' measures the number of participations per operation. Over the programming period, one person can participate in several ESF operations and be counted more than once. Compared to the 2007-2013 period definitions on the number of participations have been clarified to prevent double reporting of participations by the same individual in several activities within a single operation and to exclude indirect participants such as those benefiting from change in a system. This change in the definition of 'participants' is one of the reasons for lower achievements.

Note 3: The cumulative achievement of the 2007-2013 programming period included a large amount of participants who were reported well after 2013. Nevertheless, the increase in participation in 2018 was very significant, and with that rate of progress, the target is within reach.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Million (cumulative)

Indicator 2: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving under this thematic objective										
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target		
Milestones foreseen									2023	
185					48.0 %		23.0 %		23.0 %	
	Actual results									
	18.8 %	20.4 %	21.1 %	22.3 %	24.4 %					

Methodology: The target is revised based on the evidence of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 reporting years.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Number of ESF participants (in million)	F	0.2	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
	P	0	0.5	1.4	2.5	4.6					

Specific Objective 4: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

Performance

Institutional capacity investments receive the lowest budget allocation with an overall EUR 4.7 billion. The implementation of these investments is also slightly behind that of other specific objectives, with a project selection rate of 66.1 % by the end of 2018. In terms of individual results, its interventions mainly contributed to public officials gaining a certain type of qualification (116 957 participants), but most meaningful results relate for instance to shorter time required for certain operations or specific positive results for organisations, public administrations, the judiciary and civil society organisations. In terms of individual results, an increasing number of institutions implemented highly-performant IT systems, revised and/or simplified procedures, and increased regulatory scrutiny that helped enhance their institutional capacity.

Indicator 1: Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level										
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target		
Milestones foreseen									2023	
185	900	900	900	900	900		2 250		2 250	
	Actual results									
	0	31	3 970	13 017	27 644					

Methodology: Note 1: The overachievement of this indicator is mainly due to Italy, which accounts for 68 % of all projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level. This could be explained by different interpretations of the definition of this indicator. While some Member States will count one project even if this project covers several public administration, other Member States will count each public administration supported under one project.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Projects per year (cumulative)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Number of projects	F	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225	225
	P	0	931	3 039	9 047	14 627					

Specific Objective 5: Promoting specific support to young NEETs (15-24)

Performance

By the end of 2018, project selection rates are high with an average at 84 % and in many Member States already at or above 100 % (Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia). However, Romania (1 %), Greece (45 %), and United Kingdom (68 %) are still considerably behind the EU average. In the case of Romania, a number of structural features, such as political fragmentation and limited capacity at the level of the Managing Authority, affected implementation of both the ESF and YEI. In order to increase the performance of the measures providing support to young NEETS, the following measures are currently under implementation for Romania: updating by means of a programme modification of the upper limit of the eligibility age for young persons from 24 to 29 years, updating the total values for the target group and the corresponding indicators based on the current demographic challenges, targeting the interventions to the regions with the biggest population of NEETS, developing complementary measures so that the attractiveness of the interventions is increased, further promoting the

interventions at the level of the target group as well as improving the performance of the operations which are currently under implementation both under ESF and YEI.

While project selection rates measure the share of budgets committed by Managing Authorities for implementation, the implementation rates measure the extent to which eligible project funds have been declared to the Managing Authorities. On average 52 % of the budgets have been declared to Managing Authorities.

In regards to outputs, as implementation of YEI programmes is maturing, the rate of growth in comparison to the previous year is stabilising. By the end of 2018, 2.7 million young people had benefitted from YEI support. At the EU level, participants are well balanced from a gender perspective, with an equal share of men and women reached by the interventions.

The immediate results of YEI support point to over 1.8 million unemployed or inactive persons having completed a YEI intervention. Moreover, 1.1 million young participants were employed or got a qualification at the end of the YEI-supported measure.

Out of the 444 common result indicators measuring progress for YEI, 406 have a target. By the end of 2018, 339 indicators are progressing towards the targets.

Indicator 1: Number of participants aged 15-24 benefiting from ESF								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
23.10	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50		20.30	20.30
	Actual results							
	0.33	0.72	3.10	6.60	11.30			

Methodology: It should be noted that the output indicator 1 cover participants benefitting from ESF under all thematic objective whilst the other indicators (2 to 5) refer exclusively to the YEI supported actions. In compliance with Article 16 of the ESF Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013, Member States may decide to extend the YEI target group to include young persons under the age of 30.

Note 1: 'Number of participants' measures the number of participations per operation. Over the programming period, one person can participate in several ESF operations and be counted more than once. Compared to the 2007-2013 period definitions on the number of participations have been clarified to prevent double reporting of participations by the same individual in several activities within a single operation and to exclude indirect participants such as those benefiting from change in a system. This change in the definition of 'participants' is one of the reasons for lower achievements.

Note 2: Moreover, the cumulative achievement of the 2007-2013 programming period included a large amount of participants who were reported well after 2013.

Note 3: In the current stage of the economic cycle, the labour market pulls people in employment without public support, and outreach in this thematic objective is more difficult.

All these factors explain the downward revision of the target to 20.3 million participants, which is the extrapolation of the annual increases of the last two years.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Unit of measure: Million (cumulative)

Indicator 2: Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			750 000				2 100 000	2 100 000
	Actual results							
	21 163	144 502	579 759	1 214 269	1 791 955			

Methodology: The target and the 2020 milestone have been reviewed downwards on the basis of the implementation results of the previous years. It is worth noting that youth unemployment rates have dropped, thus leading to a lower number of participants seeking support under the YEI. Moreover, YEI-supported participants are typically the farthest away from the labour market and therefore more difficult to be reached.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Indicator 3: Unemployed participants in education/training, gaining a qualification or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the YEI supported intervention								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			347 000				1 100 000	1 100 000
	Actual results							
	8 843	74 052	266 754	622 687	876 937			

Methodology: This indicator is not a direct subset of indicator 2 as it may also include participants who did not complete the intervention.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Indicator 4: Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			220 000				540 000	540 000
	Actual results							
	6 527	30 331	132 474	258 559	314 108			

Methodology: The target and the 2020 milestone have been reviewed downwards on the basis of the implementation results of the previous years. It is worth noting that youth unemployment rates have dropped, thus leading to a lower number of participants seeking support under the YEI. Moreover, YEI-supported participants are typically the farthest away from the labour market and therefore more difficult to be reached.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Indicator 5: Inactive participants not in education or training in education/training, gaining a qualification or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the YEI supported intervention								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
			107 000				260 000	260 000
	Actual results							
	2 395	23 439	79 320	153 788	203 964			

Methodology: This indicator is not a direct subset of indicator 4 as it may also include participants who did not complete the intervention. The target and the 2020 milestone have been reviewed downwards on the basis of the implementation results of the previous years. It is worth noting that youth unemployment rates have dropped, thus leading to a lower number of participants seeking support under the YEI. Moreover, YEI-supported participants are typically the farthest away from the labour market and therefore more difficult to be reached.

Source: Annual Implementation Reports

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of participants	F	290 000	580 000	725 000	725 000	580 000	337 500	337 500
	P	137 000	364 000	817 000	1 131 000	191 000		

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
The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Climate actions under ESF investment priorities	1 600,0	1 600,0
Total	1 600,0	1 600,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	22,5	135,9	383,7	1 201,9	1 600,0	1 600,0	4 944,0

(*)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

Climate change expenditure within ESF can be tracked through the ESF secondary theme 01 'supporting the shift to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy' indicated in the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014. The intervention fields in Annex I of

Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 match the ESF investment priorities defined in Article 3 of the ESF Regulation. Unlike for the ERDF categories of intervention which have the support to climate objectives as their primary objective, one cannot establish ex ante an automatic link between one ESF investment priority and the impact on climate objectives.

Climate actions can be undertaken under the majority (if not all) of the ESF investment priorities (whether it is in the context of SME support, Vocational Education and Training systems, life-long learning, youth employment measures, etc.). It is for this reason that the Commission decided to use for the ESF an additional dimension to track climate change expenditure: the ESF secondary theme. All expenditure under the ESF secondary theme has a 100 % coefficient.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Member States have earmarked in their operational programmes EUR 1.2 billion (EU allocation) for the shift to a low-carbon and resource efficient economy. This represents a conservative estimate based on Member States' declarations in their operational programmes.

Here, Member States set estimates for the EU share and not for the EU and national share together. However, reporting is done solely on the basis of total costs (EU and national share together). In order to follow the progress towards the target, the ESIF-related DGs have created a report that allows for the systematic application of the co-financing rate from the programmes to the information declared in the financial data. It provides a more accurate picture of the ESF contribution (EU only) to low-carbon, resource efficient economy and allowed for comparison with the amounts programmed.

As a result, by end of December 2019, already above EUR 2 billion of eligible ESF expenditure declared (EU share) was reported by Member States as having contributed to the shift to a low carbon, resource efficient economy. This represents 169 % of the amount set in the operational programmes. In terms of projects selected, the EU amount was already EUR 5 billion, which is more than double the amount set in the programmes.

Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is a horizontal principle of the ESI Funds. The Member States and the Commission must promote it throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programmes. The Annual Implementation Reports submitted in 2019 had to assess the implementation of the actions addressing this principle. Moreover, under ESF, Member States have the obligation to programme targeted actions aimed at increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment. The ESF has a dedicated investment priority for equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work. Member States have earmarked EUR 1.6 billion for 2014-2020 (EU share) under this priority.

Specific targeted actions can yet be programmed under any other ESF investment priority. Across all investment priorities, the indicative amount for targeted actions for gender equality captured through the ESF secondary theme in programmes was EUR 5.6 billion (EU share).

In their operational programmes, Member States set a target for the EU share and not for the EU and national co-financing. However, reporting is done solely on the basis of total costs (EU and national share together). In order to follow progression towards the target, the ESIF-related DGs have created a report that allows for the systematic application of the co-financing rate from the programmes to the information declared in the financial data. It provides a more accurate picture of the ESF contribution (EU only) to gender equality.

By end of December 2019, the volume of the projects supported under the dedicated gender equality investment priority (EU share) was about EUR 499 million of declared EU eligible expenditure. Under the other ESF investment priorities, an additional EUR 744 million has been allocated to gender equality projects. In total, EUR 1.7 billion under the ESF have effectively been dedicated to projects for gender equality between 2014 and 2019 (EU expenditure declared). In terms of selected projects, EUR 2.4 billion have been committed to gender equality projects across all investment priorities.

It is also important to underline that all ESF personal data (annex I ESF Regulation) is broken down by gender. The participation of women and men in ESF supported activities is equally distributed at EU level (48 % men and 52 % women). There are however some differences between Member States depending notably on the types of activities at stake.

To support Member States in their efforts to mainstream gender equality at all stages of the programme, the European Community of Practice on gender mainstreaming, supported by the ESF, developed by end 2013 a gender mainstreaming standard ⁽⁹⁾ in view of the future programming period.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals ⁽¹⁰⁾

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

⁽⁹⁾ <http://standard.gendercop.com/>

⁽¹⁰⁾ This section should be read in conjunction with the 'Key achievements' section.

Sustainable development is embedded in the ESF's mission. Through measures investing in job creation, quality employment, education, and combating social exclusion and discrimination, which also target the most marginalised members of European societies, the ESF contributes directly to ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

By investing in measures promoting job creation, quality employment, education, and measures combating social exclusion and discrimination, which also target the most marginalised members of European societies, the ESF contributes directly to ending hunger across the EU.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The ESF also contributes to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages by investing in projects promoting job creation, quality employment, education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning, and combating social inclusion and discrimination.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

In addition, ESF investments under Education Thematic Objective contribute to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Importantly, the ESF Regulation strongly reflects the EU's commitment to eliminate inequalities between women and men following a combined approach of gender mainstreaming and specific activities for women in different fields and the principle of equality between the sexes is a key horizontal one of ESF programmes, thus contributing to achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5).

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

ESF investment in the adaptation of workers and skilling is crucial, as jobs may be created, other jobs will be lost, and yet other jobs will require different skills as they are 'greened' in order to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8) and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

ESF investments under Education Thematic Objective contribute to building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (SDG 9), by supporting the development of necessary skills in the transition to a low carbon economy will have consequences for the labour market, for employment, and for the skills required for the new 'green' jobs and greening of existing jobs in the future.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The ESF helps job creation to enhance SDGs in particular through supporting existing companies to develop their activities in the environmental sector, enhancing entrepreneurship oriented toward the green economy or providing technical, administrative and financial support that encourages companies to provide 'green jobs', in particular to the most disadvantaged groups. Moreover, the ESF is the EU's main fund to reduce the gap in living standards between regions and between people and to promote economic and social cohesion across Europe thus aiming to reduce inequality within and among countries (SDG 10).

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

See under *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The European Social Fund can support efforts to strengthen sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12) and action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13) at all stages of life from raising children's awareness in schools, to supporting trainings for green skills and green entrepreneurship and also social inclusion through green careers.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

See above.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The ESF contributes to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16) through investment under Institutional Capacity Thematic Objective. The ESF finances the strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance, especially in the economic, employment, education, social, environmental and judicial fields through measures mainly consisting of training for public institutions.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

By the end of 2018, overall 51 financial instruments (FIs) were operational under the ESF in 8 Member States (Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia), 18 more than by the end of 2017.

The ESF FIs received financial support from 28 operational programmes out of 34, which originally planned to implement revolving schemes, representing 82 % of the programmes having indicative amounts planned for FIs.

In the current programming period, Member States planned approximately EUR 912 million to implement FIs in several programmes. So far, these contributed already to FIs for EUR 815 million, including EUR 573 million of ESF ⁽¹⁾. Compared to the previous reporting exercise (2017), the ESF committed resources increased by around 46 % (+ EUR 258 million), especially in Italy (+ EUR 109 million) and Portugal (+ EUR 80 million).

Of the committed resources, EUR 223 million were already paid to FIs. Private co-financing was reported by only 6 FIs in Lithuania and Poland. Payments to final recipients were well over twice the amount paid by the end of 2017; for the first time payments were performed in Bulgaria and Hungary.

As a matter of fact, FIs are finally developing their potential within the ESF and the data shows that the potential of FIs is now much better exploited than in the past. This confirms DG EMPL's supposition that ESF Managing Authorities would have delayed their implementation to the second half of the current programming period due to the highly technical nature of the setup of FIs.

It should be also stressed that FIs cannot be taken as an alternative to ESF grants, due to the specific nature of ESF activities (small projects, specific target groups, limited or no direct financial return on investment, etc., all elements which circumscribe per se the use of FIs). Yet, for a number of operations with potential financial viability, they represent beyond any doubt a resource-efficient way of deploying cohesion policy resources in pursuit of the Commission political objectives.

7. Programme related additional information

Programmes' implementation 2014-2020

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member- states at end 2019 (2)	(2)/(1) %
1.Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility*	32 086.1	18 447.7	57.5 %
2.Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	22 454.6	13 057.8	58.2 %
3. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning	26 134.2	15 456.2	59.1 %
4. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	4 030.4	1 640.3	40.7 %
5. Promoting specific support to young NEETs (15-24) **	4 556.2	3 074.5	67.5 %
Technical Assistance***	3 692.8	1 823.2	49.4 %
TOTAL ****	92 954.3	53 499.7	57.6 %

* Corresponding to Thematic Objective 8 in the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) although excluding the YEI specific allocation which is shown on a separate line (5.)

** These appropriations do relate to the YEI specific allocation only. This objective was created to plan and report on the YEI results in the Management Plans and Annual Activity Reports although it does not exist in the CSF (part of Thematic Objective 8 in the CSF).

*** Technical assistance of the Member States as foreseen by Article 119 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

⁽¹⁾ The difference being national public and/or private co-financing.

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.
- **Multianual 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.

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

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 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’ 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 ^(?).

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.

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

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.

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 %	< 10 %
	Actual results								
	11.2 %	11.0 %	10.7 %	10.6 %	10.6 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Early School Leavers: Female: 9,6 %								< 10 %	< 10 %
	Actual results								
	12.7 %	12.4 %	12.2 %	12.1 %	12.2 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Early School Leavers: Male: 12,7 %								< 10 %	< 10 %
	Actual results								
	9.6 %	9.5 %	9.2 %	8.9 %	8.9 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Younger generation: Total: 38 %								> 40 %	> 40 %
	Actual results								
	37.9 %	38.7 %	39.2 %	39.9 %	40.7 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Younger generation: Female: 42,3 %								> 40 %	> 40 %
	Actual results								
	33.6 %	34.0 %	34.4 %	34.9 %	35.7 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Younger generation: Male: 33,6 %								> 40 %	> 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	< 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	Actual results							62 474
	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)						
		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	7773		
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	Actual results							1 092 405
	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	Actual results							361 903
	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	Actual results							198 708
	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	Actual results							454 752
	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	Actual results						37 302 932	
	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 compensated 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 explained 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	Actual results							5 883
					19 586			
		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	Actual results							628 182
					121 057			
	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	Actual results							4 655 378 098
		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	Actual results							530 897
		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			

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			

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			

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	Actual results							3 777
					272			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							1 775
					412			
					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	Actual results							422 546
		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	Actual results							54 452 564
		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

Fund	Financing plan			Allocated to projects			Spent by projects		
	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	€ 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.

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

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.

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		199 954,5	100 %	281,588	249,964	89 %

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 %

⁽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

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) %
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.

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.

HEADING 1B: Economic, social and territorial cohesion

Cohesion Fund (CF)

Lead DG: REGIO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The CF 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.
- **Concentration of resources on the less developed and transitional regions:** Cohesion Policy supports key investments which would not otherwise take place in poorer regions. 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 Cohesion Policy 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 CF is delivered through shared management in regional and national 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 have increased significantly since end 2018 reaching 102 % at end 2019 for a total amount of 15,850 concrete projects. This corresponds to EUR 76.6 billion at the end of 2019 already allocated to specific projects supporting the EU 2020 objectives for jobs and growth as against EUR 65.1 billion by end-2018 (87 % of total). The end-2019 data shows rather homogeneous progress across most of the Member States, with the exception of two 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 long start-up phase (planning, programming, authorisations) without significant financial execution. This is particularly relevant for the CF with large scale infrastructure investments that have a long life cycle. 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 CF financial execution rate (pre-financing and interim payments minus recoveries) stands at 39.1 % at end 2019.

In terms of **tracking performance**, indicator targets are set in CF 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 CF, such as infrastructural investments, have a long implementation cycle. 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. Along these lines, the Commission receives annual monitoring data on indicator achievements. 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 fourth annual reporting exercise with the most recent data from 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:

- Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gas emissions of 140 thousand tonnes of CO₂eq, which is a sharp increase from 6 995 tonnes of CO₂eq at end 2017;
- Improved energy consumption classification for 10 thousand households (against 5 490 households at end-2017);
- Additional population of over 700 thousand served by improved water supply which is a sharp increase from 175 378 households at end-2017;
- Additional population of over 300 thousand served by improved waste water treatment, which is a sharp increase from 54 332 at end-2017;
- Increase of waste recycling capacity of over 700 thousand tonnes/year, which is a sharp increase compared to 47 245 tonnes/year at end-2017;
- 681 km of new TEN-T roads and 501 km of reconstructed or upgraded roads (against 336 km and 406 km respectively at end-2017);
- 526 km of reconstructed or upgraded TEN-T railway line (against 281 km at end-2017).

Evaluation/ 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 Documents based on the findings of the studies were published in February 2020 ⁽¹⁾. Both evaluations footnote reference 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 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. CF interventions are focusing and will continue to focus on reducing the economic and social shortfall of Member States with a GNI per inhabitant of less than 90 % of the EU average. This is being done by financing investments in environment (climate change adaptation and risk prevention, water and waste sectors, biodiversity including through green infrastructures, urban environment and low carbon economy) and transport (Trans-European Transport Networks, low-carbon transport systems and urban transport). 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.

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

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 Country Specific Recommendations 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 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Total	7 092,4(*)	11 390,2	11 108,6	10 649,1	11 049,0	11 454,1	11 845,2	74 588,6
<i>Of which contribution to the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)</i>	<i>983,0</i>	<i>1 217,0</i>	<i>2 376,5</i>	<i>1 593,3</i>	<i>1 655,1</i>	<i>1 700,4</i>	<i>1 780,6</i>	<i>11 305,9</i>

(*)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	9 753,622	99,98 %	7 754,677	100,00 %	10 064,646	99,99 %	8 300,000	24,71 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	11 528,847	99,99 %	9 434,146	89,31 %	10 231,451	99,12 %	9 473,518	32,29 %

(*) 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 Cohesion Fund and Cohesion policy programmes continue to contribute to at least five of the priorities of the Juncker Commission through investments in key policy areas and 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 data of Cohesion Fund operational programmes:

- Overall project selection rates are above 100 % of planned investment ahead of the 2007-2013 period. Spending by projects and EU interim payments at around 39 % are around the same point in the last period.
- By specific objective, project spending is well advanced in sustainable transport and low carbon economy. On the other hand, the average spending rates for environmental and Climate change and risk prevention investments are lagging.
- The 15 beneficiary countries all show high selection rate (above 85 %). That said, there is some diversity with spending progress reported with HR, BG, EL and RO below average, while LT and EE are well above.
- 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.
- Some indicators with more important gaps between the decided and implemented values reflect the well know 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 suggest that many of the 2023 targets could be exceeded for certain transport and environmental indicators (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.
- For some other common indicators (i.e. those measuring population benefiting from risk prevention) the national and regional programmes report challenges in aggregating the values from multiple projects to accurately estimate the net benefiting population.

Through the Member States’ 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 86 % of the Cohesion Fund 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 Cohesion Fund allocation set-aside at programming, was definitively allocated to the priorities that met their performance milestones (EUR 3.6 billion Cohesion Fund contribution). The performance reserve from non-performing priorities (EUR 190 million Cohesion Fund contribution) is reallocated to performing priorities in order to optimise investments.

As required by Article 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Eight 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 preparation will start later in 2020. It is during the evaluation phase that the wider impacts and achievements of programming can be assessed.

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

Indicator 1: 1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions								
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 2: 1.2 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 3: 1.3 Energy intensity of the economy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Primary energy consumption: 529.6							1 483.0	1 483.0
	Actual results							

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

	1 512.4	1 537.6	1 544.9	1 562.4	1 551.9			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Final energy consumption: 1 082.2							1 086.0	1 086.0
	Actual results							
	1 067.6	1 090.1	1 110.0	1 122.9	1 124.1			

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

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors

Performance

Environmental and climate protection – Specific objective 1 to 3

As reflected through the 12 indicators (objective 1 to 3), performance in the field of environmental and climate protection will have to be improved throughout the coming years. The average achievement rate below stands at 13,8 %. Despite the challenges programming authorities are facing in these areas CF plays a crucial role in contributing to Europe’s efforts in the area of environmental and climate protection. Positive is the 12-percentage point increase of the average achievement rate between 2017 and 2018, which provides evidence that the slow uptake in previous years is turning into a period of steep increase. Another positive aspect is reflected in the concrete achievements related to renewable energy production (8 percentage point increase of the achievement rate between 2017 and 2018), the Number of households with improved energy consumption classification (12 percentage point increase of the achievement rate), or in the fields of flood and fire protection (25 percentage point increase of average achievement rate). Underperformance can be partially explain by the complex nature of related infrastructure projects. All these points indicate that progress is speeding up and will bring further acceleration until 2023.

Indicator 1: 1.1 Additional capacity of renewable energy production								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							1 236
				3	110			

Unit of measure: MW

Indicator 2: 1.2 Number of households with improved energy consumption classification								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							79 300
		42	833	5 490	9 938			

Unit of measure: Households

Indicator 3: 1.3 Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							1 848 420 843
				134 461	295 986 122			

Unit of measure: KWh/year

Indicator 4: 1.4 Number of additional energy users connected to smart grids								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							1 034 000
					78 571			

Unit of measure: Users

Indicator 5: 1.5 Estimated annual decrease of GHG								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							2 819 043
			0	6 995	142 035			

Unit of measure: Tonnes of CO2eq

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 04 60		
Number of projects selected			
Spending			

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 %	73 %	90 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			680	2 708	3 838		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			79 736 394.13	505 322 462.21	1 685 135 999.10		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes, as these only include expected final outputs (captured by the indicators associated with the specific objective above) to be delivered by 2023.

Specific Objective 2: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Indicator 1: 2.1 Population benefiting from flood protection measures								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							6 055 523
				165 717	343 687			

Unit of measure: Persons

Indicator 2: 2.2 Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							8 330 000
				462 660	4 412 022			

Unit of measure: Persons

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 04 60		
Number of projects selected			
Spending			

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			38 %	60 %	94 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			307	1 068	525		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			53 728 235.92	269 893 744.94	450 255 802,83		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes, as these only include expected final outputs (captured by the indicators associated with the specific objective above) to be delivered by 2023.

Specific Objective 3: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Indicator 1: 3.1 Additional waste recycling capacity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					1 150 087			2 855 466
	Actual results							
			2 187	47 245	714 936			

Unit of measure: Tonnes/year

Indicator 2: 3.2 Additional population served by improved water supply

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					772 698			8 184 242
	Actual results							
			162 704	175 378	728 835			

Unit of measure: Persons

Indicator 3: 3.3 Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					138 333			9 361 152
	Actual results							
			8 399	54 332	322 241			

Unit of measure: Population equivalent

Indicator 4: 3.4 Total surface area of rehabilitated land

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023

0								377
	Actual results							
					16			

Unit of measure: Hectares

Indicator 5: 3.5 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							351 257
		290	607	834	56 550			

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 04 60		
Number of projects selected			
Spending 1 348 925 010.20			

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			24 %	59 %	76 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			1 003	3 808	3 414		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			360 362 815.74	1 348 925 010.20	2 356 873 125,08		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes, as these only include expected final outputs (captured by the indicators associated with the specific objective above) to be delivered by 2023.

Specific Objective 4: 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. Four out of six indicators in this field show important improvements (all well above 20 % achievement rate, average 45 %). Only in the area of improved waterways and new railways no results have been reported so far, which could inter alia be explained by the complexity of such projects. With an improvement for most of the indicators, this objective remains on track to satisfy or even overachieve 2023 targets.

Indicator 1: 4.1 Total length of new railway line								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0	Actual results							21
				0				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							21

Availability of Data: Milestone figures concerning indicators 1 and 6 associated with specific objective 4 are not provided for in the relevant performance framework.

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 2: 4.2 Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0	Actual results							2 342
			92	281	526			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							2 342
			92	281	526			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 3: 4.3 Total length of newly built roads								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0	Actual results							1 644
			41	336	681			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							1 644
			41	336	681			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 4: 4.4 Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0	Actual results							611
		24	274	406	501			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							611
		24	274	406	501			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 5: 4.5 Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							189
				6	53			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 6: 4.6 Total length of improved or created inland waterways								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							327
		0		0				

Comment: These investments did not generate any output until the end of 2017.

Availability of Data: Milestone figures concerning indicators 1 and 6 associated with specific objective 4 are not provided for in the relevant performance framework.

Unit of measure: km

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 04 60		
Number of projects selected			
Spending			

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			25 %	65 %	92 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			247	485	671		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			2 996 098 909.83	6 984 868 830.99	12 790 288 996.25		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes, as these only include expected final outputs (captured by the indicators associated with the specific objective above) to be delivered by 2023.

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
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
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Energy infrastructure	628,1	628,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	146,5	146,4
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Transport infrastructure	955,1	955,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Sustainable transport	355,6	355,6
IV Development of endogenous potential: Business development	29,1	29,1
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	581,0	581,0
Total	2 695,4	2 695,1

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
2 182,5	3 007,0	2 421,3	2 503,0	2 592,7	2 695,4	2 695,1	18 097,0

(*)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 CF contribution to mainstreaming of climate action in 2019 (update) 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 CF 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 (26,78 %). This tracking methodology covers climate and biodiversity objectives, in line with regulatory requirements. This percentage is applied to the relevant CF budget line (13 04 60).

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	463,8	500,5
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	273,5	295,1
Total	737,3	795,6

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
603,1	831,0	662,3	684,2	713,9	737,3	795,6	5 027,4

(*)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 CF contribution to financing biodiversity in 2020 (update) and 2021 remains stable and coherent with last year 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 CF 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 2020 (7,9 %). This tracking methodology covers climate and biodiversity objectives, in line with regulatory requirements. This percentage is applied to the relevant CF budget line (13 04 60).

Contribution to financing clean air

Fund	Financing plan			Allocated to projects			Spent by projects		
	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	€ 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%

CF investments contribute to improving air quality, for instance through reconstruction of building heating systems or clean urban transport infrastructure. The CF 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⁾. 17.1 % of the planned Cohesion fund allocation for the 2014-2020 period (9.6% for ERDF) 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 ESI Funds 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 CF support is based on infrastructure developments and not target groups.

The 2007-13 OP Infrastructure and Environment has contributed to implementation of the equal opportunities principle. This OP, which implemented mainly infrastructural projects, brought important changes in the area of preventing discrimination and eliminating physical barriers for people with various disabilities, elderly or caring for children or dependent persons. At the stage of project implementation, there was also a positive impact on strengthening the broadly understood principle of equal opportunities.

- Over 100 million EUR (incl. more than 70million EUR from the CF) has been devoted for projects related to the railway infrastructure – modernization and reconstruction of facilities in 55 railway stations. They will be adjusted to the needs of different persons, including with disabilities.
- App. 2 billion EUR has been allocated from the CF for supporting public transport. The implemented projects have a positive impact on the principle of non-discrimination and equal opportunities for women and men, including accessibility for people with disabilities – they include the purchase of modern bus and tram fleet, reconstruction of the bus infrastructure or interchanges.

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.

The Cohesion Fund contributes directly to 8 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, 85 % of investments are planned for objectives under the goals of industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), clean water and sanitation (SDG6) and responsible production and consumption in the circular economy (SDG12).

As regards implementation by December 2019 the data for projects selection indicates significant progress, with selection rates above 50 % of the planned allocation for almost all SDG, and above 100 % for SDG6, SDG9, SDG13 and SDG11.

Example SGD 9 and 13

The EU is investing into sustainable transport, thus contributing to the modal shift from road to rail and improving the environment. The project consists of a 7,5 km reconstructed and upgraded track section between Rokycany and Pilsen and the construction of a new 4-km tunnel between Ejpvovice and Pilsen-Doubrovka which is the longest railway tunnel in Czechia. The implementation of the project has brought about the reduction of travel times by rail and increased the **competitiveness of rail transport** by facilitating modal shift from road transport; it also contributed to improvement of environment. Better noise and vibration protection, shifting traffic to the tunnel, reduction of level crossings and improved safety of access to platforms at stops and stations will all have a positive impact on living conditions of the concerned population. In addition, the project has increased the accessibility and attractiveness of Pilsen as a regional economic centre.

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

Example SDG 11 and 13:

An investment from the Cohesion Fund has developed **urban climate change adaptation plans** in 44 Polish cities, each having more than 100,000 inhabitants. The project analysed the vulnerability of cities to climate change impacts and helped them plan the needed adaptation measures tailored to their own situation. These include infrastructure, organisational measures, education and awareness. Cohesion policy in 2021-2027 will invest in the implementation of those measures.

Example SDG 12:

With the help of EU funds, Slovenia is reaching its recycling targets and the citizens of Ljubljana benefit from improved, more sustainable waste management. Since joining the EU, the Slovenian capital has boosted separate collection and recycling, and reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill by 59 %. It also invested in prevention and reuse of materials. Ljubljana now generates 41 % less waste per capita than the European average. Consequently, it was decided not to build two new incinerators as originally planned. One of the key elements of the integrated waste system is **the Ljubljana Regional Waste Management Centre**. This EU-funded project started as a facility for 17 municipalities. Later, 20 more municipalities joined, renouncing the need for an additional treatment plant.

Contribution of Cohesion Fund to SDGs

SDG	SDG Title	EU amount planned	% of total	Total amount planned	Eligible cost of selected operations	Selection rate
SDG6	Clean water and sanitation	11 317	18 %	13 352	14 845	111 %
SDG7	Affordable and clean energy	947	1 %	1 124	856	76 %
SDG8	Decent work and economic growth	50	0 %	59	18	31 %
SDG9	Industry, innovation, infrastructure	35 675	56 %	41 297	44 954	109 %
SDG11	Sustainable cities and communities	1 165	2 %	1 386	1 424	103 %
SDG12	Responsible consumption and production	6 789	11 %	8 253	7 256	88 %
SDG13	Climate action	3 158	5 %	3 715	3 917	105 %
SDG15	Life on land	1 931	3 %	2 300	1 630	71 %
No SDG assigned		2,248	4 %	2 645	2 042	77 %
Total		63 280	100 %	74 130	76 941	104 %

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

5 Member States selected financial instruments co-financed from the Cohesion Fund (CF). The total eligible expenditure of the operations selected by the end of 2019 was EUR 254 million, out of which EUR 216 million stem from CF. The total amount invested in final recipients by the end of 2019 was EUR 32 million.

Loans account for 91 % of the financial instruments for which financial data was sent, guarantees constitute 7 %, while equity accounts for the remaining 2 % of all forms of financial instruments supported.

A majority (54 %) of selected financial instruments financed by CF concern preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency. Support is also provided for the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (28 %) and in schemes with multiple thematic objectives (18 %).

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 EUR million (1)	Cumulative expenditure declared at end 2019 (2)	(2)/(1) %
1.Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors Outputs:	9 464.4	3 252.5	34 %
2.Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management Outputs:	2 786.4	737.2	26 %

⁽⁴⁾ Total Commitment is the Total Funding amount i.e. Union support and National co-financing

3. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	15 136.3	3 814.7	25 %
4. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures Outputs:	38 227.4	17 442.6	46 %
5. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration Outputs:			
Programmes with Multiple-thematic Objectives	6 690.4	2 806.5	42 %
Other amounts not linked to the 11 thematic objectives above	2 513.8	1 231.1	49 %
TOTAL	74 818.7	29 284.5	39 %

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

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 draft budget. The final achievements of 2007-2013 programme implementation were reported in the 2019 programme statement.

Programmes' implementation 2007-2013 (Common Strategic Guidelines)

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

HEADING 1B: Economic, social and territorial cohesion**Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived****Lead DG: EMPL****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) supports EU countries' actions to provide assistance to the most deprived. This includes food, clothing and other essential items for personal use, e.g. shoes, soap and shampoo. Material assistance needs to go hand in hand with social inclusion measures, such as guidance and support to help people out of poverty. National authorities may also support stand-alone social inclusion measures that help the most deprived people integrate better into society.

The FEAD complements existing cohesion instruments, in particular the ESF, by providing assistance to those who too far from the labour market to benefit from the activation measures of the ESF.

EU added value of the programme

The Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is based on a balanced vision of economic growth and social progress based on ambitious targets for employment, education and for poverty reduction. Poverty and social exclusion are major obstacles to the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives.

By addressing basic needs, the instrument helps moderate the effects of poverty and social exclusion of people who find themselves in situations of severe deprivation. By enabling the most deprived members of the society to maintain their dignity and human capital it should contribute to strengthening social capital and social cohesion within their communities.

The mid-term evaluation shows that FEAD has a notable volume effect in nearly every Member State. The scope effect of FEAD can be clearly observed in terms of new target groups and activities, and greater territorial coverage. There is also evidence of considerable process effects in terms of mutual learning.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (DG EMPL) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through shared management with the Member States.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

In June 2019, Member States submitted their 2018 Annual Implementation Reports ⁽¹⁾. According to these, the fund contributed substantially to alleviate the worst forms of poverty in the EU and to promote social inclusion for those at the margin of society. Despite its limited budget, FEAD has shown that it successfully complements national efforts to address material deprivation and combat poverty and social exclusion. It notably addressed food deprivation, child poverty and homelessness.

In 2018, FEAD successfully delivered assistance in 26 Member States, making good progress to achieve its objectives.

FEAD support was provided to the most disadvantaged groups through meals, food packages or basic consumer items such as school supplies and toiletries (FEAD OP I). The total amount of eligible expenditure relating to provision of food support in 2018 was EUR 460 million and cumulatively EUR 1.7 billion. The monetary value of material support distributed in 2018 reached EUR 13 million, with a total of more than EUR 32 million over the whole period. Compared to 2017, the monetary value of basic material assistance increased by 29 %.

This support is complemented by accompanying measures promoting the social inclusion of end recipients, e.g. referring them to appropriate services, offering guidance on a balanced diet or providing advice on managing a household budget. Furthermore, four Member States (Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden) pursued dedicated social inclusion support (FEAD OP II) to specific target groups such as homeless or marginalised communities.

The programme outputs and results mirror the refinements made through applying lessons learnt from monitoring, evaluations or from the FEAD Network via specific programme amendments. Moreover, for programmes delivering food or basic material assistance, the inclusion and reporting of accompanying measures has become well established and more diverse.

The overall profile of target groups remains stable. In 2018, about 50 % of the end recipients were women (according to estimations of partner organisations), 29 % children aged 15 or below, about 10 % migrants, participants with a foreign background or minorities, and 7 % homeless people.

The FEAD is well on track to reach its objectives. However, a few obstacles to implementation persisted, such as capacity issues of partner organisations or logistical challenges. These were tackled e.g. through the flexibility of the fund design and strong

⁽¹⁾ Latest available data

cooperation between Managing Authorities and partner organisations. In Romania, implementation is lagging behind notably due to issues relating to public procurement. These issues are described in the Annual Implementation Report, and bilateral corrective action is underway.

Key achievements

Based on the 2018 Annual Implementation Reports ⁽²⁾ around 13 million people were supported in 2018 by FEAD which is above the average outcome for 2014-2017 period (12.7 million people supported). More specifically, food assistance is estimated to have reached 12.6 million people and basic material assistance is estimated to have reached 1 million people ⁽³⁾. More than 1.6 million tonnes of food were distributed between 2014 and 2018, from which 350 000 tonnes in 2018. In terms of social inclusion support to specific target groups such as homeless or marginalised communities (Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden), this reached more than 38 000 persons in 2018.

To illustrate the achievements of the fund on the ground, the following examples can be referred to from both Annual Implementation Reports and the Annual FEAD Case Studies publication ⁽⁴⁾:

- In Czech Republic, FEAD contributes to an effective system of providing subsidised meals to disadvantaged pupils in schools. High quality school catering for children in preschool and primary school age can be considered a practice fostering better inclusion of pupils into classes and improve school attendance. The number of participating schools and regions has been steadily growing.
- In Italy, the FEAD programme focuses on food aid and material assistance for the most deprived, reaching overall almost 2.7 million people in 2018. Specific efforts have been made to reach the homeless. The accompanying measures developed by the municipality of Turin provide provisional services to individuals facing emergency situations. ‘Transitional kits’ are distributed allowing recipients to define most urgent needs. The support is embedded in a broader social inclusion strategy of the municipality in conjunction with NGOs, local health service providers and the University of Turin.

As regards the climate dimension, the FEAD horizontal principles apply, notably that the selection of food products and goods shall also take into consideration climatic and environmental aspects. In 2018, FEAD Partner Organisations chose from the food baskets only the type of products and the quantity desired according to the needs of the end recipients. This minimised the risk of providing supplies in which there is no interest and avoided food waste. As regards basic goods, the same consideration is taken: e.g. for the school starter kits distributed in Austria, only high quality sustainable products were chosen for environmental reasons; in Czech Republic, only environmentally friendly products which encourage recycling are ordered through FEAD.

The key achievements presented above contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (1) *End poverty in all its forms everywhere* (2) *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture* and (10) *Reduce inequality within and among countries*.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation (SWD(2019)148) ⁽⁵⁾ have been presented in the programme statement accompanying draft budget 2020.

According to Article 18 of FEAD regulation, the Commission shall carry out an ex post evaluation to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the fund and the sustainability of results obtained, as well as to measure the added value of the fund. This ex post evaluation shall be completed by 31 December 2024.

Moreover, the Managing Authority of an OP I shall carry out a structured survey on end recipients in 2022.

Forthcoming implementation

In 2020 and 2021, the fund is expected to continue to support around 13 million people per year among the target group of the most deprived.

The year 2020 will be marked by the transition to the successor fund European Social Fund+ (ESF+), in which the FEAD will be merged.

Two FEAD Expert Group meetings are expected to be held in 2020 on FEAD implementation, including on closure arrangements and on aspects relating to the preparations for the 2021-2027 programming period. The Commission is planning mutual learning events of the FEAD Community of stakeholders, which succeeded the FEAD Network at the end of 2019. Moreover, in this context, further communication/dissemination activities will take place such as study visits, elaboration of thematic dossiers on topics related to the scope of FEAD, as well as elaboration and publication of catalogues on case studies. In addition, the Commission will organise the 2020 annual meeting with the EU level organisations representing the partners at national level.

⁽²⁾ Latest available data.

⁽³⁾ As in several Member States the same recipients receive both food and goods, this apparent overlap is being subtracted in the calculations to ensure a prudent reporting approach.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1089&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9498>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=20911&langId=en>

In 2020, the FEAD Regulation was amended to enable the fund to meet the COVID-19 pandemic related challenges, allowing additional flexibility and reducing administrative burden. This includes buying protective equipment for those delivering aid. Food and basic material assistance can now also be delivered through vouchers, lowering the risk of contamination.

Outlook for the period 2021-2027

In the Commission’s proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the current support to the most deprived (FEAD) will be integrated into the ESF+, aiming at creating synergies between social inclusion and material assistance. There are two ESF+ specific objectives addressing the type of support currently programmed under the FEAD, namely support to promote social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion including the most deprived (specific objective X) and support to address material deprivation (specific objective XI).

Once the negotiations on the parts relating to the programming provisions are concluded, Member States are expected to formally submit draft programmes for 2021-2027. Under ESF+, Member States can either programme comprehensive ESF+ programmes of which the support to the most deprived is part of or they can put forward a separate ESF+ programme with the exclusive objective of addressing material deprivation.

The year 2021 is expected to see a continuation of current FEAD type of support. Since eligibility of expenditure for the new programming period is granted from 1 January 2021 or from the date of programme submission, whichever is earlier, no disruption or slowdown of support to the most deprived is foreseen. A pre-financing will be paid out of the 2021 commitment tranche at the start of the programmes to ensure that Member States have the means to kick off the preparations on the ground in a timely manner.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Total	513,0	523,2	533,7	544,4	555,3	566,4	577,7	3 813,7

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	f	100,00 %	410,622	100,00 %	577,708	100,00 %	410,000	19,73 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	589,651	100,00 %	504,345	99,59 %	578,351	100,00 %	412,710	20,10 %

(*) 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

FEAD is effectively providing much needed food and basic material assistance to a large number of most deprived and is complemented by accompanying measures providing guidance and advice aiming at their social inclusion. FEAD is also adaptable and responsive to emerging needs. The annual reach of around 13 million persons among the most deprived is stable and, given the size of the budget, substantial. FEAD is coherent with the Europe 2020 Strategy as well as with the European Pillar of Social Rights. It complements other EU funds, notably the ESF and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) by targeting different groups or providing complementary measures.

The contribution to achieving the specific and global objectives of FEAD is assessed twice during implementation, in 2017 and 2022. In 2017, the reporting concluded that FEAD helped to reduce severe material deprivation, it provided relief to the most deprived and it enhanced people’s path out of poverty. The overall outputs and results described above as well as in section on the Implementation status indicate that FEAD objectives are on track to be achieved and, with the exception of United Kingdom, there is no case of de-commitment. The contribution of FEAD to the attainment of its objectives was also acknowledged by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in its relevant Special Report (6). According to said report, ‘the FEAD has been well embedded in the

(6) ECA Special report No 05/2019: FEAD-Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, available at: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=49411>

social policy framework. Moreover, it contributes to Member States' approaches in alleviating poverty. It further contains innovative social inclusion measures',

However, due to the overall size of the fund, FEAD by itself cannot be expected to directly lift the most deprived out of poverty and, therefore, its contribution to the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion cannot be measured in precise terms. This was also noted in the ECA Special Report aforementioned. The ECA report included relevant analysis and recommendations for the next programming period, comprising targeting, safeguarding social inclusion measures for recipients of basic material assistance and improving the assessment of social inclusion of FEAD end recipients. The Commission accepted the majority of recommendations noting that all the conditions for its fulfilment are ensured by the regulatory proposals for the ESF+ and the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR).

Between 2017 and 2019, and with a view to further strengthening performance, 18 FEAD Network meetings were held, dedicated to different aspects of FEAD implementation including targeted outreach to the most deprived such as children, homeless and older people. A dedicated session took place in 2019 on monitoring and evaluation of FEAD. The meetings allowed participants to present case studies, share challenges and solutions on issues of common interest in the delivery of FEAD activities. These Network meetings led to programme amendments through applying lessons learnt from monitoring and evaluations. The amendments envisaged adding and modifying operations, modifying eligibility criteria for the most deprived, and/or shifting financial resources within the operational programme. The total eligible public expenditure committed to support FEAD operations reached EUR 762 million in 2018. At the end of 2018, the cumulative committed expenditure (2014-2018) stood at nearly EUR 2.7 billion, or 61 % of the total resources of the programmes (EU and national co-financing). A significant increase was also recorded in payments made to beneficiaries (EU and national co-financing) in 2018 (EUR 497.9 million) against previous years. Overall, the payments made to beneficiaries until 2018 amount to EUR 1.8 billion or 41 % of total resources. The advanced implementation on the ground is also reflected in the financial execution of EU allocation: between 2014 and end 2019, the Commission had made interim payments in the amount of EUR 1.5 billion, representing 38 % of the EU support (total payments including the pre-financing amount to EUR 1.9 billion or 49 % of the EU allocation).

General objectives

General Objective 1: To promote social cohesion, enhance social inclusion and therefore ultimately contribute to the objective of eradicating poverty in the Union in accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy

Indicator 1: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
122.9	Actual results							96.2
	122.0	119.1	118.1	112.9	110.2			

Comment: FEAD addresses the worst forms of poverty but due to the small size of the fund and its complementarity to other national and EU poverty reduction efforts, cannot be expected to lift people out of poverty on its own. Moreover, the economic conditions in the period after 2008 were not conducive to reach this target. EU 2020 poverty target was set as at least 20 million fewer than in 2008 (116.2 million people).

Source: Eurostat – [t2020_50] – People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Unit of measure: in million people. The target is cumulative.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Alleviating the worst forms of poverty in the Union by providing non-financial assistance to the most deprived persons

Indicator 1: Number of persons receiving assistance from the Fund								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0.00	8.00	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.70
	Actual results							
	8.19	13.76	15.92	12.92	12.85			

Methodology: FEAD is a new fund, hence with a baseline at 0. The figures used in the framework of the food assistance programme are established through a methodology which does not yield figures that could be comparable to the one of the new FEAD, thus they cannot be used as a baseline.

In 2014, the Commission and the Member States agreed on a common set of output and result indicators on which the Member States report annually (in the Annual Implementation Reports) from 2015 to 2024 for both OP I type of programmes (food aid and/or basic material assistance) and OP II type of programmes (social inclusion support). The reporting is performed at programme level.

In terms of target and milestones, there is no requirement in the FEAD performance framework for Member States. The Commission made an adjusted forecast of 12.7 million annually based on the actual performance between 2014-2017, as stated also in FEAD Mid-Term Evaluation. Unit of measure: Number of persons receiving assistance from the Fund reported annually (in millions).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of deprived persons receiving assistance from the Fund	F	8 million	12.7 million	12.7 million	12.7 million	12.7 million	12.7 million	12.7 million
	P	8,19 million	13,76 million	15,92 million	12,92 million	12.85 million		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Gender mainstreaming

Article 5(11) of the FEAD Regulation obliges Member States to ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are taken into account during the various stages of programme implementation. Based on the information provided in the 2018 Annual Implementation Reports, about half of all persons who benefited from FEAD in 2018 were women. In the majority of cases, the most deprived individuals are identified on the basis of economic criteria, which prevent discrimination in access to aid based on gender, origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation. This is, however, a general principle applied across the implementation of the programme and it is not relevant to produce estimates of budget contributions.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (7)

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The FEAD promotes social cohesion, enhances social inclusion and ultimately contributes to achieving the EU2020 poverty reduction target. The FEAD contributes to the specific objective of alleviating the worst forms of poverty by providing non-financial assistance to the most deprived persons. In all programmes, FEAD strives to offer pathways out of poverty to the most deprived, according to the target groups of the programme.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The vast majority of the fund is being allocated to food support, together with accompanying measures towards social inclusion. FEAD programmes take into account sustainability aspects, minimising food losses, avoiding food waste and promoting a balanced diet. For example, in France, the carbon footprint is taken into account in the tenders of selecting suppliers; in Slovakia and Estonia the composition of food baskets was reviewed by the national public health authorities.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The FEAD finances specific actions to promote the social inclusion of the end recipients through dedicated outreach to specific target groups. For example, it targets the homeless or migrants in Germany, Sweden or Denmark, thereby aiming to reduce inequalities and unequal access to social services, while in Slovenia the programme specifically reaches out persons in remote areas and those not being mobile, therefore reducing inequalities in accessibility.

(7) This section should be read in conjunction with the ‘Key achievements’ section.

HEADING 2:

Sustainable growth: natural resources

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) - European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*****EU added value (ex-ante) CAP***

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a policy of strategic importance to: viable food production, the sustainable use of natural resources, and climate action as well as balanced territorial development. Through these three general objectives it contributes to the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth described in the Europe 2020 strategy, while also helping to achieve the 2014-2020 Commission priorities and many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, the sector has increased its productivity by nearly 8% since 2005 while cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by more than 20% since 1990 and reducing fertiliser use with a positive impact on water quality. Moreover, the CAP enabled the development of the most integrated single market. Thanks to the CAP, the EU farm sector is able to respond to citizens' demands regarding food security, safety, quality and sustainability.

It does so through a range of policy tools that offer finance to the farm, food and forestry sectors, as well as to various other entities operating in rural areas – such as other non-agricultural businesses, non-governmental organisations (including environmental bodies) and local authorities. Impact assessment work carried out to prepare the legislative proposals for the 2013 CAP reform clearly showed a high economic, environmental and social cost of "no policy action" in this domain. This was confirmed by the Scenar 2030 JRC report, prepared in the framework of the impact assessment for the CAP post-2020 proposal¹.

The CAP is a genuinely "European" policy. Although Member States enjoy significant powers concerning detailed implementation of the CAP, the policy is clearly "common", based on well-defined rules and mechanisms and funded primarily by the EU budget. In addition, CAP funds in rural development attract national, regional and private funds, leveraging the impact of the policy. Such a common policy allows a more effective response to transnational goals and cross-border challenges - such as food security, mitigating climate change, enhancing biodiversity and contributing to economic and social cohesion. It also ensures a level playing field in the single market and a stronger position in trade negotiations. The fact that the CAP accounts for a significant proportion of the EU budget flows naturally from its ambitious scope and from this status as an EU level policy. However, the overall approach offers both the most effective response to the policy challenges identified and the most efficient use of budgetary resources, as the running of 28 different and competing national policies would be less effective and more costly. Nevertheless, the approach also allows sufficient flexibility in implementation to cater for local needs.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 1 June 2018, the European Commission presented legislative proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period post 2020. These proposals aim to make the CAP more responsive to current and future challenges such as climate change or generational renewal, while continuing to support European farmers for a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (COM(2018) 392)
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (COM(2018) 393)
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatized wine products, (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and (EU) No 229/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favor of the smaller Aegean islands (COM(2018) 394).

In addition, the Commission has also made a proposal providing certainty and continuity in the granting of support to European farmers in the years 2019 and 2020 (COM(2018) 817 of 07/12/2018). The proposal was adopted by the co-legislators on 13/02/2019².

¹ <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC109053/kjna28883enn.pdf>

² Regulation (EU) 2019/288 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 February 2019 amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards certain rules on direct payments and support for rural development in respect of the years 2019 and 2020, OJ L 53, 22.2.2019, p. 14–16

General objectives

General objectives are applicable for both EAGF and EAFRD.

General Objective 1: To promote a viable food production

Indicator 1: Agricultural factor income								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
112	Actual results							To increase
	113	110	112	126	121	123		

Comment: New proposal: if the trend is more important than a comparison across countries, the index is preferred over the absolute values. Please note that we need to state the online data code in the data source (done here).

Source: Eurostat - economic accounts for agriculture (online data code: aact_eaa06)

Unit of measure: Index (2010=100)

Indicator 2: Agricultural productivity								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2005	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
100.0	Actual results							To increase
	106.4	107.0	109.4	109.5	110.0			

Source: DG AGRI calculation based on Eurostat data

Unit of measure: Index (2005=100)

Indicator 3: EU commodity price variability								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Beef World: 9%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					7%	6%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Beef EU: 2%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					3%	3%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Poultry World: 12%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					14%	14%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Poultry EU: 3%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					2%	2%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Pig World: 16%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					17%	16%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Pig EU: 10%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world

					9%	11%		world
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Soft wheat World: 10%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					9%	9%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Soft wheat EU: 7%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					10%	9%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Maize World: 6%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					5%	5%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Maize EU: 5%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					6%	7%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Barley World: 9%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					15%	14%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Barley EU: 10%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					14%	12%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Butter World: 30%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					24%	13%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Butter EU: 29%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					25%	17%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Cheese (Cheddar) World: 13%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					13%	7%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Cheese (Cheddar) EU: 9%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					9%	4%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Skimmed milk powder (SMP) World: 14%	Actual results							EU variability lower than the world
					10%	8%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target

Skimmed milk powder (SMP) EU: 9%								EU variability lower than the world
	Actual results							
					12%	17%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Whole milk powder World: 18%								EU variability lower than the world
	Actual results							
					15%	7%		
2017	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Whole milk powder EU: 14%								EU variability lower than the world
	Actual results							
					13%	5%		

Source: DG AGRI

General Objective 2: To promote a sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

Indicator 1: Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
488 101.8	Actual results							To decrease
	498 596	488 102	491 403	501 636				

Comment: Values have changed compared to figures provided in the previous Programme Statement because the EEA has updated figures also for previous years.

Source: Annual European Union GHG inventory (sectors 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 4.c and 4.d). The inventory is based on national submissions to the UNFCCC and to the EU Monitoring Mechanism of CO₂ and other GHG emissions. It is compiled and held by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC/ACC) and data are published in the Eurostat database.

Unit of measure: Thousand tonnes of CO₂ equivalent

Indicator 2: Water abstraction in agriculture: volume of water applied to soils for irrigation purposes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Bulgaria: 753.35	Actual results							To decrease
	436.6	675.7	736.1	647.2				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Czech Republic: 19.7	Actual results							To decrease
	16.8	31.8	17.4	27.8				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Denmark: 192.7	Actual results							To decrease
	260.1	122.1	178.9					
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Germany: 179.6	Actual results							To decrease
			210.0					
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Greece:	Actual results							To decrease
	8 232.2	8 232.2	8 961.2					

2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Spain: 21 300	Actual results							To decrease
	20 014	18 872	18 645					
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
France: 3 033.12	Actual results							To decrease
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Croatia: 8.47	Actual results							To decrease
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Cyprus: 148.4	Actual results							To decrease
	147.3	164.2	169.3	166.2				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Lithuania: 1.2	Actual results							To decrease
	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Luxembourg: 0.0	Actual results							To decrease
	0.0	0.1						
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Hungary:	Actual results							To decrease
	98.0	110.0						
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Malta: 25.7	Actual results							To decrease
	27.2	24.4	24.5	24.7				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Netherlands: 82.3	Actual results							To decrease
	41.9	69.0	38.0					
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Austria: 18	Actual results							To decrease
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Poland: 75.1	Actual results							To decrease
	80.8	84.9	88.5	80.7				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Portugal:							To decrease	

	Actual results							
				3 395				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Romania: 235	Actual results							To decrease
	226	364	330	440				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Slovenia: 1.6	Actual results							To decrease
	1.7	3.6	3.3	3.9				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Slovakia: 7	Actual results							To decrease
	13.7	21.6	11.5	22.4				
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
Sweden: 62	Actual results							To decrease
		48						
2010	Milestones foreseen							Long term target
United Kingdom: 103.9	Actual results							To decrease
	89.2							

Data availability: No data reported for the following countries: Belgium, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Finland.

Source: Eurostat – environment statistics

General Objective 3: To promote a balanced territorial development

Indicator 1: Rural employment rate

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
63.4%	Actual results							To increase
	64.2%	65.0%	65.9%	67.2%	68.1%			

Narrative: Past Results: 2010: 62.7% 2011: 62.5% 2012: 63.4%

Source: Eurostat – Labour Force Survey

Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs are applicable for both EAGF and EAFRD.

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The CAP aims to ensure a **fair standard of living for farmers** – and more broadly, to **reduce poverty** in rural areas.

Relevant CAP tools include direct payments to farmers, market support instruments, and rural development support for job creation and training (agricultural and non-agricultural).

At global scale, with 80% of the very poor depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, the EU is facilitating responsible private investments in developing countries, notably in the agri-food sector to create growth and jobs and address root causes of irregular migration.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The CAP aims to help provide a stable (as well as safe and sustainably produced) supply of food at reasonable prices for consumers. Doing so for EU consumers contributes in itself to global food security. The EU makes a further contribution by

supplying large amounts of food (worth around EUR 120 billion a year) according to global demand and without any export refunds, in contrast to previous decades.

Relevant CAP tools include direct payments and market instruments (to safeguard production potential against serious disruption), the EU School Scheme (which encourage healthy diets among schoolchildren), and various tools which foster the environmental aspect of sustainability (see SDG 15).

Illustrative example

The EU school scheme supports the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to schools across the European Union as part of a wider programme of education about European agriculture and the benefits of healthy eating. The consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and of milk in the EU does not meet the international or national nutritional recommendations while that of processed food that is often high in added sugar, salt, fat or additives is on the rise. Unhealthy diets, together with low physical activity, result in overweight and obesity. This is why the EU takes action to help children follow a healthy diet and lead healthy lifestyles.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The CAP aims to improve knowledge transfer in the farm and forestry sectors and in rural areas overall, as a means of improving sustainability and productivity of agriculture and the economic, environmental and social conditions in rural areas.

Relevant tools include support through rural development programmes for training, coaching, workshops, demonstration projects, use of tailored advice etc. – for persons engaged in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, as well as for land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The CAP aims to foster sustainable management of natural resources. This explicitly includes the objectives of improving water management (including in terms of water quality) and making the farm sector more water-efficient.

Pertinent tools include the water-relevant components of cross-compliance and "greening" (see SDG 15 for further information), various payments through rural development programmes to make farming less intensive (especially agri-environment-climate measures), and support for investments in more efficient irrigation systems.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The CAP aims to increase efficiency of energy use in farming and food processing, as well as to facilitate the supply and use of renewable sources of energy.

Relevant tools include rural development support for investments in generating renewable energy (including on the farm) and in infrastructure for its distribution – with regard to biomass and other renewable sources (for solar, geothermal and wind power).

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The CAP aims to improve the viability of all types of agriculture in all regions, as well as to foster wider social inclusion and reduce poverty in rural areas.

Relevant tools include direct payments and market instruments (for the development of the farm sector, to which many other sectors are connected), the recent initiative to tackle unfair trading practices, as well as risk management tools and rural development support for business start-ups (for new young farmers and non-agricultural businesses) and investments in further business development.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The CAP aims to foster innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, as well as to help provide what is needed for general economic development in rural areas (including access to IT services).

Relevant tools include rural development support for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors (especially through the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability) as well as for broadband infrastructure, general small-scale infrastructure and training.

Illustrative example

The CAP offers explicit support for setting up, expanding and improving broadband infrastructure, as well as for the provision of broadband internet access (i.e. improved connections to infrastructure), and access to e government. According to targets aggregated from the 2014-2020 rural development programmes, in the current programming period, the CAP will help 18 million people living in rural areas to benefit from improved access to ICT services and infrastructure.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

One of the CAP's main objectives is to provide a stable, sustainably produced supply of safe food at affordable prices for consumers. This includes for examples an EU framework on organic farming, and the integration of environmental concerns, such as biodiversity, water management and use and climate change, into the CAP. The CAP is committed to sustainable use of natural resources and the environmentally-sound management of waste, also for food losses.

With regard to the key tools which help to ensure environmentally sustainable production, see SDG 15.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The CAP aims to assist **climate change mitigation and adaptation**.

Relevant tools include those elements of cross-compliance and "greening" (see SDG 15) pertinent to climate change - as well as rural development support for a range of practices and investments that cut greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from farming (e.g. through more climate-friendly equipment), fix carbon in the soil (e.g. through forest-planting) and make farming more climate-resilient (e.g. with less water-intensive cropping patterns).

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The CAP aims to ensure the **sustainable use of natural resources** – including in terms of biodiversity, soil, water and landscapes.

A wide range of tools are relevant. Within the system of direct payments to farmers, "cross-compliance" links payments to various basic environmental standards. Beyond that, the "greening" layer of the system rewards farmers for implementing crop diversity, preserving permanent grassland and maintaining biodiversity-friendly zones or landscape features. Within rural development policy, various area-based payments help farmers to pursue organic farming, implement certain Natura 2000 requirements, farm sustainably in areas facing natural disadvantages (especially mountainous areas), and (through agri-environment-climate measures) make extra efforts to benefit soil, water, air and wildlife. Support for eco-friendly investments can cover resource-efficient technologies, establishment of landscape features, and various forest-related activities (planting, protection against fire and other natural threats etc.) Support for training, the use of advice, and innovation is also relevant.

Illustrative example

Recent production and market trends show the importance that organics has gained over the last decade. Organic farming responds to a specific consumer demand for sustainable food products, promoting more sustainable farming practices and contributing to the protection of the environment and improved animal welfare.

For the 2014-2020 period, the rural development support planned for organic farming amounts to EUR 11.2 billion.

The share of the EU's utilised agricultural area with organic farming has increased from 5.6% in 2012 to 7.5% in 2018 corresponding to an increase from 10.05 to 13.44 million hectare.

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)****Lead DG: AGRI**

Associated DGs: ESTAT

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

The EAGF limits the loss of viable jobs and output within the farm sector and many sectors which depend on it, improves care for the environment and responds to consumer expectations in terms of food security, food safety, food quality and food nutrition. Direct payments provide a basic protection of farm income against the particular shocks to which agriculture is exposed (notably price- and weather-related). At the same time, direct payments are closely tied to requirements and offer public benefits of importance to EU citizens. Cross-compliance links direct payments to standards concerning the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare throughout the EU. Furthermore the "greening" layer of direct payments rewards farmers for additional environmental care (related to crop diversity, permanent grassland and ecologically beneficial zones or landscape features).

The Common Market Organisation provides a framework of rules on issues such as market support measures, product standards, labelling and producer cooperation, helping farmers in times of severe market disturbance, strengthening the competitiveness of farmers and supporting the well-functioning of the internal market.

EU added value of the programme

Within the EAGF, direct payments provide relative income stability to farmers facing significant price and production volatility - which helps to keep the EU's vital high-quality food production base spread around the Union. Market instruments support increasing the potential of certain sectors, organisation and quality improvement and supplement the protection offered by direct payments, stabilising markets in times of serious disturbance. At the same time, the EAGF is closely tied to requirements and public benefits of importance to EU citizens. Cross-compliance links direct payments to standards concerning the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare throughout the EU, while the "greening" layer of payments rewards farmers for additional environmental care (related to crop diversity, permanent grassland and ecologically beneficial zones or landscape features). Finally, the EAGF's Common Market Organisation provides a framework of rules on issues such as market support measures, product standards and labelling. The overall effect is that the EAGF helps to limit losses of viable jobs and output (within the farm sector and the many sectors which depend on it), improve care for the environment and meet consumer expectations. It thus encourages smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, helping to achieve the CAP objectives of viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources (with climate action) and balanced territorial development.

The EAGF adds value by operating at EU level primarily in three ways. First, it responds more effectively and efficiently to cross-border challenges – such as underpinning food security, mitigating climate change, caring for natural resources such as soil, air and water, restoring biodiversity and strengthening economic and social cohesion. Secondly, it preserves a level playing field in the single market. Finally, it makes possible a stronger common position in trade negotiations.

Evaluations of the various elements of the CAP are conducted on a regular basis and their results are incorporated in impact assessments preparing new initiatives. The indicators set out in the context of the common monitoring and evaluation framework¹ will serve as a basis for future evaluations. Based on these, results on the performance of the CAP were presented in 2018 in a report to the European Parliament and Council.²

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The bulk of CAP expenditure is implemented through shared management with the Member States for interventions in agricultural markets and direct support (EAGF) as well as rural development (EAFRD). Implementation vis-à-vis final beneficiaries is delegated to the Member States, while the Commission is responsible for the implementation of the overall legal framework, budget implementation and for Member States' supervision. The CAP legislation provides that Member States shall accredit Paying Agencies which are dedicated bodies responsible for the management and control of Union funds, notably payments to beneficiaries and financial reporting to the Commission.

Only a fraction of CAP expenditure concerns actions under direct management by the Commission: contracts are concluded directly with third parties to supply the Directorate General with data, studies, promotion activities and information and

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 834/2014 of 22 July 2014 laying down rules for the application of the common monitoring and evaluation framework of the common agricultural policy.

² Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and first results on the performance of the Common Agricultural Policy (COM(2018) 790 final)
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/report-implementation-cmef_december2018_en.pdf

communication activities, etc. An important part of the operational management of the promotion of agricultural products is delegated to the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status 2017-2019

Market related expenditure

Within the Common Market Organisation (CMO), sector-specific support programmes are operating at various points in their respective life cycles. For example, for the wine national support programmes, 2019-2023 is the third programming period since the reform in 2009. Support in the wine programmes is concentrated in restructuring of vineyards and wine promotion. The apiculture programmes follow a three-year programming period. In 2019, the Commission approved the apiculture programmes for 2020-2022³ in line with the legal requirements in the CMO regulation.

Support for producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector is implemented on the basis of annual plans. The current triannual support programmes to producers' and inter-branch organisations in the olive oil and table olives sector concern the programming period April 2018-March 2021.

The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, bringing together the former school fruit and school milk schemes under a single legal framework, applied for the first time in school year 2017/2018. All Member States participate in the reformed scheme⁴.

Additional market support measures such as private storage aid and public intervention for certain dairy products or exceptional support measures for certain producers of fruit and vegetables adopted in the wake of the Russian import embargo since the second half of 2014 were progressively discontinued between 2016 and 2018 thanks to an improvement of the market situation in the sectors concerned.

By June 2019, all public stocks of skimmed milk powder bought in between 2015 and 2017 were successfully placed back on the market. Due to the excess in supply following the 2018/19 harvest, the aid for private storage of olive oil was activated in November 2019 (with four tendering sub-periods in November, December 2019, January and February 2020 and a storage period of 180 days).

In general, implementation of the EAGF market related schemes is on track with a positive evolution of the execution over the years and no significant implementation difficulties.

Direct payments

For direct payments, financial years 2014 and 2015 covered pre-reform schemes. In addition, in 2015 the EAGF covered already some elements of the 2013 CAP reform, including the convergence of the direct payments' aid levels between Member States ("external convergence"). As of financial year 2016, the new structure of direct payments has been financed. Beyond the compulsory elements of the new direct payments schemes, Member States have considerable flexibility in the implementation, following their main implementation choices made in 2014. These choices allow Member States to target support at their specific priorities.

The Commission services have since 2014 assisted Member States in preparing and implementing the reformed direct payments through, for example, guidance documents or discussions in expert group meetings. While in financial year 2016, payments to farmers were in certain cases made later than usual, as of financial year 2017, the implementation has returned to a normal rhythm and thanks to the Commission assistance is more and more uniform across Member States. This implementation of the direct payments has been also accompanied by a green Declaration of Assurance from the European Court of Auditors for 2016 - the first year of implementation of post 2013 reform direct payments schemes. Direct payments were free from material error again in 2017 and 2018.

In general, implementation of the direct payments is on track with a positive evolution of the execution over the years, with for example a good progress noted for the execution of the young farmers' scheme.

Key achievements

Market related expenditure

The EU no longer offers agricultural export refunds. However, with fairness and economic efficiency, the CAP strengthens the farm and agri-food sectors' ability to compete on overseas as well as domestic markets. After several years where market support measures in the fruit and vegetables and livestock sectors were needed to rebalance the sectors concerned, as of 2018 a substantial market stabilisation was observed⁵: the exceptional withdrawal measures in fruit and vegetables sector were discontinued as of mid-

³ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/974 of 12 June 2019, OJ L 157, 14.6.2019.

⁴ Greece started to implement the scheme as of school year 2018-2019.

⁵ Between 2015 and 2017, as a result of the combined effect of the end of milk quotas and the Russian ban on a.o. dairy products, milk prices for farmers dropped substantially. Market interventions, including buying up temporarily excess quantities into intervention stocks helped to stabilise the market and prevent the worst for the EU dairy sector. Likewise, exceptional support measures for certain producers of fruit and vegetables have been adopted in the wake of the Russian import embargo since the second half of 2014. They were progressively discontinued between 2016 and 2018.

2018. By 2019, over 380 000 tonnes of public intervention stocks of skimmed milk powder (SMP) were sold, reflecting the improved situation on the dairy market. European agriculture showed its resilience after the recent crises, finding alternative domestic markets and abroad (in particular in Asia and the US), as evidenced by the trade statistics.

Total export values reflect an increase in 2019 compared to 2018 (+ EUR 7.7 billion of agri-food exports following a decrease of EUR 645 million of agri-food exports between 2018 and 2017). Exports of beverages kept on increasing in 2019 by +8.5%. This is the case for wine confirming the success of wine national support programmes witnessed by the long-term development of EU wine exports - which, between 2012 and 2019, continued to increase in value from EUR 8.9 billion to EUR 12.6 billion and bring now a net contribution of EUR 9.8 billion to the EU trade surplus. After increasing strongly in the first year post quota, sugar exports went down to a level similar to the quota period in 2019 (EUR -0.6 billion or -53% compared to 2018).

Exceptional support measures were adopted in 2019 to compensate farmers in Italy for the health and veterinary restrictions to address avian influenza⁶.

In 2019, the Commission reported on the implementation of the apiculture programmes in previous years⁷. The report shows that the uptake of the programmes remained high, showing their relevance. The number of beehives, one indicator of the impact of the EU support measures, continued its long-term increase, and reached more than 17.5 million hives in 2018, the highest number ever notified in the EU. The increase is also reflected in the growth of EU honey production by 16% between 2014 and 2018.

In 2019, the Member States' monitoring reports on the implementation of the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme in the 2017/2018 school year showed that the scheme reached more than 20 million children⁸ or 20% of the total number of children aged 0 to 18 in the EU. School children received more than 65.5 million kilos of fresh fruit or vegetables and 178 million litres of milk. 16 million school children had lessons, lectures or workshops, 6.3 million participated in tasting classes, cooking workshops, etc., 1 million school children participated in school gardens, 1.1 million children visited farms, dairies, farmers' markets and similar activities. The Commission made available a factsheet in all EU languages with key figures and examples to illustrate to the wider public how the school scheme works⁹. A video with activities by schoolchildren in a selection of countries featured amongst the testimonials of actions taken for healthy lifestyles at a seminar that the Commission organised in Brussels in June 2019, gathering public authorities and private stakeholders in the agriculture, health and sports sector¹⁰.

Direct payments

In claim year 2018 (corresponding to financial year¹¹ 2019), the fourth year of implementation of the reformed system, about 6.2 million farmers (-1.6% compared to previous year, in line with the average declining trend¹² in the total number of farmers) benefited from direct payments and the total determined area (154.1 million hectares, relatively stable¹³ since the entry into force of the 2013 CAP reform) covered some 86% of the EU Utilised Agriculture Area (179.1 million hectares).

The re-balancing of the distribution of payments between and within Member States has continued. The various schemes allowing further targeting of the needs of certain categories of beneficiaries, in particular the young farmers, the small farmers and certain specific sectors or regions with structural problems are fully in place. Where necessary, Member States have revised their decisions within the limits of the flexibility given by the new system in order to adjust the modalities of implementation building on the experience gained in the first year.

From claim year 2018, as a result of the agreement on the so-called "Omnibus Regulation"¹⁴, amendments to the rules applicable to certain direct payment schemes came into force. These amendments serve to improve the functioning of the direct payment schemes concerned and to simplify their implementation: e.g. the possibility to overbook the Single Area Payment Scheme; additional review possibilities with regard to voluntary coupled support, decisions on the flexibility between pillars; clarification of

⁶ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1323 of 2 August 2019 on exceptional market support measures for the eggs and poultry meat sectors in Italy, OJ OJ L 206, 6.8.2019.

⁷ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the apiculture programmes, COM(2019)635 final of 17.12.2019

⁸ Source: Member States monitoring reports sent by 31.1.2019, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/school-fruit-vegetables-and-milk-scheme/country_en.

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/school-scheme-factsheet_en.pdf

¹⁰ Tartu call for a healthy lifestyle two years later: seminar to take stock. Brussels, 19 of June 2019, https://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/events/ev_20190619_en

¹¹ The agricultural financial year covers expenditure paid and revenue received and entered in the accounts of the Funds budget by the paying agencies in respect of financial year "N" beginning on 16 October of year "N- 1" and ending on 15 October of year "N".

¹² The number of beneficiaries declines regularly (on average between -2.3% since 2012). This reflects the trend in the total number of farms (see for example <https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/statistics/facts-figures/farm-structures.pdf>). The number of new farmers is always below the number of farmers exiting.

¹³ Since the first year of application of the CAP reform, the determined area is relatively stable at 155-154 million ha. Before that it was around 147-148 million ha. The increase is related to the implementation of the reform, in particular the new allocation of entitlements covering more farmers and thus potentially more areas. Since 2015, the annual changes can be linked to different factors: areas found ineligible by audits excluded, entry of areas not yet declared, exit of other areas...

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), (EU) No 1306/2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1307/2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy, (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and (EU) No 652/2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material (OJ L 350, 29.12.2017, p. 15-49).

the Member States responsibilities with regard to voluntary coupled support with retroactive effect from claim year 2015; amendments to the definition of permanent grassland; the possibility for Member States to stop applying the mechanism of the negative list under the active farmer clause etc. The corresponding alignment of the delegated and implementing acts for direct payments were adopted in 2018.

The "greening" layer of direct payments accounts for 30 percent of Member States' annual direct payment ceilings and covers annual obligations beneficial for the environment and climate (crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grassland, and the dedication of five per cent of arable land to ecologically beneficial areas ("ecological focus areas" or EFAs). As of 2018, 79% of the total EU agricultural area was subject to at least one "greening" obligation, increasing the environmental impact of the measure.

Starting from 2018, the amendments of the "Omnibus Regulation" that covered for greening new optional criteria on ploughing up permanent grassland, simplification of certain EFA and crop diversification rules and the extension of the list of EFA types to some energy crops and land lying fallow for melliferous plants influenced the implementation of greening obligations¹⁵. Modifications of the delegated act for direct payments to take account of the newly introduced EFA types became applicable as of 2019.

For 2017, 2018 and 2019, responding to the consequences of the exceptional weather conditions in several Member States (drought, heavy rainfalls, snowfalls, frost), the Commission granted derogations to certain greening rules (EFA, crop diversification) to alleviate the situation of affected farmers in those countries. For 2018, 7 out of 8 authorised Member States decided to exempt affected farmers from crop diversification rules to help coping with the consequences of exceptional precipitation. Motivated by the need to alleviate the effects of the drought on the availability of fodder for livestock, 7 Member States in 2017, 11 (out of 13 authorised) in 2018 and 6 in 2019 applied derogations to some requirements for land lying fallow, and catch crops counted for crop diversification or ecological focus area obligation. Data for 2018 indicates that 3 to 4% of farmers operated under such relaxed rules from crop diversification which applied on 3 to 4% of arable land that would otherwise have to be diversified according to the standard rules, and that derogated EFA areas appear to have supplemented to some extent the overall areas available for fodder production affected by the drought.

Common monitoring and evaluation framework

As a part of the 2013 CAP reform, the common monitoring and evaluation framework (CMEF) has been improved and expanded to provide reliable information on the extent to which the CAP as a whole is achieving its objectives. This framework includes a set of common impact indicators for the overall CAP, as well as separate result and output indicators for the CAP's first pillar (direct payments and market related expenditure) and second pillar (support for rural development).

On 5 December 2018, the European Commission published an initial report to the Council and European Parliament on the [implementation of the CMEF and the first results assessing the performance of the CAP](#)¹⁶. All the CMEF indicators were also published. Selected indicators are presented visually and interactively in the [dashboard by theme](#), including farming income support, climate change and air quality, market orientation and organic production. In these dashboards, Member States can find already a large part of the information they need to start working on their Strategic Plans for the period post 2020.

By end 2021, a further report will present a more comprehensive assessment of the impact of the CAP.

Simplification

Starting in 2015, a simplification exercise involving the Commission, Member States, other EU institutions and stakeholders has led to a series of changes to regulations and guidance documents to the benefit of Member States' administrations and farmers.

In 2015, legislative amendments had already entered into force or were finalised concerning increased flexibility and simplification in relation to voluntary coupled support; eligibility for the young farmers' payment in the case of farms managed jointly; and five simplifications of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) - including the introduction of preventive preliminary cross-checks. Furthermore, changes were made to guidance documents on direct payments in relation to the implementation of ecological focus area.

A number of further simplifications and modifications of IACS rules, including a lowering of the penalties for area overdeclaration, were introduced with effect for 2016, and a review of certain greening rules after the first year of its application was conducted. In 2017, the Commission pursued amendments of certain greening rules to better specify what is required from farmers, eliminate certain technical requirements, provide more flexibility for farmers or alternative solutions where this would increase the environmental and climate benefit of greening and harmonise selected requirements and conditions. As part of the amended rules, a ban on the use of plant protection products was implemented in 2018 for the first time on EFA areas.

¹⁵ Providing Member States with an option not to classify grassland as 'permanent' if ploughed within a period of 5 years allows accommodating the diversity of agricultural systems across the Union. In 2018, eight MS decided to apply this option. Certain additional flexibility for farmers came from streamlined exemptions from crop diversification or EFA rules for farms with substantial shares of grasslands, fallow land, leguminous crops or crops under water. In turn, new EFA types broadened the choices that Member States may offer to farmers for meeting this requirement. In 2019, 11 MS had fallow land for melliferous on their list of EFAs, 7 opted for adding *Miscanthus* and 5 for *Silphium Perfoliatum*.

¹⁶ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and first results on the performance of the Common Agricultural Policy, COM/2018/790 final

As from 2018, the Commission adopted legal provisions¹⁷ and provided the technical guidance to enable Member States to take advantage of freely available satellite data (the Copernicus programme) to monitor areas claimed for aid as an alternative to carry out often costly on-the-spot checks. Several Member States have decided to introduce 'checks by monitoring' for part of the aid schemes and/or areas as from 2019. This choice of the monitoring approach will equally deliver on the assurance. The monitoring approach is expected to offer great potential for simplification of administrative and control-related tasks, but also for monitoring of the CAP's performance in a much wider sense.

Furthermore, secondary legislation was adapted for greening to follow up on the Omnibus amendments allowing Member States to benefit fully from simplifications. For specific programmes for the outermost regions and smaller Aegean islands, secondary legislation was adapted to clarify and simplify amendments of programmes following the conclusions of an evaluation performed in 2017.

In the area of the CMO, several sector specific-rules have been simplified. The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme (School schemes), which applied as from 1 August 2017, has reduced the administrative and organisational burden and simplified obligations: Member States drew up only one strategy by 31 July 2017, covering a period of 6 years, and are required to submit only one annual request for aid. Moreover, several Member States made use of the synergies that are possible for the monitoring and evaluation reports and, in general, as regards implementation of the scheme (distribution of products, educational measures etc.) Regulation (EU) 653/2014 simplified the provisions on voluntary beef labelling to reduce the administrative burden for both operators and competent authorities. In 2019, the Commission reported on the implementation and impact of these provisions¹⁸. Overall, most Member States and stakeholders consulted for the preparation of the report considered the provisions positively with regard to simplification and effectiveness and reliability of the new system.

At the level of basic acts, the Commission's proposal for a so-called "Omnibus Regulation" included a range of more technical changes to the four basic regulations of the CAP. The Commission proposals covered simplification in a broad sense, including flexibility and subsidiarity. The regulation, in force since 1 January 2018, included most of the Commission's most important simplification proposals. Examples are the provisions on active farmer under direct payments and on the Member State's responsibilities with regard to Voluntary Coupled Support. Also, a number of additional changes proposed by the European Parliament and/or the Council are included, for example on permanent grassland, greening and voluntary coupled support under direct payments and provisions on fruit and vegetables, wine, producer cooperation and competition under the CMO.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The **support study for the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal in the agricultural sector** found that the relevant measures of the CAP have a positive impact on generational renewal in agriculture and employment, despite the difficulty to isolate the effects of individual CAP measures and the strong influence of external factors. The generational renewal measures support the performance of farm businesses, their resilience and the secure transfer of farms from an older to a younger generation. Rather than encouraging farm succession, these measures are more likely to increase the socio-economic sustainability of farm businesses after young farmers have set up their holding. Particularly in marginal or remote areas, the impact of young farmers measures may be dwarfed by negative influences including socio-cultural and wider economic disincentives to farm or live in rural areas. Differences in the magnitude of impact were determined by a combination of the underlying socio-economic and cultural context, CAP instruments selection and measures design, as well as delivery choices and financial provisions. In addition, the measures are often insufficient, on their own, to address two main barriers to generational renewal: access to land and capital. Facilitating this access may require improving the coherence of national legal, social and fiscal policies with CAP generational renewal goals. In fostering social capital, infrastructure and good governance in rural areas, the evidence from the case studies suggest that CAP generational renewal measures have a limited, mainly positive direct and indirect impact. The evaluation found varied evidence of the coherence of CAP measures with each other. The support study was published in the last quarter of 2019¹⁹. The finalisation of this evaluation, after scrutiny by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, is foreseen for the third quarter of 2020.

The **support study for the evaluation of marketing standards (contained in the CMO Regulation, the "breakfast directives" and CMO secondary legislation)**²⁰ found that EU marketing standards have generally been effective in achieving their intended objectives, and have not caused significant unintended/unexpected effects, including deadweight. The assessment identified a number of clear success stories in terms of effectiveness, while a few limitations affecting specific sectors, and related to specific aspects. A specific issue was identified regarding the improper use of protected dairy terms (e.g. milk, butter, cheese, yoghurt) for marketing plant-based substitutes for dairy products. The assessment also revealed that consumer organisations, and even more so consumers, have limited awareness of EU marketing standards. The evaluation study found that the potential for simplification of EU marketing standards is generally limited. The findings provided a positive judgement on the coherence of EU marketing standards. However, the combination in EU marketing standards on requirements that are related to (i) product quality, (ii) food safety and (iii) the provision of food information to consumers might result in some overlaps and inconsistencies, and may pose

¹⁷ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/746 of 18 May 2018 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 809/2014 as regards modification of single applications and payment claims and checks, OJ L 125, 22.5.2018, p. 1–7

¹⁸ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and impact of voluntary labelling provisions under Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 as amended by Regulation (EU) No 653/2014, COM(2019)625 final of 13.12.2019.

¹⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/evaluation-policy-measures-agriculture/impact-common-agricultural-policy-generational-renewal-local-development-and-jobs-rural-areas_en

²⁰ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/eb479df6-11c5-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-HTML/source-120748374>

challenges for enforcement and controlling activities. Finally, the study found that EU marketing standards provide significant added value vis-à-vis international and private marketing standards, mainly stemming from their mandatory nature across the EU and requirements tailored to the specific operational and market situation of the EU. The publication of the support study is envisaged in March 2020. The outcome of this evaluation study will feed into a Staff Working Document to be published in the third quarter of 2020.

The **feasibility study for the technical design of a Nutrient Management tool**²¹ concluded with the feasibility of such a system. The usefulness of nutrients management based on digital services has been demonstrated through existing initiatives, and the information generated by its services can serve a variety of stakeholders (farmers, Paying Agencies, advisors, data-driven users). The study indicated the benefits of a cloud-based platform, as an application available from a computer or a mobile device (for on-field decisions and recording). The scope includes minimum elements and functionalities that are defined and these functionalities should be able to evolve and integrate new modules (i.e. water and pesticides management).

The **study on the implementation of the conformity checks of the marketing standard in the olive oil sector throughout the EU**²² found that the overall provisions on working mechanisms of the conformity checks on olive oils are judged positively by most of the operators and competent authorities. Stakeholders of the olive oil sector generally value the organisation of conformity checks and recognise that their implementation at national level has improved over time ensuring a better quality of the product. The study identified risk analysis as the core activity for targeting the controls on products that have the higher risk of non-compliances. It found that the minimum number of checks foreseen in the relevant provisions are not sufficiently representative. The most problematic aspect of the EU system of conformity checks emerged in relation to the organoleptic assessment and the tasting panels, which seem to produce inconsistent results across different panels. The study also found a lack of certainty to identify the actor of the supply chain who is responsible for a non-compliance or a suspected fraudulent practice and observed that the majority of Member States do not have in place a specific system of penalties for non-conformities on olive oil. The contractor provided a number of recommendations to overcome certain shortcomings.

The study on **EU quality schemes** provides an update and comparison of the volume, value and trade of products registered as a protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI), geographical indication (GI) or traditional speciality guaranteed (TSG). The study provides a comparative analysis of these parameters against standard products and an assessment of EU-27 trade (in view of the UK's withdrawal from the Union). The study presents a rich set of data on the state of play and evolution between 2011-2017, such as the:

- (i) 42% growth in the sales value of GI/TSG products since 2010, estimated at EUR 77.15 billion in EU28, which is 7% of all food and drinks in EU28 (7.3% in EU27), of which 51% generated by wine, 87% gathered by France, Italy, Germany, the UK and Spain, and with 5% of the most valuable designations (over EUR 100 million sales value) accounting for 73% of total sales value;
- (ii) estimated export value of GIs/TSGs at EUR 17.03 billion, representing 15.5% of the total EU exports of food and drinks to non-EU countries (of which 50% wine);
- (iii) 38% increase in the value premium of GIs since 2010, despite a marginal decline in the premium rate (from 2.14 to 2.07 over the same period).

The contractor concludes with some recommendations on improving the quality of data collection regarding products under the EU quality schemes. This study will be published in March/April 2020.

The study on **Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG) in policy making**²³ concluded that, compared to other Better Regulation consultation tools, CDGs offer the highest overall information potential and can bring added value with a high level of interactivity and transparency. However, this potential did not appear to be fully realised. It is not possible to establish a direct, causal link between the output of the CDG meetings and policy development and monitoring, given that (i) the format appeared to prevent Member Organisations from developing agreed suggestions and requests; (ii) the timing of the consultation of the CDGs might be too late. CDGs seemed to fulfil their tasks to hold a regular dialogue and to monitor policy developments, but their role to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice and to deliver an opinion on specific matters is not accomplished in full. The study found that Chairs (and Vice-Chairs) have a large impact on the ability of the CDGs to fulfil their tasks. In addition, CDGs lacked a sufficiently clear definition of balanced representation of all interests and the selection procedure for Member Organisations was not fully transparent, notably on the criteria for the allocation of seats.

The key findings of the evaluations of the CAP measures applicable in the wine sector, of the impact of the CAP measures towards the general objective “viable food production” and of the impact of the CAP on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions have been presented in the Programme Statement 2020 (SWD references not yet available).

ECA special reports

Special report 04/2019: **The control system for organic products has improved, but some challenges remain**

²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-tool-increase-sustainable-use-nutrients-across-eu-2019-feb-19_en

²² https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/evaluation-policy-measures/products-and-markets/implementation-conformity-checks-olive-oil-sector-throughout-eu_en

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) concluded that the EU organic sector has developed rapidly over recent years. Following up on their Special Report 9/2012 published in June 2012, the ECA found that the control system had improved. The ECA's recommendations had generally been implemented, but some challenges remained. The ECA recommended to address the remaining weaknesses identified in the Member States for EU products, to improve the supervision of imported organic products through better cooperation as well as to carry out more complete traceability checks.

The Commission welcomed the positive conclusion of the Court that the control system for organic products in the internal market has improved substantially. The Commission also shared the view that some challenges remain, in particular in the supervision of imports of organic products from third countries. The Commission is aware of the increasing risks and challenges caused by the rapid growth of the organic market and the development of imports. The Commission has already started to implement measures to face this problem, for instance, by developing the Electronic Certificate of Inspection in the frame of the TRACES system that substantially improved the traceability of the organic products imported from third countries. It is, however, of utmost importance that not only the Commission, but also the Member States put in place actions to better coordinate and enhance controls both in Member States and at the border.

Special report 18/2019: EU greenhouse gas emissions: well reported, but better insight needed into future reductions

The ECA assessed the quality checks done on the EU greenhouse gas inventory and examined the additional information on planned reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions, i.e. EU projections and reference scenario, long-term strategies, quantification of the effects of EU policies and measures. The ECA concluded that the EU emission data were appropriately reported, but that the Commission needed better insight into future greenhouse gas emission reductions. In relation to the CAP, the ECA recommended to ensure that the future CAP strategic plans contribute to achieving the 2050 reduction targets.

The Commission agreed that the development of policies for key sectors, such as agriculture, should be consistent with the long-term perspective as presented in the Commission vision for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050. In addition, it was recalled that Member States would have to prepare CAP strategic plans that would be approved, and their implementation monitored, by the Commission.

Special report 23/2019: Farmers' income stabilisation: comprehensive set of tools, but low uptake of instruments and overcompensation need to be tackled

The ECA found that the CAP offers a comprehensive range of preventive instruments to increase farmers' resilience, but that the impact of these on farmers' behaviour is limited. The use of EU support for insurance schemes remains low and has benefitted only a fraction of farmers. No specific criteria were used to consider the use of exceptional measures following the Russian ban. The ECA considered also that the EU support for withdrawing products for free distribution was costly, leading to some overcompensation cases.

The Commission recognises the importance of having the right tools to prevent and manage risks and crises, in particular for the agricultural sector, a more vulnerable sector in relation to adverse weather and global price volatility. In this sense, the current CAP helps farmers through income support, market measures, support for risk management tools, and training and investments under rural development. In addition, the Commission has proposed to go further in its proposals for the future CAP. In particular, the Commission has proposed that risk management tools under rural development will become mandatory for all Member States, including financial contributions to premiums for insurance schemes and mutual funds, and investments and training to help farmers prevent risks or deal with their consequences. An EU-level platform on risk management is also foreseen to be set up to help all the actors involved to share knowledge, exchange experience and best practice.

Forthcoming implementation

Further to a Commission proposal, the European Parliament and the Council adopted in 2019 a Regulation providing certainty and continuity in the granting of support to European farmers in the years 2019 and 2020: Regulation (EU) 2019/288 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards certain rules on direct payments and support for rural development in respect of the years 2019 and 2020.

Taking into account the delay in the ongoing legislative procedure for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy for the period post 2020 and in order to assure the continuity in granting income support to farmers and in supporting rural development measures in 2021, to preserve for 2020 the financial flexibility given to Member States on possible transfer of amounts between the two CAP pillars and to assure consistency with the future MFF 2021-2027, the Commission presented two proposals containing the necessary transitional arrangements:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards financial discipline as from financial year 2021 and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards flexibility between pillars in respect of calendar year 2020 (COM (2019) 580 of 31/10/2019). Regulation (EU) 2020/127 was adopted by the European Parliament and Council on 29/01/2020²⁴ and;
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the EAFRD and by the EAGF in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No

²⁴ [OJL 27, 31.1.2020, p. 1–5](#)

229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021 (COM (2019) 581 of 31/10/2019).

As regards CMO, various developments occurred concerning sector-specific support programmes, according to the stages reached in their respective life cycles. A new programming period for the wine national support programmes started in 2019 and runs until 2023. Promotion, reconversion and restructuring, harvest insurance, investments and innovation measures are to be continued in the new programmes.

The current triannual programmes in the olive oil and table olives sector started in April 2018 in Greece, France and Italy.

A reformed information and promotion policy is applicable since 1 December 2015. The annual work programme setting out the strategic priorities for promotion measures in 2020 is implemented through the publication of calls for proposals in January 2020. In 2020, more than two thirds of the available funding is earmarked for promoting EU food products in non-EU countries, in particular those with which there is a large potential for increasing EU agri-food exports.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Refer to Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) programme statement for more information, which are relevant for both EAGF and EARDF.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008. Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 Council Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 of 16 December 2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products	2014 - 2020	307 994,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Total	43 778,1	43 454,9	42 220,3	42 610,7	43 233,1	43 191,9	43 410,1	301 897,9

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	43 191,947	98,90 %	43 113,029	98,46 %	43 410,106	84,61 %	43 380,032	84,21 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	44 806,350	98.12 %	44 932,916	97.67 %	44 514,417	83.55 %	44 687,210	83.18 %

(*) 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

To promote a viable food production

In order to promote a viable food production; one of the main objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of farmers and agricultural employees engaged in agriculture. Agricultural factor income per full-time worker is increasing compared to 2013 levels (the agricultural factor income measured as index increased from 112 in 2013 to 123 in 2019) as well as the total factor productivity in

the agricultural sector. However, agricultural income is lagging behind income compared to the rest of the economy and it is more volatile due to agricultural price volatility as well as variability of yields exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The support study²⁵ for the evaluation of the impact of CAP measures towards the general objective of "viable food production" confirms that direct payments allow farmers to better cope with the negative income effects caused by drops in agricultural prices, hence contribute to the stability of farms income. Yet, despite CAP direct support, a large share (74% in 2015) of farm labour does not reach the benchmark of the average national labour productivity. The study observed that the CAP 2014-2020 allowed increasing efficiency, by better targeting support to farms which needed it most. However, part of the expenditure (33% of total direct support in 2015) could be saved or redistributed more efficiently to farmers that need it most (i.e. farms that do not reach the reference benchmark). Furthermore, EU market prices are moving closer to world market prices meaning that EU farmers have become more competitive internationally while receiving non-trade distorting support. In addition, the evaluation study found that market measures helped to limit domestic prices volatility of most agricultural products. For most agricultural products concerned by market measures, volatility of domestic prices is lower than that of international prices.

Despite the positive performance of the agricultural sector, there are still important challenges that need to be addressed in the following years: farmers' income is still lagging behind salaries in the whole economy and remains dependent on direct support. On average for the last five years, around 40% of the agricultural entrepreneurial income of the EU-farming community depends on direct support. Furthermore, a substantial part of the sector continues to face low profitability - due inter alia to the EU's high production standards, high costs of production factors and the fragmented structure of the primary sector.

In that context, the proposals for the CAP post-2020 will aim, among other objectives:

- to support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security;
- to enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation; and
- to improve the farmers' position in the value chain.

To promote a sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture have declined substantially between 1990 and 2010. However, the long-term decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture has slowed down in recent years. Since then, emission levels appear to be relatively stable but slightly increased in 2017. This is mainly due to an increase of the EU cattle herd, an augmented use of fertiliser as well as the farm management of cropland. The Commission services continue to monitor closely the evolution of this indicator and the future CAP will pay specific attention to it. The support study²⁶ of the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on climate change and GHG emissions assessed the impact of CAP measures on agriculture's GHG emissions and on the sector's ability to adapt to climate change. The study found that although the CAP has a strategic objective in respect of climate action, it lacks specific targets.

The support study of the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on water²⁷ highlighted that Member States' implementation choices determine the extent to which the CAP measures and instruments meet the EU objective of sustainable management of water. Almost all farmers benefiting from the CAP support at EU level systematically implement cross-compliance and greening measures. They are considered as effective in maintaining minimum practices beneficial for water. In the context of the necessary adaptation of agriculture to climate change, greater attention should be paid to quantitative water issues, and notably to water savings.

The support study of the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on habitats, landscapes and biodiversity²⁸ concluded that the presence of the CAP has raised Member States' ambition towards addressing biodiversity objectives as well as the level of funding. However, more could be done by Member States to ensure that their biodiversity priorities are well reflected in their CAP decisions. Member States have not made sufficient use of the available CAP instruments and measures to protect semi-natural features, in particular grassland.

Despite the positive contribution of the CAP to improve the environmental performance of the EU agricultural sector, substantial environmental challenges remain. The EU has committed itself to further deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions; the key natural resources of soil, air and water are still under pressure in many areas; and the available indicators on farm and forest biodiversity still do not paint a rosy picture. The citizens of the EU expect the CAP to make a stronger contribution to care for the environment and climate. Furthermore, there is a need to improve the effectiveness and targeting of the policy. Taking these challenges into account, the future CAP has an explicit commitment to "aim higher" with regard to the environment and climate. At the same time,

²⁵ The publication of the study is foreseen together with the SWD in principle by summer 2020.

²⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/evaluation-policy-measures/sustainability/evaluation-cap-climate-change-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions_en

²⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/evaluation-policy-measures/sustainability/impact-cap-water_en. The outcome of this evaluation study will feed into a single Staff Working Document for Water, Biodiversity and Soil envisaged for the first quarter of 2021.

²⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/evaluation-policy-measures/sustainability/impact-cap-habitats-landscapes-biodiversity-0_en. The outcome of this evaluation study will feed into a single Staff Working Document for Water, Biodiversity and Soil envisaged for the first quarter of 2021.

taking into account the need for simplification, the current "greening measures" are replaced by a new green architecture based on the following three objectives:

- contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;
- foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air ; and
- contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes.

The European Green Deal, and especially the forthcoming Farm to Fork Strategy that aims to make the European food system more sustainable, among others, by reducing the risk and use of pesticides, fertilisers and antibiotics, will set the ambition of the future CAP in this regard.

To promote a balanced territorial development

Rural development policy through the CAP lifts the economic resilience of both the farm sector and non-agricultural businesses through support for setting up businesses, business development and diversification, building knowledge, making investments, establishing (and getting connected to) infrastructure and services (including in relation to ICTs), pursuing innovation and working with others in new ways. Among others, the employment rate in rural areas has increased and the gap with urban areas has disappeared. 68.1 % of the population aged 15 to 64 were in jobs in rural areas, an increase of almost 5 percentage points compared to 2013.

While many rural areas remain vibrant and continue to thrive, the impact of ageing and depopulation affects negatively some rural areas, notably those facing socio-economic decline. Demographic change presents a number of challenges for European society, not least for rural communities. Rural areas are a core part of our identity and our economic potential offering many opportunities that need support in order to be fully unleashed. These challenges and opportunities will be explored in the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas.

General objectives

Look at CAP Programme Statement. General objectives of Common Agricultural Policy apply for both EGAF and EARDF.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and enhance its value share in the food chain

Performance (valid for specific objectives 1 to 3)

With fairness and economic efficiency, the CAP strengthens the farm and agri-food sectors' ability to compete on overseas as well as domestic markets. After several years where additional market support measures in the fruit and vegetables and livestock sectors were needed to rebalance the sectors concerned, as of 2018 a substantial market stabilisation was observed: the exceptional withdrawal measures in fruit and vegetables sector were discontinued as of mid-2018. By 2019, over 380 000 tonnes of public intervention stocks of skimmed milk powder (SMP) were sold, reflecting the improved situation on the dairy market.

European agriculture showed its resilience after the recent crises, finding alternative domestic markets and abroad (in particular in Asia and the US).

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information valid for specific objectives 1 to 3

08 02 03 ²⁹ – Markets	(appropriations EUR 73 million)
Needs in 2020 budget:	2 680.1
Appropriations requested in 2020 budget:	2 530.1
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2020 budget:	150.0
Needs in 2021 DB:	2 603.1
Appropriations requested in 2021 DB:	2 603.1
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2021 DB:	0.0

Budget estimates for 2021 are prepared based on the Commission’s proposals for Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and the post-2020 CAP, including also the Commission proposal for CAP transitional rules for 2021(COM(2019) 581 final of 31.10.2019). It is assumed that the co-legislators will adopt these transitional provisions in the course of 2020.

The estimated budgetary needs for market expenditure in 2021 are EUR 77 million lower than in budget 2020. Estimated expenditure for the Member States’ wine programmes and support to the fruit and vegetables sector represent around 72% of the requested appropriations for budget article 08 02 03, with only minor changes in the budget needs between 2020 and 2021. Support for the outermost regions (POSEI), agricultural information and promotion actions as well as the school schemes operate on the basis of pre-allocated envelopes of around EUR 200 million each and budget needs for these schemes show relatively little

²⁹ 2020 budget includes residual payments and exceptional measures under the “99” Other measures items, whereas in 2021 draft budget these measures are not included under the 08 02 03 line

variation from one year to the other. For beekeeping, an increase from EUR 39 million to EUR 59 million is foreseen as a result of a higher allocation as part of the CAP proposals for 2021-2027.

The fruit and vegetables and dairy markets remain particularly sensitive to poor global economic performance in general. Overall, the uncertainty regarding the outlook for most agricultural markets remains and especially the uncertainty due to Brexit and US sanctions play a role in the development of the export demand for EU agro-food products. For olive oil, a high production for one campaign together with very high stocks led to opening a private storage aid scheme in 2019. Moreover, outbreaks of Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever in some Member States cause considerable market disturbance in the affected areas. However, the Draft Budget 2021 includes no appropriations for market support measures related to outbreaks of animal diseases, as this information is currently unknown.

Overall, the Commission has based its estimates on a favourable outlook with balanced markets and foresees to update its estimates in an Amending Letter to the Draft Budget 2021 in light of latest market developments and perspectives.

Indicator 1: Share of EU agricultural exports in world market								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							
17.2%	Actual results							Share in world market maintained
				17.0%	17.3%			

Source: IHS Markit/Global Trade Atlas (GTA)

Indicator 2: Share of value added for primary producers in the food chain								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							
Primary sector EU28 Value added (in EUR billion): 214.00	Actual results							Improved situation of primary producers in food chain
	221.00	214.00	215.00	234.28				
2015	Milestones foreseen							
Processing sector EU28 Value added (in EUR billion): 237.00	Actual results							Improved situation of primary producers in food chain
	226.00	237.00	243.00	252.49				
2015	Milestones foreseen							
Retail sector - including services EU28 Value added (in EUR billion): 455.00	Actual results							Improved situation of primary producers in food chain
	422.00	455.00	470.00	492.50				

Source: Eurostat – National Accounts, Structural Business Statistics

Expenditure related outputs

Note: Refers to specific objectives 1 to 3

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Fruit & vegetables: Proportion of the value of production marketed through producer organisations (POs) in value of the total production ³⁰	05 02 08 03	47% ³¹	699
Olive oil and table olives national support programmes – Number of co-financed programmes	05 02 06 05	130 (2018-2021) ³²	46
Wine: National support programmes–Restructuring: Number of hectares	05 02 09 08	75 000	468
Wine: National support programmes – Investments and promotion: Number of projects and beneficiaries	05 02 09 08	7 000	454

³⁰ The budget figure relates to appropriations and is after deduction of the estimated assigned revenue to be available to this item at EUR 150 million for 2020.

³¹ Estimated organization rate and EU contribution to the Operational Funds based on 2015 annual reports

³² Data refers to the current olive oil and table olives national support programmes until end of March 2021. Notifications on programmes for the subsequent programming period for olive oil and table olives will be available in May 2021.

Public intervention: Volume of intervention stocks (skimmed milk powder)	05 02 12	0 t (ending stock Sept 2019)	0
Private storage: Volume of private storage in tonnes (olive oil)	05 02 06 03	142 000 t ³³	0
Private storage: Volume of private storage in tonnes (dairy)	05 02 12	0	0
Apiculture: National programmes for the apicultural sector: number of programmes and expenditure	05 02 15 06	28	39
Horizontal promotion programmes: Number of programmes accepted	05 02 10	81 (2019)	177
EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme (applicable since 1 August 2017): number of beneficiaries per school year	05 02 18	Around 20,8 million children ³⁴	215

Outputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fruit & vegetables: Proportion of the value of production marketed through producer organisations (POs) in value of the total production.	44.9%	47%	45.4%	48.1%	48.3% ³⁵	47.2%	48.6%
Olive oil and table olives national support programmes. – Number of co-financed programmes.		115	115	115	115 - 130 ³⁶	130	130
Wine: National support programmes – Restructuring: Number of hectares	50 000	55 000	81 000	80 000	73 500	75 000	75 000
Wine: National support programmes – Investments and promotion: Number of projects and beneficiaries	5 000	3 500	6 500	6 500	7 000	7 000	7 000
Public intervention: Volume of intervention stocks ³⁷	0	Butter: 0 SMP: 17 000	Butter: 0 SMP: 355 200	363 300	280 151	0	0
Private storage: Volume of private storage in tonnes (olive oil) concerned by EU financial aid in calendar year	0	0	0	0	0	0	142 000
Private storage: Volume of private storage in tonnes (dairy) bought in calendar year	Butter: 22 000 SMP: 17 000	Butter: 141 000 SMP: 52 000 Cheese: 32 000	Butter: 144 000 SMP: 89 000 Cheese: 53 000	Butter: 0 SMP: 26 000 Cheese: 0	0	0	0
Apiculture: National programmes for the apicultural sector: number of programmes (% of expenditure on available funds previous year)	No indicator	28	28 (93% in 2015)	28 (94% in 2016)	28 (90% in 2017)	28 (93 % in 2018)	28 (93% in 2019)
Horizontal promotion programmes: Number of programmes accepted ³⁸	34 (2012 decision)	44 (2013 decision)	47 (2014 decision)	74 (2015 decision)	66 (2016 decision and grant agreement)	63 ³⁹ (2017 decision and grant agreement)	79 (2018 decision and grant agreement)
School fruit and vegetable scheme: Number of beneficiaries per school year	8.5 million children in 2011/2012 school year	8.6 million children in 2013/2014 school year	10.28 million children in 2014/2015 school year	11.7 million children in 2015/2016 school year	12.2 million children in 2016/2017 school year		
School milk scheme: Number of beneficiaries and quantity of milk and milk products on which aid has been paid per school year	19.6 million children and 309 164 tonnes (school year 2012-13)	19.1 million children and 312 546 546 tonnes (school year 2013-14)	20.1 million children and 308 732 tonnes (school year 2014-15)	18.6 million children and 308 606 tonnes (school year 2015-16)	18.1 million children and 285 660 tonnes (school year 2016-17)		
EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme (applicable since 1/8/2017): Number of beneficiaries per school year						Around 20,2 million children in	Around 20,5 million children in

³³ The quantities reflect the public storage measure decided in the course of the 2020 budget year.

³⁴ Estimate based on the preliminary figures on implementation of the scheme in the 2017/2018 school year. Source: Member States' annual monitoring reports for 2017/2018, due by 31.1.2019.

³⁵ 2018, 2019 and 2020 estimated based on data available (data non complete)

³⁶ Until March 2018, 115 programmes. From April 2018, 130 programmes

³⁷ Expected ending stocks (end of September).

³⁸ As of 2016, because of the reform of the promotion policy, programmes granted under direct management are also taken into account.

³⁹ Grant agreement for one approved programme has not been signed thus allowing to grant the first two programme proposals from the reserve list in Annex II to Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 6934.

								2017/2018 school year ⁴⁰	2018/2019 school year ⁴¹
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The expenditure related outputs follow the expected developments⁴². For the fruit and vegetables sector, the value of production marketed through producer organisations increases gradually, which is reflected in the gradual increase of the budget needs for this type of action; collective selling increases the position of the farmers in the value chain, so this can be assessed as a favourable development.

Private and public intervention are only activated if need be in view of the market situation and these punctual support schemes have proven successful in stabilising markets.

Specific Objective 2: To foster market stability

Indicator 1: Export refunds Ratio of the volume of the products exported with export refunds and the total EU production per given period

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Beef: 0%	Actual results							0%
					0%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Pig meat: 0%	Actual results							0%
					0%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Poultry: 0%	Actual results							0%
					0%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Cereals, rice & sugar: 0%	Actual results							0%
					0%			

Narrative: Used only in case of market crisis (seen against market development), that is why intended target is 0%

Source: DG AGRI

Indicator 2: Public intervention, ratio of volume of the products bought in the intervention storage and the total EU production of those respective products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							
2.1%	Actual results							0.0%
					0.0%			

Comment: No quantity entered in public intervention and public storage in the animal products sectors in 2018 and 2019

Source: DG AGRI

Indicator 3: Private storage, Ratio of volume of the products placed into the publicly aided private storage and the total EU production of those respective products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2017	Milestones foreseen							

⁴⁰ Source: Member States' annual monitoring reports for 2017/2018 sent by 31.1.2019.

⁴¹ Estimate. Figures only available once Member States submit their annual monitoring reports, due by 31.1.2020.

⁴² The outputs relate to a European Union of 28.

Butter: 0%	Actual results							0.00%
	0.99%	6.10%	6.00%		0.00%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
SMP: 1.8%	Actual results							0.00%
	1.33%	3.40%	5.70%	1.80%	0.00%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Cheese: 0	Actual results							0.00%
		0.30%	0.50%		0.00%			
2017	Milestones foreseen							
Pig meat: 0	Actual results							0.00%
		0.20%	0.40%		0.00%			

Source: Market monitoring data DG AGRI

Specific Objective 3: To better reflect consumer expectations

Indicator 1: EU commodity prices compared to world prices

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Beef (Australia): 1.23	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	0.96	0.92	1.00	0.98	1.07	0.85		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Beef (Brazil): 1.72	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.47	1.50	1.49	1.56	1.79	1.58		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Pig meat (US): 1.23	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	0.93	1.06	1.22	1.25	1.29	1.42		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Pig meat (Brazil): 1.25	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.02	1.10	1.24	1.18	1.45	1.32		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Poultry: 1.23	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.14	1.08	1.11	1.05	1.10	1.15		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Soft wheat EU: 1.04	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.02	0.94	0.99	1.04	1.06	0.97		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Maize: 1.04								Prices brought

	Actual results							closer to world prices
	1.13	1.03	1.11	1.16	1.20	1.14		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Barley: 0.98	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	0.98	0.99	0.95	0.96	0.98	0.98		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Sugar: 1.90	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.62	1.24	0.99	1.23	1.19	1.08		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Butter: 1.27	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.23	1.06	1.09	1.07	1.23	0.98		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Cheddar: 1.10	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.12	1.03	1.02	1.00	1.05	0.90		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
WMP: 0.98	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.11	1.10	1.06	1.07	1.07	1.04		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
SMP: 0.9	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	0.97	0.96	0.99	0.98	0.88	0.89		
2013	Milestones foreseen							
Weighted average: 1.21	Actual results							Prices brought closer to world prices
	1.11	1.09	1.13	1.14	1.19	1.13		

Comment: The ratio between EU and World agricultural commodity prices has changed from the data presented in the previous Programme Statement due to a change of the reference price for pig meat (US).

Source: DG Agriculture and Rural Development, based on European Commission, USDA, World Bank, IGC, London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, National sources.

Expenditure related outputs

The expenditure-related outputs for specific objectives 1 to 3 are now available under specific objective 1.

Specific Objective 4: To sustain farmers' income stability by providing direct income support

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information valid for specific objectives 4 to 6

08 02 05 – Direct payments ⁴³	(appropriations - EUR 3 126 million)
Needs in 2020 budget before financial discipline (incl. crisis reserve):	42 020
Needs in 2020 budget after financial discipline:	41 542
Appropriations in 2020 budget after financial discipline:	40 621
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2020 budget:	921
Amount of financial discipline in 2020 budget (incl. crisis reserve):	478
Needs in 2021 DB before financial discipline (incl. crisis reserve):	38 728

⁴³ For 2021, the amounts do not include the Direct payments contribution to line 08 02 99 01 Completion of previous EAGF measures.

Needs in 2021 DB after financial discipline:	38 080
Appropriations requested in the 2021 DB after financial discipline:	37 495
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2021 DB:	586
Amount of financial discipline in 2021 DB (incl. crisis reserve):	647

08 02 05 – Direct payments not including measures covered under specific objective 7 (POSEI and Small Aegean Islands)	(appropriations - EUR 3 123 million)
Needs in 2020 budget before financial discipline (incl. crisis reserve):	41 578
Needs in 2020 budget after financial discipline:	41 105
Appropriations in 2020 budget after financial discipline:	40 184

Needs in 2021 DB before financial discipline (incl. crisis reserve):	38 286
Needs in 2021 DB after financial discipline:	37 646
Appropriations requested in the 2021 DB after financial discipline:	37 061

The maximum amount of direct payments which a Member State may pay in a financial year is limited by the ceiling set in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013. For calendar year 2020 (financial year 2021), the total of Annex III amounts to EUR 38 141 million, a EUR 3 257 million decrease compared to calendar year 2019. The main change in the DB 2021 is the exclusion of the UK. Due to the provisions according to which the financial year 2021 budget finances aid applications of claim year 2020, it is not possible to implement a timely adjustment of these allocations to the 2021 EAGF ceilings as the implementation of the 2020 direct payments is already ongoing. In addition, the estimates have been established taking into account the information on the flexibility transfers between direct payments and rural development. The allocation of the national envelopes to the different schemes depends to a large extent on Member States' decisions. Within the changes due to the decrease in the overall amount, certain changes between schemes have occurred, reflecting Member States' implementation choices.

In the period 2014-2020, the financial discipline adjustment is taken into account in establishing the needs for direct payments in line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 1306/2013. In financial year 2021, financial discipline will be needed both to set up the crisis reserve at EUR 487.6 million and to respect the EAGF net ceiling for financial year (FY) 2021 as included in the Commission proposal for the 2021-2027 MFF (as amended on 28/05/2020). The amount of financial discipline is therefore estimated at EUR 647 million with a downwards effect on all lines. The need for financial discipline will be re-assessed, as appropriate, in the context of the autumn Amending Letter to the Draft Budget 2021.

For direct payments (chapter 08 02 05), the budgetary needs after financial discipline decrease by EUR 3 458 million to an amount of EUR 38 080 million in 2021 (or EUR 37 646 million (- EUR 3 459 million), when excluding the amounts covered by Specific Objective 7). Requested appropriations for this chapter decrease by EUR 3 126 million (or EUR 3 123 million when excluding the amounts covered by Specific Objective 7). Significantly less assigned revenue is expected to be available to finance the Basic payment scheme (BPS) (from EUR 921 million in 2020 to EUR 586 million in 2021). As a consequence, the requested appropriations amount to EUR 37 495 million in 2021, including appropriations for the crisis reserve (EUR 487.6 million) entered into article 08 02 05 10.

The needs after financial discipline for the basic payment scheme (BPS) are estimated at EUR 14 837 million which is EUR 2 201 million lower than in 2020. In addition to the exclusion of the UK expenditure, this is also linked to a decrease of the ceiling of EUR 89 million. The needs after financial discipline for the Single area payment scheme (SAPS) amount to EUR 4 410 million, an increase by EUR 34 million compared to the budget year 2020.

The needs for the Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment decrease to EUR 10 802 million after financial discipline, EUR 1 017 million below 2020. For the Redistributive payment, needs decrease by EUR 99 million to EUR 1 582 million after financial discipline.

The needs for the young farmers scheme are estimated at EUR 571 million after financial discipline, a small decrease of EUR 2 million compared to financial year 2020. This is reflecting the positive evolution in the execution of this scheme in spite of the exclusion of the UK from the expenditure.

The needs for the Voluntary coupled support scheme decrease by EUR 81 million to EUR 4 003 million after financial discipline, reflecting a stabilisation in the execution of the scheme and the exclusion of the UK.

The Small farmers scheme is financed from the ceilings available for other schemes. Based on the experience with the execution in previous years showing a decreasing trend, the budget needs for this scheme are estimated at EUR 705 million, EUR 97 million lower than in 2020.

Indicator 1: Share of direct support in agricultural entrepreneurial income (family farm income)									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
2013	Milestones foreseen								
41%	Actual results							To maintain the ratio stable	
	42%	44%	44%	37%	40%				

Narrative: 2012: 44%, 2011: 42%

Comment: Possible slight changes in percentages are due to recalculated Eurostat figures.

Source: EAGF Financial Report and –EUROSTAT Economic Accounts for Agriculture

The indicator looks at the ratio of direct payments to agricultural income. If direct payments stay more or less stable but agricultural income increases, the ratio declines as it did in 2017, when agricultural income was higher than in previous years.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs relate to specific objectives 4 to 6

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number ⁴⁴	EUR million
Single area payment scheme (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	05 03 01 02	39 948	4 376
Basic payment scheme (number of hectares to be paid in thousands) ⁴⁵	05 03 01 10	109 401	16 117
Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	05 03 01 11	140 161	11 819
Voluntary coupled support (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	05 03 02 60	8 952	4 084
Voluntary coupled support (number of heads to be paid in thousands)	05 03 02 60	58 155	

Outputs	2014	2015	2016*	2017*	2018*	2019*	2020
Single area payment scheme (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	41 347	41 360 ⁴⁶	40 753	39 194	40 480	39 948	39 948
Basic payment scheme (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	N/A	N/A	109 141	109 141	109 660	109 401	109 401
Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	N/A	N/A	150 392	150 392	140 161	140 161	140 161
Voluntary coupled support (number of hectares to be paid in thousands)	N/A	N/A	8 087	8 588	9 295	8 952	8 952
Voluntary coupled support (number of heads to be paid in thousands)	N/A	N/A	75 887	63 119	60 728	58 155	58 155

*Source: CATS (Clearance of Accounts Audit Trail). Only preliminary control data are available for claim year 2018. Besides, the indicated data do not cover area paid under the Small Farmer Scheme.

The stable number of expenditure related outputs is in line with the fact that the budget for direct payments is overall rather stable for the entire MFF period 2014-2020 and the fact that the support is primarily meant to stabilise income for farmers.

A decrease can be observed in the number of heads receiving coupled support. This could be an indication that the support level may not be sufficient to maintain current levels for certain sectors in risk of decline.

Specific Objective 5: To promote a more market oriented agriculture, by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support

Indicator 1: Percentage of total direct payments which is decoupled								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
93.24%	Actual results							88.35%
	93.54%	92.69%	88.89%	88.87%	88.48%	88.55%		

Methodology: Data for Budget year

Narrative: 2012: 92.13%

Comment: As from financial year 2016 the figures take into account that in accordance with the methodology for implementation of the Small farmers scheme, as chosen by the Member States, part of the expenditure under that scheme is "decoupled". Execution of the Budget 2019 provisional figures. Budget 2020, based on estimated needs and excluding the crisis reserve.

Source: Budget execution figures until Calendar year 2018/Budget year 2019, Budget figures for Calendar year 2019/Budget year 2020

Specific Objective 6: Contribute to the enhancement of the environmental performance of the CAP through the greening component of the direct payments. Contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture and to making the Common Agricultural Policy more compatible with the expectations of the society through the cross compliance system. Contribute to

⁴⁴ Best estimate based on available information. Sources: For the single area payment scheme, basic payment scheme and the payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment: CATS control data for claim year 2015 (not covering area paid under the Small Farmer Scheme), assumptions needed for certain MS/measures (missing data) (date: 21/12/2016). For Voluntary coupled support: based on notified quantitative limits for claim year 2016.

⁴⁵ The budget figure relates to appropriations and is after deduction of the estimated assigned revenue to be available to this item at EUR 921 million for 2020.

⁴⁶ Agricultural area under SAPS (Annex VIII to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1121/2009).

preventing soil erosion, maintaining soil organic matter and soil structure, ensuring a minimum level of maintenance and avoiding the deterioration of habitats, and protecting and managing water through the standards of good agricultural and environmental condition of land.

Indicator 1: Percentage of CAP payments covered by cross compliance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							
82.4%	Actual results							Maintain percentage
	83.50%	85.70%	81.60%	84.80%	82.70%	81.90%		

Comment: The percentage decreased in 2019 (compared to 2018: 82.7%), because of the lower proportion of Rural Development measures covered by cross-compliance. Measures that are not falling under cross-compliance tend to have an increasing execution over the period and thus the % covered by cross-compliance is expected to decrease over the programming period.

Source: DG AGRI

Indicator 2: Opinion expressed by the public on cross compliance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007	Milestones foreseen							
Support for the reduction of direct payments to farmers not complying with environmental rules: 83%	Actual results							Maintain the positive opinion
		87%		88%				
2007	Milestones foreseen							
Support for the reduction for non-compliance of animal welfare rules: 84%	Actual results							Maintain the positive opinion
		87%		88%				
2007	Milestones foreseen							
Support for the reduction of direct payments to farmers not respecting food safety rules: 86%	Actual results							Maintain the positive opinion
		87%		90%				

Comment: Results of the latest Special Eurobarometer "Europeans, Agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy" published in 2017; new results in 2020.

Source: Eurobarometer

Indicator 3: Control rate for GAEC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							
100%	Actual results							100%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

Narrative: Baseline: All paying agencies fulfilled the mandatory control rate (FR and SE still to notify their data).

Target: 100% implementation of the minimum regulatory control rate.

Source: Control statistics notified annually by MS

Indicator 4: The ratio of permanent grassland within a Member State in relation to the total agricultural area

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Before 2015	Milestones foreseen							
Reference ratio:	Actual results							Reference ratio should not decrease more than 5%
	Ratio has not decreased beyond the limit of 5%; No MS communicated to have triggered a reconversion	1 UK region communicated decline above threshold of 5%, without triggering a reconversion	1 MS communicated decline above threshold of 5%, triggering reconversion obligation	1 UK region communicated decline above threshold of 5%, without triggering a reconversion	2 MS and 1 UK region communicated decline above threshold of 5%	No MS with ratio falling below the limit of 5%		

	obligation	obligation		obligation				
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Narrative: The maintenance of the ratio of permanent grassland means that there should not be, at national or regional level, a decrease by more than 5% of the current ratio of permanent grassland in relation to the total agricultural area by comparison with a reference ratio reflecting this ratio at a reference period.

Comment: Provisional information based on 2015 and 2017 communications from all MS as the notifications are still under assessment. In 2016 one Member State did not yet sent a notification, in 2018 3 Member States did not yet sent a notification. In 2019, the data is available for 21 MS.

Source: MS annual notification (ISAMM – Information System for Agricultural Market Management and Monitoring)

Indicator 5: Share of area under greening practices								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							
75%	Actual results							Maintain the share
		75%	77%	79%	79%			

Methodology: The share is calculated as total agricultural area for farms with at least one greening obligation on total agricultural area from Eurostat statistics revised by DG AGRI.

Comment: Provisional information based on communications from Member States, where the assessment of notifications remains to be completed in some cases. 2017 notifications sent by all MS. Year 2018: Including notifications from 21 MS, so the indicated share is provisional.

Source: MS annual notifications (ISAMM - Information System for Agricultural Market Management and Monitoring).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs for specific objectives 4 to 6 are now to be found under specific objective 4.

Specific Objective 7: To promote local agricultural production and to ensure a fair level of prices for commodities for direct consumption and for processing by local industries in the Outermost Regions of the EU and in the Aegean Islands

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information

05 03 02 50 and 52 – POSEI + Smaller Aegean Islands – European Union support programmes (2020)	(appropriations - EUR 13 million)
08 02 05 01 – POSEI + Smaller Aegean Islands – European support programmes (2021)	
Appropriations requested in 2020 budget:	437
Appropriations requested in 2021 DB:	424

For the support to the POSEI and Smaller Aegean Islands, the programmes are divided into two types of measures: specific supply arrangements financed under item 08 02 03 01 and support for the local products which are split into market aids (item 08 02 03 01) and direct payments (item 08 02 05 01).

The level of requested appropriations remains almost unchanged as Member States notified only minor modifications of their programmes.

Indicator 1: Support to the Local Production (SLP) to maintain/develop the agricultural production: Utilised agricultural area (variation with respect to the previous year)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM: Mainland France:	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
				26 802 374	26 813 866			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM: Guadeloupe: 30 415	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	30 965	30 695	30 415	30 066	30 193			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM: Martinique: 22 827	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	23 822	23 492	22 827	22 079	23 583			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM:								To at least maintain

Guyane: 31 208	Actual results							and develop the agricultural production
	29 425	31 268	31 208	32 624	32 374			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM: Réunion: 41 945	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	43 411	43 061	41 945	42 329	41 943			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM: Mayotte: 8 739	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
			8 739	20 000	20 000			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEICAN: Mainland Spain	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
				23 432 700	26 295 539			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEICAN: Canaries: 86 026	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	83 221	85 736	86 026	86 039	86 039			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIMA: Mainland Portugal	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
				3 641 592	3 641 691			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIMA: Madeira: 4 893	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	5 262	5 262	4 893					
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIMA: Azores: 123 793	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	118 589	118 589	123 793	:				
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Smaller Aegean Islands: 332 091	Actual results							To at least maintain and develop the agricultural production
	321 455	299 135	332 091	293 920	333 840			

Comment: The Annual Implementation Report (AIR) transmitted by Member States in year N provides data corresponding to year N-1. In this sense, the column "former results" shows data from 2016 extracted from the AIR transmitted in 2017, while the column "latest known result" shows 2017 data from the AIR transmitted in 2018. Yet, Spain's data are gathered late; former results, extracted from the 2016 AIR correspond to 2015, whereas the latest available data included in the 2017 AIR are from 2016. In addition, Portugal's farm structure data are collected every four or five years (data are available for 2013 and 2016), thus both former data and latest known data refer to year 2016. Nevertheless, the variation is calculated with respect to the previous available data, i.e. 2013.

Indicator 2: Specific Supply Arrangements (SSA) to ensure the supply of essential products: SSA coverage rate (relation between quantities of products benefiting from SSA support and total quantities of the same products introduced in the respective outermost region)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIDOM (all products): 36%	Actual results							100%
	39%	36%	36%	33%	35%			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEICAN (Cereals only): 97.49%	Actual results							100.00%
	97.30%	99.50%	97.49%	70.02%	70.76%			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIMA Madeira (Cereals only): 99.8%	Actual results							100.00%
	99.20%	99.80%	99.80%	99.20%	98.50%			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POSEIMA Azores (Cereals only): 82.4%	Actual results							100.0%
	83.1%	82.4%	82.4%	84.0%	77.0%			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Smaller Aegean Islands (Animal feed stuff only): 99.8%	Actual results							100.00%
	99.40%	99.80%	99.80%	100.59%	99.47%			

Narrative: Target: SSA coverage rate of 100%

Source: MS Annual Reports

Indicator 3: Specific Supply Arrangements (SSA) to ensure an equitable level of prices for essential products: Price index with respect to the price in the mainland for some representative products or baskets of products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEIDOM: Average of 5 DOM/metropole: 7.25%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	14.70%	7.70%	7.25%	5.75%				
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEICAN: Canaries (Wheat 100kg): 92%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	123%	126%	92%	119%	111%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEICAN: Canaries (Milking cow's animal feed 100kg): -14%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	13%	13%	-14%	9%	12%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEICAN: Canaries (Beef cattle animal feed 100kg): 0%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	20%	19%		22%	20%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEIMA:								Reduction of the

Madeira: 1%	Actual results							gap within mainland prices
	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEIMA: Azores (Rice): 7%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	7%	8%	7%	6%	4%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEIMA: Azores (Granulated white sugar): 17%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	2%	6%	17%	17%	11%			
	Milestones foreseen							
POSEIMA: Azores (Bread): 15%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	16%	15%	15%	15%	13%			
	Milestones foreseen							
Smaller Aegean Islands (Animal feeding stuff): 29%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	27%	29%	29%	30%	31%			
	Milestones foreseen							
Smaller Aegean Islands (Flour): 5.72%	Actual results							Reduction of the gap within mainland prices
	9.80%	5.72%	5.72%	5.00%	8.00%			

Comment: In their annual implementation reports for 2017, the Member States concerned have communicated data related to the common performance indicators, as requested by Annexes VIII and II to Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) No 180/2014 and 181/2014 respectively. However, the provided data may not be fully in line with the requirements of these annexes and thus not mutually comparable. Therefore, these indicators shall be evaluated with due caution. Discussion with the Member States concerned is ongoing in order to improve the collection of these data. The French authorities use in their annual reports a different methodology and data source to calculate this indicator (calculation based on value and not quantities, data taken from customs sources and not from SSA operators). Data provided for Madeira refers to prices for foodstuffs in general (indicator 2b). Under the current POSEI Regulation indicator 2b is compulsory in the Annual Implementing Report. PT communicates no separate data for Indicator 2a and Indicator 2b. Therefore it was agreed to use for Indicator 3 in the Programme Statement the figure provided by PT under Indicator 2b "foodstuffs".

POSEIMA: Azores: - granulated white sugar: Change of product: the indicator for oil is no longer available due to modification of the programme.

Source: MS Annual Reports

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Regime for outermost regions of the EU: direct aids for banana reference area /quantities)	05 03 02 50	ES: 420 000 tonnes PT: 19 160 tonnes FR: 319 084 tonnes	276
Other	05 03 02 50 05 03 02 52		161
TOTAL			437

Outputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Regime for outermost regions of the EU: direct aids for banana reference area (quantities: tonnes)	ES: 371 013	ES: 371 013	ES: 420 000	ES: 420 000	ES: 420 000	ES: 420 000	ES: 420 000
	PT: 17 742	PT: 17 742	PT: 19 160	PT: 19 160	PT: 19 160	PT: 19 160	PT: 19 500
	FR: 251 733	FR: 251 733	FR: 319 084	FR: 319 084	FR: 319 084	FR: 319 084	FR: 319 084

Specific Objective 8: To provide the Commission with reasonable assurance that Member States have put in place management and control systems in conformity with EU rules designed to ensure the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions financed by the EAGF, EAFRD, SAPARD and IPARD and, where this is not the case, to exclude the expenditure concerned from

EU financing so as to protect the EU's financial interests

Performance

The legislative framework provides for the obligation of the Member States to send control statistics for a major share of the CAP budget. Since financial year 2016, the target has been achieved (98% coverage for the last three years). For a certain part of the schemes under market measures (ABB02), there is no legal requirement for the Member States to provide control statistics. Given the decreasing trend of expenditure under ABB02 and the stable situation for ABB03 and ABB04, it is expected that the evolution of the indicator will remain stable.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information

08 02 06 03 - EAGF operational technical assistance (Monitoring and preventive measures) - Direct payments by the Union	(commitment appropriations - EUR 0.4 million) (payment appropriations - EUR 0.2 million)
Commitment appropriations requested in 2020 budget:	EUR 10.9 million
Commitment appropriations requested in 2021 DB:	EUR 10.5 million
Payment appropriations requested in 2020 budget:	EUR 10.6 million
Payment appropriations requested in 2021 DB:	EUR 10.9 million

To assist Member States carrying out on the spot checks and/or the checks by monitoring on aid applications, satellite imagery acquired is made available to the national authorities allowing them to determine the area of agricultural parcels, to identify crops and verify their status. Compared to budget 2020, the costs for the acquisition of satellite images for 2021 slightly decreases to EUR 8.6 million (largely the statistical effect of Brexit). At the same time, the cost of data management increases to EUR 1.9 million with the wider use of the monitoring approach. In addition, for Draft Budget 2021, payments of EUR 0.4 million are requested in view of earlier commitments for the administrative arrangement for related technical support needed to ensure and strengthen the quality and the technical implementation of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) and the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), with an initial payment scheduled for 2020).

Indicator 1: Percentage of expenditure (EAGF+EAFRD) with statistics or 100 % check

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							
90%	Actual results							95%
		94%	98%	98%	98%			

Methodology: Data for Financial Year

Source: CATS/COMBO database based on the Annual Declarations from the Paying Agency

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Area of satellite imagery/data acquired for controls by Remote Sensing ⁴⁷	05 07 01 02	375 000 km ²	CA: EUR 10.9 million; PA: EUR 10.6 million

Outputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Area of satellite imagery/data acquired for controls by Remote Sensing	380 000 km ²	380 000 km ²	500 000 km ²	453 000 km ²	391 000 ⁴⁸ km ²	392 000 ⁴⁹ km ²	375 000 km ²

Specific Objective 9: To inform and increase awareness of the CAP by maintaining an effective and regular dialogue with stakeholders, civil society, and specific target audiences

Performance

⁴⁷ Figures presented cover only Very High Resolution (VHR) images

⁴⁸ The figure presented in the 2019 Programme Statement (414 000 km² for 2018) corresponded to the 2018 JRC work programme. The figure here is the actual realisation reported by JRC in November 2018. Very High Resolution (VHR) images tend to decrease in favour of High Resolution images (HR).

⁴⁹ 2019: Effective acquisition of VHR imagery. 2020 forecast, depending on pre-imagery request from MS (cf. JRC's Work programme 2020).

Budget item 08 02 06 03 - EAGF operational technical assistance is foreseen to finance the communication efforts of the Commission in relation to the CAP.

The overall needs for Draft Budget 2021 for communication are estimated at EUR 11.7 million. This includes an amount of EUR 4.15 million destined for grants to third party organisations. Other external communication actions in 2021 financed under this budget article, such as conferences, media activities, attendance in fairs, publications, web and social media activities, will focus on the relevance of the CAP in particular in relation with the growth, jobs and investments priority theme and will amount to EUR 3.85 million. The scope, choice and intensity of these communication actions will be in line with the 2021 External Communication Action Plan of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

In 2021 the EAGF will also contribute to the Corporate Communication Strategy of the Commission with around EUR 3.7 million, with the EAFRD contributing EUR 3.2 million (under budget item 08 03 02).

Indicator 1: Public awareness of CAP								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							
Percentage of Europeans who believe that agriculture and rural areas play important role for their future: 94%	Actual results							Maintain and if possible increase awareness of the CAP
		95%		92%				
2015	Milestones foreseen							
Percentage that have heard about support that the EU gives farmers through its CAP: 69%	Actual results							Maintain and if possible increase awareness of the CAP
		69%		67%				

Source: Standard Eurobarometer

Indicator 2: Number of page visits on AGRI Europa website								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							
4.9	Actual results							Maintain and if possible increase the number of page visits with respect to previous year level
	5.20	5.80	5.80	1.80	1.90	1.97		

Comment: As from 2018, AGRI web content has been moved to the Commission info site. Statistics for 2019 sum data from the old AGRI Europa website and the new web space, the Food Farming Fisheries class.

The discrepancies in the statistics come from the fact that until 2016, Europa Analytics used SAS, which was a tool based on server logs. This means that everything was taken into account, even robots visits on the pages, and not only human visitors. Piwik the new system uses a method which takes into account only pages that have been effectively visited by humans. This is more accurate but the consequence is lower figures in the statistics. The Europa info website is being transformed to collate information that is clear, concise, readable and relevant for users. The design is based from evidence gathered which indicated that users think in terms of topic, not by DG. Therefore, the Food, Farming and Fisheries section combines information from DG AGRI, SANTE and MARE to help users to find content relevant to them. Number of page visits for the Food, Farming and Fisheries section (all pages): 214 556

- CAP at a glance page – number of page visits: 48 058

- Future of CAP page – number of page visits: 30 661

Source: Piwik Analytics

Unit of measure: Million

Expenditure related outputs

Output	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number of commitments	EUR million
Grants awarded to third party organisations to implement actions to improve the level of understanding of the CAP among EU citizens	05 08 06	20	4
Media and web	05 08 06	28	4
conferences, fairs, events - Networking	05 08 06		
Horizontal activities	05 08 06		
Corporate communication	05 08 06	1	5.7
Total			13.7

Outputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Grants awarded to third party organisations to implement actions to improve the level of understanding of the CAP among EU citizens	11	16	18	16	15	18	20 ⁵⁰
Media and web	12	9	5	9	8	7	25
Conferences, fairs, events, networking	5	6	12	10	12	13	
Horizontal activities	5	6	10	7	6	5	
Corporate communication	1	0	1	1	1	1	1

Specific Objective 10: To facilitate decision making on strategic choices for the CAP and to support other activities of the DG by means of economic and policy analyses and studies

Performance

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information]

The Farm Accountancy Data Network data are essential tools for the monitoring of agriculture income and business which are used for the evaluation and the impact analysis of the agricultural measures. They provide support to the decision-making process related to the CAP.

The appropriations requested for 2021 relate to the **Farm Accountancy Data Network** (EUR 16 million) and are intended to finance the standard fee for FADN farm returns transmitted by the Member States (81 795 * EUR 180) and the development and maintenance of the information system used for the collection, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of the farm accountancy data and analysis results (EUR 1.2 million).

Information from **Farm Structure Surveys** is systematically used in extended impact assessments, evaluation and policy conception, particularly regarding the regional situation of specific sectors. The content of the surveys is regularly adapted to answer new needs for agricultural and rural development policy and other policies (in particular regional, social and environmental policy). In 2021, no new appropriations are needed for the agricultural census 2020 (pre-financing was done in 2019 and final payments are scheduled to be made in 2022).

Under restructuring of systems for agricultural surveys, the Draft Budget 2021 includes an amount of EUR 2.3 million in commitment and EUR 2.4 million in payment appropriations for the MARS agro-meteorological system used for monitoring crops and forecasting yields of the main crops in Europe and its neighbourhood. EUR 4.0 million in commitment appropriations is included for the LUCAS 2021 project for surveys gathering information on land cover, land use and landscapes. In addition, EUR 6.4 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 5.8 million in payment appropriations is destined for the maintenance, development and use of modelling tools used by the Commission in its agricultural economic and policy analysis.

Indicator 1: Representativeness of information about the EU farm economic situation collected by the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2017
Farm returns collected for accounting year: 82 909	Actual results							Maximum 86255
	83 252	82 909	83 950	84 616	83 181			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2017
Coverage of the Standard Output: 94%	Actual results							90%
	95%	94%	95%	95%				
2015	Milestones foreseen							2017
Coverage of the Utilised Agricultural Area: 92%	Actual results							90%
	93%	92%	92%	92%				

Comment: The data provided is for the respective accounting years (2018 was delivered by the end of 2019).

Source: EU FADN

Indicator 2: Adequate knowledge of Farm's structure

⁵⁰ Estimate

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2016
	Actual results							
Timely information on farm structures is available in the Eurostat database	Data of Farm Structure Survey 2013 delivered by Member States to Eurostat by December 2014 and made available by Eurostat to users as from first quarter 2015.	Data of Farm Structure Survey 2013 have been published in the Eurostat database. The Farm Structure Survey 2016 has been carried out by Member States. Data are expected to be made available by Eurostat by the end of 2018. The legal framework for the 2020 agricultural census is under preparation.	Data of Farm Structure Survey 2013 have been published in the Eurostat database. The Farm Structure Survey 2016 has been carried out by Member States. Data are expected to be made available by Eurostat by the end of 2018. The legal framework for the 2020 agricultural census is under preparation.	Data of Farm Structure Survey 2013 have been published in the Eurostat database. The Farm Structure Survey 2016 has been carried out by Member States. Data are expected to be made available by Eurostat by the end of 2018. The legal framework for the 2020 agricultural census is under preparation.	The Farm Structure Survey 2016 was carried out by Member States. Eurostat has started to publish data from this survey in 2018 (to be completed in 2019). The new framework regulation for the 2020 agricultural census and farm surveys in 2023 and 2026 entered into force in 2018.	Eurostat has published more data from the 2016 Farm Structure Survey. Grant agreements have been signed with Member States for the agricultural census 2020. Portugal has carried out the census in 2019.		All relevant indicators and factsheets updated with FSS 2016 data and published on the Europa website. In-depth use of FSS 2016 data for analyses on farm structural change

Source: Eurostat – Farm Structure Survey

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Data collection on EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) data on farm returns and IT costs	05 08 01	84 680	15.7
Surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings	05 08 02		-
Restructuring of systems of agricultural surveys	05 08 03		7.5
Studies and evaluation	05 08 09		4.5
Total			27.7

Outputs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Data collection on EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) data: farm returns	86 905	82 909	83 954	86 255	84 680	84 680	84 680
Data collection on structure of agricultural holdings: farms surveyed (thousands)			1 700 ⁵¹				10 500

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

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	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
To contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture through the "green direct payment" and cross compliance	7 768,0	7 815,0
Total	7 768,0	7 815,0

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
3 316,0	3 273,0	7 938,0	7 643,0	7 751,0	7 768,0	7 815,0	45 504,0

⁵¹ The Farm Structure Survey 2016 covered roughly 1 700 000 farms. Funding for this survey was spread over the budget years 2015-2018. The agricultural census 2020 will cover around 10 500 000 farms, funding will be spread over the budget years 2019-2022.

(*)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

As of Draft budget 2016 the climate action contribution is calculated accordingly:

- The payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (budget item 05 03 01 11, in 2021 budget article 08 02 05) is split into three equal tiers, in analogy to the three compulsory farming practices applicable. The tiers receive the following Rio markers taking into account the climate contribution of the three compulsory green direct payment obligations: 1st tier 0% (crop diversification), 2nd tier 40% (ecological focus area), 3rd tier 100% (permanent grassland);
 - plus a Rio marker of 40% applied to 20% of the remaining direct payments taking into account cross-compliance (i.e. 8% of budget chapter 05 03 direct payments without payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and without payments for the Small farmers scheme which are not subject to cross-compliance).

In 2021, EAGF expenditure will continue to contribute to the EU’s climate action objectives. The same methodology as outlined above will be used to track the climate-related expenditure of the EAGF, considering also that the current CAP legislation will continue to apply in financial year 2021.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Contribute to the enhancement of the environmental performance of the CAP through the greening component of the direct payments. Contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture and to making the Common Agricultural Policy more compatible with the expectations of the society through cross-compliance. Contribute preventing soil erosion, maintaining soil organic matter and soil structure, ensuring a minimum level of maintenance and avoiding the deterioration of habitats, and protecting and managing water through the standards of good agricultural and environmental conditions	5 868,0	5 903,0
Total	5 868,0	5 903,0

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
3 316,0	3 273,0	6 030,0	5 795,0	5 856,0	5 868,0	5 903,0	36 041,0

(*)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

As of Draft Budget 2016, with the new direct payments' schemes fully implemented, the contribution to biodiversity is calculated as follows:

- for the payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (budget item 05 03 01 11, 08 02 05 05 in 2021) a Rio marker of 40% is applied;
 - plus a Rio marker of 40% is applied to 10% of the remaining direct payments taking into account cross-compliance (i.e. 4% of budget chapter 05 03 Direct payments (article 08 02 05 in 2021) without payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and without payments for the Small farmers scheme which are not subject to cross-compliance).

In 2021, EAGF expenditure will continue to contribute to biodiversity. The same methodology as outlined above will be used to track this contribution, considering also that the current CAP legislation will continue to apply in financial year 2021.

Contribution to financing air quality

One of the elements of cross-compliance, Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition number 6: “prohibition to burn stubble in the field to maintain organic matter in the soil”, contributes to the reduction of PM-10 emissions. However, due to difficulty to quantify the contribution and the expected low value of this element in the overall value of direct payments, the contribution is fixed at 0%.

Gender mainstreaming

The data on gender in the Farm Structure Survey⁵² shows that in 2016, seven in every ten (72%) farm managers on the 10.5 million holdings in the European Union (EU) were male. The EU countries with the highest proportions of female farm managers in 2016 were Latvia and Lithuania (both 45%), followed by Romania (34%) and Estonia (33%). In contrast, there were four Member States where the proportion of farm managers who were female was at or below 10 %: The Netherlands (5%), Malta (6%), Denmark (8%) and Germany (10%).

⁵² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/-/DDN-20190114-1>

However, given the lack of gender-specific data, detailed estimations of the EU budget contribution to gender equality are not available at present.

MS have recently started to collect data on gender for the Farm Accountancy Data Network, but no result is currently available. No other study has been made on this subject.

For EAGF, there is no explicit specific objective or dedicated action addressing specifically gender equality. *See EAFRD Programme Statement for the action of the CAP in this field.*

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)****Lead DG: AGRI**

Associated DGs: REFORM

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

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) finances the EU's contribution to Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). The RDPs contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU by supporting farms, food and forestry sectors and other entities operating in rural areas such as non-agricultural businesses, non-governmental organisations and local authorities. They enhance the economic viability and sustainability of farms and rural businesses by fostering knowledge transfer and innovation, investing in green technologies, skills and training as well as promoting entrepreneurship and networking. The RDPs also help farmers develop their businesses in a sustainable manner by supporting the preservation of natural resources, promoting environmentally sustainable land management, enhancing ecosystems and maintaining landscapes attractive for tourism.

The EAFRD is also an important tool to mitigate climate change and support the shift towards a low carbon and a climate resilient economy, by helping farmers and rural businesses to reduce greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions and adapt to climate change consequences. It also supports farmers in managing renewable resources and waste, thus making a direct contribution to the Energy Union.

The EAFRD contributes to job creation and income diversification and provides the potential to integrate migrants. It also makes an important contribution to the Digital Single Market by supporting broadband infrastructure and various ICT solutions in rural areas. This has a positive effect on the quality of life of EU citizens. Moreover, support for interactive innovation projects under the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP) helps contribute towards the Europe 2020 objectives by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting inclusiveness and increasing the impact of EU-funded research on the economy.

EU added value of the programme

Under the second pillar of the CAP, rural development programmes make a vital contribution to the economic, social and environmental performance of EU in rural areas.

Rural development programmes are designed to deliver towards six common EU priorities while taking into account national and regional specificities. This ensures a consistent, coherent and result-oriented approach to a number of cross-border issues: biodiversity, water, climate change, European growth and jobs, poverty reduction and open innovation. The EAFRD works as a catalyst, delivering results also in areas related to other EU policies such as environment, climate, food safety, health, research and innovation, Digital Single Market and Energy Union.

It invests in the development of rural businesses and holdings, improving competitiveness whilst ensuring sustainable management of natural resources. Support for interactive innovation projects under the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP) as well as support for training and diversification aims to deliver on the Europe 2020 objectives as they encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, promote inclusiveness and increase the impact of EU funded research projects in the real economy. The EAFRD performance and results are enhanced by the European Network for Rural Development which allows for exchange of experience and best practices amongst national and regional authorities.

Implementation mode

The bulk of CAP expenditure is implemented through shared management with the Member States for interventions in agricultural markets and direct support (EAGF) as well as rural development (EAFRD). Implementation vis-à-vis final beneficiaries is delegated to the Member States, while the Commission is responsible for the implementation of the overall legal framework, budget implementation and for Member States' supervision. The CAP legislation provides that Member States shall accredit Paying Agencies, which are dedicated bodies responsible for the management and control of Union funds, notably payments to beneficiaries and financial reporting to the Commission.

Only a fraction of CAP expenditure concerns actions under direct management by the Commission: contracts are concluded directly with third parties to supply the Directorate General with data, studies, promotion activities and information and communication activities, etc.

II. Programme Implementation Update

All 118 rural development programmes (RDP) are up and running and currently being implemented. In 2019, Member States presented 160 proposals for programme amendments of different nature, including the mandatory amendments linked to the implementation of the Performance Review.

Calls for application by beneficiaries have been published at the level of Member States and regions. By 31 December 2018, around EUR 100 billion has been committed to projects and beneficiaries. This represents 66% of the total public allocation for 2014-2020.

By end 2019, total EAFRD payments from the EU budget to Member States amounted to EUR 50.4 billion (including pre-financing and interim payments), which is 50 % of the total commitments for the period 2014-2020. In terms of implementation, this places the EAFRD in advance of the other European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds. In 2019, EAFRD reimbursed EUR 13.8 billion in interim payments.

Member States had to notify their decision on reduction and flexibility between the CAP pillars for financial year 2021 by 31/12/2019 and 08/02/2020. As regards the reduction of direct payments, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden have notified a total estimated amount of EUR 58.2 million that will be transferred to their respective EAFRD allocations. As regards the flexibility between the CAP pillars, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, France and the Netherlands have notified their decision to transfer in total EUR 1 114.2 million from direct payments to rural development. On the other hand, Croatia, Hungary, Malta and Poland notified a transfer of EUR 418.5 million to direct payments. Therefore, these transfers result overall in a net increase of the EAFRD allocation by EUR 753.9 million for 2021.

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The implementation of the 2014-2020 rural development programmes remains at cruising speed. In 2019, reinforcements of payment appropriations for the EAFRD of in total EUR 366 million in the Global and End of year transfers underline the good and steady implementation. In 2019, Member States submitted also their fourth Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) on the implementation of the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) covering implementation until 31 December 2018.

For the 2014-2020 period, a number of initiatives have been launched which are expected to improve efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD expenditure:

- To facilitate the implementation of the EU funds, the EAFRD Implementing Act was already modified in April 2016. In addition, the EAFRD basic act was modified in 2017 through the so-called Omnibus Regulation¹, amongst others to improve risk management tools for farmers, reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries and simplify conditions for financial instruments. Finally, the Implementing Act on administration and control systems (Regulation (EU) No 809/2014) was also modified in July 2017 to simplify control rules for non-area related measures.
- Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) are being increasingly used by Member States and regions in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD support and to reduce the administrative burden. Currently around 76% of the RDPs are using at least one type of SCOs and the number is expected to increase. As an example, flat rates are used to cover indirect costs, unit costs for training activities or investments and lump sums for cooperation actions. MS and regions are introducing more SCOs in the context of RDPs amendments and this trend is expected to continue. The Commission has greatly promoted the use of SCO through dedicated seminars and other networking activities.
- Under the technical assistance programme fi-compass² in total 30 cases of targeted coaching on financial instruments for EAFRD managing authorities were carried out in the period 2016-2019, of which 4 new were done in 2019. Four EU-wide conferences were organised with 605 participants in total. In 2019, three specific EAFRD financial instruments studies were published and an EU wide survey of agro-food processors was undertaken. A study assessing the gaps in financing agriculture and agro-food sectors in 24 Member States is underway; an EU agro-food survey of financial needs was carried out in its context. The activities related to dissemination of information through conferences, specific brochures, websites and communication newsletters, etc. continued.
- More than 30 workshops and capacity building events have been organised by the European Network for Rural Development since 2015 in order to share best practices and experience and to help stakeholders (including, among others, managing authorities, paying agencies, EU-wide organisations, local action groups, evaluators, etc.) to work together in a strategic manner and enhance the performance of rural development programmes. The timing and the content of the events has been specifically designed in agreement with the Commission services (in particular the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development) according to the different stages of the programming cycle (e.g. defining selection criteria at the launching phase of the programmed, or addressing bottlenecks in RDP Implementation in view of preparing for the Performance Review or starting the discussions on the CAP reform) and to better exploit the potential of the programmes to deliver on specific issues of political relevance (e.g. generational renewal, Smart Villages, biodiversity or farm resilience).
- An increased awareness of implementation feasibility and possible errors is guaranteed through an ex-ante assessment of the rural development measures by Member States, aiming to ensure they are verifiable and controllable and taking into account the results of controls in the previous programming period.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/2393, OJ L 350, p.15

² For more information on EAFRD fi-compass see: <https://www.fi-compass.eu/esif/eafrd>.

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

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member- states at end 2019 (2)	(2)/(1) %
1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation Outputs:	2.340,22	333,13	14%
2. Enhancing access to, use and quality of, information and communication technologies Outputs:	1.001,12	195,17	19%
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector Outputs:	28.280,41	12.091,80	43%
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy Outputs:	4.369,17	1.700,97	39%
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management Outputs:	21.151,64	12.722,88	60%
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	25.382,85	14.537,81	57%
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility Outputs:	2.517,85	703,39	28%
9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty Outputs:	11.740,20	3.785,13	32%
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning Outputs:	1.021,94	250,51	25%
TOTAL	97.805,40	46.320,79	47%

*The above allocation of commitments into thematic objectives is indicative based on the Member States' programmes, situation at the end of 2019. The breakdown can be subject to changes due to possible modification of the RDPs. The cumulative amounts of payments declared by Member States are provided until Q3 2019. The amounts for Technical Assistance Measures and Discontinued Measures are not included as they do not contribute to any of the thematic objectives.

The 47% execution rate until the declarations of the third quarter of 2019, corresponding to the financial year 2019, shows a slightly slower pace of implementation compared to the one reached at the equivalent point in time of the previous programming period (55%), but stands above the average implementation rate of other ESI Funds in terms of payments declared. The implementation rate should be assessed considering different factors. First, from the end of 2019, there remain still four years of the implementation period. Second, the overall level of commitment at EU level reached 81% until Q3 2019. Finally, in the case of rural development, a part of the expenditure is realised during the last years of implementation. The latter is mainly related to the late realisation of some investment projects, such as the ones for broadband development, which contribute to the relatively low implementation of thematic objective (TO) 2. The rather low execution rate of local development strategies (TOs 8 and 9) can also be explained by a later implementation. Area related payments, generally associated to agri-environmental-climate commitments follow a more regular (annual) path, which explain the better implementation in TOs 5 and 6. For TO 1, the uptake and achievement of results is not yet fully in place. This is explained by the late start the measures chosen by MS, partially due to the need to adapt to the changes in the legal framework and the fact that some measures are new and have a longer project lifetime (e.g. cooperation projects and the new measure European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability).

Key achievements

Overall, the screening of the Annual Implementation Reports for 2018 confirms a steady acceleration in spending levels compared to the first years of implementation. This situation has permitted to catch up the initial delays linked to the relatively late starting of the 2014-2020 RDPs. By the end of 2019, spending levels reached 50% of total EAFRD resources, matched by 85% in terms of commitments. The results and outputs achieved by the end of 2018 (latest figures available³) are fully representative of what is expected from the implementation. With programme implementation at cruising speed, the situation is likely to further improve in the next years, especially regarding operations linked to the creation of jobs, for which an improvement is already visible but more is expected in the coming years. The latter are operations that normally take more time to be completed and produce, with achievements materialising usually by the end of the programming period according to previous experience. Some positive results can already be pointed out, with 113% already achieved of the final target for rural population covered by local development strategies.

³ Latest data are collected from the Annual Implementation Reports 2018 (submitted in 2019). The data on the implementation in 2019 will become available in the second half of 2020.

As regards ex-ante conditionalities applying to EAFRD, a number of them were subject to the implementation of specific action plans in view of reaching full compliance by the end of the year 2016. All of the action plans have successfully been implemented and the conditionalities can therefore be considered as fulfilled.

A number of specific key achievements include:

Measures that significantly contribute to the environmental and climate objectives of the CAP:

- In 2018, a total of 3.4 million hectares of agricultural and forest land was covered by management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation. This is 89.5% of the target of 4 million hectares in 2023.
- In 2018, 521 000 hectares of irrigated land had switched to more efficient irrigation systems. This is 40% of the target for 2023. Given the long time span between plans and the realised investments, this is well on track.
- In 2018, 16.1% of agricultural land and 0.4% of forest areas were covered by management contracts contributing to biodiversity. This is close to the targets of 17% and 2% respectively for 2023.
- In 2018, investments in energy efficiency or renewable energy production reached EUR 897 million. This is 17% of the EUR 5.2 billion target set for 2023 at EU level.
- In 2018, 665 000 livestock units were concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing greenhouse gases or ammonia emissions. This is 60% of the EU 2023 target of 1.1 million livestock units.
- In 2018, 4.2 million hectares were under land-management contracts targeting reduction of greenhouse gases or ammonia emissions. This represents 80% of the EU 2023 target of 5.2 million hectares covered.

Measures to enhance farm viability and competitiveness and knowledge transfer:

- In 2018, 42% of the agricultural holdings targeted to receive aid for investments support in restructuring and modernisation has been supported. The 2023 target is to support 2.73% of all European holdings.
- By 2018, almost 60% of the holdings targeted to receive aid for a development plan for young farmers have been supported. The 2023 objective is to support 1.46% of all European holdings.
- 1.5 million beneficiaries received vocational training in agriculture, which represents 40% of the target set for 2023.

These measures contribute to the resilience of the EU farming sector.

Broadband access in rural areas continues to improve, but is lagging behind urban areas. In 2018⁴, 53% of rural households have next generation access compared to 83% of total EU households. There is a clear improvement on the previous year's results, but it is still clear that closing the connectivity gap of rural areas remains a challenge. The level of broadband access depends significantly on general developments in telecoms markets (and finance from other policy tools – including the European Regional Development Fund). The CAP plays its part by offering explicit support for setting up, expanding and improving broadband infrastructure, as well as for the provision of broadband internet access (i.e. improved connections to infrastructure), and access to e government. According to targets aggregated from the 2014-2020 RDPs, in the current programming period, the CAP will help 17 million people living in rural areas to benefit from improved access to ICT services and infrastructure. In 2019, DG AGRI continued to work closely with DG REGIO, CNECT and COMP to further develop the network of Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) in Member States and their regions, as well as a Brussels-based Support Facility, contracted and managed by DG AGRI. By the end of 2019, the BCO network was made of 28 National and 88 Regional BCOs in the EU, plus 6 BCOs in the West Balkan countries and one BCO in Norway. In 2019 DG AGRI continued working on the "Action Plan for Rural Broadband"⁵, launched in November 2017, with the presentation of the 'rural proofing checklist' and the finalisation of a "handbook" of best practices of rural broadband projects.

Evaluation/studies conducted

As the evaluations in 2019 concerned issues common to EAGF and EAFRD, please refer to the EAGF programme statement.

The key findings of the evaluation on forestry measures ([SWD\(2019\)389](#) and [391](#)) have been presented in the EAFRD Programme Statement 2019.

The key findings of the Synthesis of Rural Development Programmes (RDP) ex-post evaluations of period 2007-2013 and of the evaluation study of the instruments applicable to State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas have been presented in the Programme Statement 2020 (SWD references not yet available).

Forthcoming implementation

As a result of the implementation of rural development programmes the following targets, amongst others, are expected to be achieved at the level of the Union at the end of the programming period: 27.5 million hectares of agricultural land concerned by commitments targeting biodiversity; 53% of the total rural population (147.5 million inhabitants) living in areas for which local development strategies are implemented by selected LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs); investments in improved energy

⁴ Latest data available.

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-commission-joins-forces-help-bringing-more-broadband-rural-areas>

efficiency for almost 16 000 farms; support for about 198 000 young farmers to set up their businesses and for more than 340 000 farmers to modernise and improve their production facilities. As for the rural business outside the farms gate, some 52 000 rural entrepreneurs are to receive support to develop their businesses.

In terms of expected achievements, the numerous targets are linked to EAFRD 2014-2020 expenditure. The first effects on the simplification actions adopted through the Omnibus Regulation, namely regarding the use of simplified costs options and financial instruments as well as support for risk management could already be noticed in 2018: several Member States have requested to amend their Rural Development Programmes in order to use these possibilities, while more and more Member States are extending the use of simplified cost options.

Considering the state of play in the discussions with the co-legislators on the future CAP and in order to ensure continuity in support to CAP beneficiaries in 2021, the Commission presented to the European Parliament and the Council on 31 October 2019 a draft Transitional Regulation⁶. This Transitional Regulation aims to allow amongst others that Member States who risk running out of EAFRD funds in 2021 to decide on an extension, or not, of their rural development programmes to 2021. The extended RDPs shall follow the existing legal framework, and shall be financed by the budget allocation for the year 2021 (“old rules – new money” principle).

In addition, a regulation was adopted by the co-legislators end January 2020⁷ to provide amongst others the flexibility for Member States to transfer funds between the CAP pillars for calendar year 2020 and extend the financial discipline provisions.

A proposal for an amendment to Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 was adopted by the Commission on 30/04/2020 (COM (2020)186) as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The exceptional temporary measures proposed with this amendment aim at providing relief to farmers or small-medium sized agri-businesses affected by COVID-19, and to ensure liquidity over the crisis period (max EUR 5 000 per farmer and max EUR 50 000 per SME). The Commission proposed to limit the EAFRD support for these measures to a maximum of 1% of the total EAFRD contribution to the rural development programmes.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Refer to Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) programme statement for more information, which are relevant for both EAGF and EARDF.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down certain transitional provisions on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), amending Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2014 and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards their application in the year 2014	2014 - 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Total	5 285,0(*)	18 169,8	18 676,3	14 364,0	14 380,3	14 727,3	14 708,7	100 311,3
<i>Of which contribution to European Solidarity Corps</i>					1,8			1,8

⁶ COM(2019) 581

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2020/127 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 January 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards financial discipline as from financial year 2021 and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards flexibility between pillars in respect of calendar year 2020, [OJ L 27. 31.1.2020. p. 1-5](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/127/20200129/oj)

(*)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	14 727,263	99,99 %	13 509,768	99,97 %	14 708,662	99,89 %	13 141,224	40,86 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	14 764,820	99,73 %	14 511,070	93,07 %	14 736,386	99,70 %	13 769,498	39,00 %

(*) 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

Further progress has been made in terms of programme performance. To mention some examples, by the end of 2018, over 130,000 farms have been selected to receive financial support to restructure and modernise their holdings, and to achieve productivity gains. On climate and environmental actions in agriculture (e.g. carbon sequestration, reduction of greenhouse gases and ammonia emissions), good progress has been made, in particular with farmers joining voluntary agri-environment-climate schemes to develop environmentally -friendly farm management. The targets to reach by end of 2023 are: (i) 17% of EU agricultural land under management for biodiversity, (ii) 14% for better soil management, and (iii) 14% for better water management. In all three cases, over 83% of the targets have been reached.

At the end of 2018 the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was supporting 7,730 interactive innovation projects, against an overall target at the end of the implementation period of more than 13,000 projects. Knowledge and innovation developed through the EIP-AGRI projects are shared through national innovation and rural networks and the EIP-AGRI network. By the end of 2018, nearly 1,5 million people had taken part in vocational training activities supported by the EAFRD. In the same period, 2,9 million people had benefitted from improved infrastructures for information and communication technologies, against an overall target of 16,9 million people by the end of 2023.

In 2019, the performance review took place in order to decide on the performance of each priority of the programmes and whether the performance reserve (6% of the budget attributed to each RDP) could be allocated as initially planned. Based on the information included in the Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) for 2018, submitted in June 2019, decisions were taken about the attribution of the performance reserve to those priorities for which established milestones were satisfactory achieved by the end of 2018. In a number of relatively limited cases, the Member States had to re-attribute the performance reserve of priorities not having reached their milestones to other successful priorities. In the years preceding the performance review, based on continuous monitoring of the programmes, Managing Authorities were actively encouraged to take all the necessary steps in order to speed up the implementation of the RDPs. Where needed, the Member States were requested to take necessary remedial actions.

In summary, out of the 111 programmes for which the performance reserve was established, 71 programmes have achieved milestones for all their priorities (64% of programmes).

For the remaining 40 programmes:

- 28 programmes have missed 1 priority (25%);
- 7 programmes have missed 2 priorities (6%);
- 5 programmes have missed 3 priorities (less than 5%);
- No programmes have missed more than three priorities.

Based on the above, EUR 5.2 billion of the performance reserve was attributed to the priorities that achieved the milestones, through Commission Decisions adopted during the summer 2019. Some EUR 306 million (or 6% of the total Performance Reserve amounts) have been reallocated from unsuccessful to successful priorities through programme modifications

Fourteen programmes have experienced serious failure in achieving at least one milestone. Although the legal framework provides the possibility, under certain conditions, to proportionally suspend payments to seriously underperforming priorities, no such suspensions were applied. This is because relevant correctives actions have been already undertaken by the Member States concerned and the situation has been resolved. Serious failures concern in particular Priority 5 (resource efficiency, low carbon and climate resilience) and Priority 6 (social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development). In fact, those priorities typically include long term-investments (infrastructures, energy efficiency) and local development strategies (LEADER), which take a certain time to materialise. Overall, the outcome of the performance review, carried out in 2019 based on the levels of achievement reached at the end of 2018 are satisfactory, also in comparison with the other European Structural and Investment Funds.

The implementation of area and animal-related support in 2014-2020 (e.g. related to environmental commitments and animal welfare) is well advanced. In this context, rules concerning the payment deadlines to the beneficiaries were introduced as from

calendar year (CY) 2019. This is also expected to further facilitate the implementation of those commitments. Some delays are still observed in relation to measures that can take several years to be completed (long-term investments such as broadband, other infrastructures) or that are conditional to the implementation of a business plan, which can take up to five years to be "completed" (business start-up). Significant progress in the implementation of those measures has been made in 2018 and is expected to increase further in the coming years.

The CAP measures on generational renewal have a positive impact on attracting and keeping young farmers in rural areas and improving employment, despite the difficulty to isolate the effects of individual CAP measures addressing generational renewal and the strong influence of external factors. However, these measures are often insufficient on their own, to address two main barriers to generational renewal: access to land and capital that depend mostly on national legal, social and fiscal policies.⁸

The legislative proposal on the CAP Strategic Plans takes into account the main lessons learnt so far from the current rural development programming period, amongst others by reducing the level of prescription of the interventions and improving the synergies with the other instruments of the CAP (i.e. direct payments and sectoral programmes). The new CAP Strategic Plans will have to pay specific attention to attracting young farmers and will also promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas. The rural development support will also provide a decisive input into the new call for enhanced environmental and climate actions linked to the green deal initiative. The future CAP plans will include the following types of interventions, funded by the EAFRD: (i) environmental, climate and other management commitments; (ii) compensation for natural or other area-specific constraints; (iii) area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements; (iv) investments; (v) installation of young farmers and rural business start-up; (vi) risk management tools; (vii) cooperation; (viii) knowledge exchange and information.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information

The total EAFRD budget request for 2021 amounts to EUR 15.0 billion in commitment appropriations and EUR 14.7 billion in payment appropriations, mainly to finance EAFRD support under the rural development programmes including the exceptional temporary measures proposed as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. A minor part of these amounts covers the technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission at a level of EUR 35.6 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 24.9 million in payment appropriations, of which EUR 7.2 million are needed for the completion of technical assistance actions from 2014-2020.

As regards the Rural Development programmes, the amounts for 2021 are calculated based on the assumption that all Member States will make use of the transitional provisions⁹ and decide on an extension of their Rural Development programmes for 2021.

In the absence of an agreement on the MFF, no financial programming is currently available for the period 2022-2027.

General objectives

Look at CAP chapter of Draft budget. General objectives of Common Agricultural Policy apply for both EGAF and EARDF.

Specific objectives

For the 2014-2020 rural development programmes, for each of the specific objectives, the Commission has defined result-type "Target Indicators" in the rural development (RD) Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES). At least one target indicator is available for each of the 18 RD focus areas¹⁰. The application of each of these indicators is mandatory for all the rural development programmes including the corresponding focus area. For each indicator target levels are established ex-ante for year 2023 and actual achievements are assessed regularly during the implementation period. It is therefore possible to aggregate at the level of the Union both their planned levels for the year 2023 and, through regular monitoring and reporting, their actual levels of achievement year by year. Therefore, these CMES Target Indicators represent an optimal way to monitor and report on the performance of the programmes.

However, the RD CMES does not prescribe the Member States to define milestones at the year 2018 in relation to target indicators, while such milestones are requested to be made available in relation to a number of output-type indicators to be included in a Performance Framework (PF). Member States are recommended to make use of common indicators for the purpose of establishing the PF, this choice is not mandatory. Therefore, the aggregation of these indicators at the level of the Union is not fully representative.

In the following tables, milestones for the year 2018 are estimated and presented only in relation to those target indicators for which, due to their specific nature, a specific correspondence could be established with respect to relevant PF indicators.

⁸ See the summary of the support study for the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal in the agricultural sector in the EAGF programme statement.

⁹ [COM\(2019\) 581](#)

¹⁰ The 6 rural development specific objectives (priorities) are further broken down into 18 strategic Focus Areas.

The baseline is 0 at the start of the programming period. The information concerning the latest known results reflecting 2018 implementation became available to the Commission as of the annual implementation reports submitted by 30 June 2019.

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

The values reached by the reported indicators show good progress compared to 2017. Some measures still show low implementation rate, mainly because they required preparatory actions before the starting of their actual implementation on the ground, for example due to the application of public procurement procedures.

NB: Certain targets have been updated from last Programme Statement because of modifications in RD Programmes, which were made in accordance with the legislation for Rural Development. Only in the course of 2019 more than 160 programme amendments were adopted by the Commission, some of them adjusting their 2023 target values. The justification for these amendments varies programme to programme, but they are mostly triggered by changes in national or regional development needs, changing economic conditions and the varying demand for different types of support, that necessitate reallocation of funding among the investment areas concerned, affecting obviously the targets set for the programmes.

When interpreting the actual results, caution should be applied as interventions tend to have a longer programme cycle – actual achievements may not be visible from the beginning. The implementation of the 2014-2020 programming period lasts until 2023 (n+3 rule), therefore the achievement values refer to the situation at the 5th year of a 10-year long implementation cycle.

Specific Objective 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture forestry and rural areas (Priority 1)

Performance

This Specific Objective aims at transferring knowledge and fostering innovation in rural areas, with a focus on the following areas:

- Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas (Focus Area 1A);
- Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production, and forestry and research and innovation (Focus Area 1B);
- Fostering lifelong learning and vocational trainings in the agricultural and forestry sector (Focus Area 1C).

The specific objective is cross-cutting which is why no public expenditure has been attributed to it as such.

Indicator 1, which measures the percentage of RDP expenditure planned for the three measures Knowledge transfer & information action, advisory services and cooperation, shows that by the end of 2018, 12.2% of the target planned for 2023 has been realised.

Indicator 2, which measures the number of cooperation operations, shows that by the end of 2018, 21.3% of the target planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 3, which measures the total number of participants trained, shows that by the end of 2018, 39.4% of the target planned for 2023 has been achieved.

The uptake and achievement of results is not yet fully in place. Part of this can be explained by the fact that cooperation and EIP-AGRI projects feed into this specific objective, which require a lot of preparatory work in the setting up phase, including the search for project partners. This leads to longer project lifetimes with reportable results emerging only at a later stage. Other factors explaining also the low implementation are the long administrative procedures that the Member States have put in place and which may discourage potential beneficiaries to apply, the lack of dissemination of information and publicizing of such measures, and in general, the fact that implementation of the related measures has started relatively late. Remedial actions have included the revision of the legal provisions governing the provision of advisory services to farmers and forestry holders, in 2017 (less stringent procedural requirements for the selection of advisors) and continuous dialogue with the Member States in view of correcting the limiting factors mentioned above.

Indicator 1: % of expenditure for the three measures Knowledge transfer & information action, advisory services and cooperation in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (Focus area 1A: Fostering innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00%	Actual results							3.59%
	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%	0.20%	0.44%			

Comment: 109 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: Number of cooperation operations planned under the cooperation measure (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects) (Focus area 1B: strengthening the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							14 029
	94	94	804	1 974	2 985			

Comment: 108 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 3: Total number of participants trained (Focus area 1C: fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in agriculture and forestry sectors)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							3 762 231
	12 333	12 333	258 186	1 057 714	1 481 528			

Comment: 99 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. For the Specific Objective 1 the indicators as set in the rural development common monitoring and evaluation system are identified and presented with targets for 2023. The common performance framework does not apply to Specific Objective 1, because no EAFRD budget is allocated to that cross cutting Priority. Therefore no information on the milestones is collected from the Member States. Nevertheless, as in case of the remaining specific objectives, the Commission will be able to collect and present the real outputs for these indicators in the future.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of beneficiaries supported to benefit from the use of advisory services	N/A	Target 2023: 1 159 070 ¹¹	No EAFRD financing is allocated to cross-cutting Priority 1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of beneficiaries supported to benefit from the use of advisory services	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	10 700		42 439	140 946	336 525		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

Specific Objective 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forests (Priority 2)

Performance

Specific Objective 2 aims at improving farm viability and competitiveness, with a focus on

- improving the economic performance, restructuring and modernisation of supported farms in particular through increasing their market participation and agricultural diversification (Focus Area 2A)
- facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal (Focus Area 2B)

For the period 2014-2020, the Member States planned EUR 32.46 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, which corresponds to 21% of the total Rural Development planned public expenditure. By the end of 2018, 28.2% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1, which measures the share of agricultural holdings received support for investments in restructuring and modernisation, shows that by the end of 2018, 42.2% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

¹¹ Target level has been updated to reflect relevant changes introduced by programmes modifications

Indicator 2, which measures the share of agricultural holdings with support to business development/investments for young farmers, shows that by the end of 2018, 59.5% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

The level of achievement of the targets is relatively good. It should be noted that for investment operations, normally implementation takes several years. In general, investment support increases the economic performance and market participation of the supported farms. Investments may also imply environmental benefits. Support to the entrance of adequately skilled farmers, including young farmers, can have positive effects on farm viability, especially in relation to farm productivity and competitiveness.

Additionally, operations under this specific objective contribute positively to the market participation of primary producers, farm diversification, maintenance of employment in rural areas, generational renewal in agriculture, environmental benefits, improvement of working and living conditions of farmers.

Indicator 1: % of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring (Focus area 2A: facilitating the restructuring of farms facing major structural problems, notably farms with a low degree of market participation, market-oriented farms in particular sectors and farms in need of agricultural diversification)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00					0.62%			2.70%
	Actual results							
	0.10%	0.10%	0.30%	0.70%	1.15%			

Comment: 109 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: % of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan for young farmers (Focus area 2B: facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00					0.34%			1.50%
	Actual results							
	0.06%	0.06%	0.10%	0.40%	0.87%			

Comment: 93 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (23% of the target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation and number of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers. This non mandatory indicator concerns 106 RDPs.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation	05 04 60 01	Target 2023: 340 969	2 988
Agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers		Target 2023: 197 778	

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	14 900		28 500	80 903	137 684		
agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	6 500		9 891	50 962	107 915		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

Specific Objective 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture (Priority 3)

Performance

Specific Objective 3 aims at promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture, with a focus on the following areas:

- Improving the competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply-circuits, producer groups and organisations and inter-branch organisations (Focus Area 3A);
- Supporting farm risk prevention and management (Focus Area 3B).

For the period 2014 – 2020, the Member States planned EUR 16.28 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, which corresponds to 10.4% of the total Rural Development planned public expenditure. By the end of 2018, 29.6% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1, which measures the share of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets, short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations, shows that by the end of 2018, 31.3% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, in line with expectations.

Indicator 2, which measures the share of farms participating in risk management schemes, show that by the end of 2018, 28.3% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved. It is lower than expected, mainly due to the fact that this type of support is new in the Member States and needs some time to be fully managed. In order to facilitate the uptake of risk management schemes, some changes in the design of the instrument have been introduced in 2017.

Member States report various achievements, such as in terms of competitiveness of primary producers by better integration in the food supply chain and introduction of quality schemes, quality of food production, promotion of local markets and short supply, participation of farms in risk prevention and management schemes and prevention of risks from flooding.

Additionally, contributions to this specific objective come from LEADER, vocational trainings, cooperation projects (including EIP-AGRI operational groups), and farm advisory services on the increase of food quality and the creation of added value, as well as on developing the knowledge base on risk prevention in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Indicator 1: % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups (Focus area 3A: better integrating primary producers into the food chain through quality schemes, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00					0.61%			1.80%
	Actual results							
	0.01%	0.01%	0.20%	0.39%	0.56%			

Comment: 85 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (34% of the target for 2023) is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups. This non mandatory indicator concerns 59 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: % of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (Focus area 3B: supporting farm risk management)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00%					4.41%			4.90%
	Actual results							
	0.04%	0.04%	0.50%	1.03%	1.38%			

Comment: 39 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (90% of the target for 2023) is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes. This non mandatory indicator concerns 28 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	05 04 60 01	Target 2023: 123 586	1 406
Agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes		Target 2023: 688 475	

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)
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		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	1 000		4 600	47 687	67 695		
Agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	3 466		58 423	188 351	582 706		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

Specific Objective 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (Priority 4)

Performance

Specific Objective 4 aims at restoring, preserving, and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, with a focus on the following areas:

- restoring, preserving, and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints, and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes (Focus Area 4A)
- improving water management, including fertilisers and pesticide management (Focus Area 4B)
- preventing soil erosion and improving soil management (Focus Area 4C)

For the period 2014 – 2020, the Member States planned EUR 72.85 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, which corresponds to 45.8% of the total Rural Development planned public expenditure. By the end of 2018, 51.9% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1a, which measures the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to support biodiversity and/or landscapes, shows that by the end of 2018, 94.5% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 2a, which measures the percentage of agricultural land under 84% of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management, shows that by the end of 2018, 84% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 3a, which measures the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion, shows that by the end of 2018, 85.9% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Member States report various achievements, such as in terms of agricultural and forest land covered with management contracts to enhance biodiversity and landscape, restoring, preserving, and enhancing biodiversity (e.g. Farmland Bird Index), improvement of water quality and management, especially through a better management of fertilisers and pesticides, prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management, and preservation of genetic species in grasslands and livestock.

Indicator 1: Focus area 4A: Restoring and preserving biodiversity, including Natura 2000 area and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity: 0.00%					11.91%			17.01%
	Actual results							
	5.70%	5.70%	12.90%	14.80%	16.08%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of forest area under management contracts contributing to biodiversity: 0.00%								1.96%
	Actual results							
	0.01%	0.01%	0.20%	0.30%	0.40%			

Comment: Agricultural land: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 109 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 70% of the target for 2023.

Forest areas: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 76 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: Focus area 4B: improving water management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023

Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts improving water management: 0.0%					9.8%			14.0%
	Actual results							
	4.5%	4.5%	8.8%	10.6%	12.0%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of forest area under management contracts improving water management: 0.00%								0.90%
	Actual results							
	0.04%	0.04%	0.10%	0.10%	0.12%			

Comment: Agricultural land: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 108 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 70% of the target for 2023.

Forest Area: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 39 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 3: Focus area 4C: improving soil management								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts preventing soil erosion and improving soil management: 0.00%					9.59%			13.70%
	Actual results							
	4.50%	4.50%	9.00%	10.50%	11.63%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of forest area under management contracts preventing soil erosion and improving soil management: 0.00%								1.30%
	Actual results							
	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.21%			

Comment: Agricultural land: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 108 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 70% of the target for 2023.

Forest area: Out of the 111 programmes which include this Priority, 56 are relevant for this sub-indicator. The indicative milestone, which represents an average for the three Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) +

Agricultural land under management contracts improving water management (ha)+ Agricultural land under management contracts improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha). This non-mandatory indicator concerns 94 RDPs. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity	05 04 60 01	Target 2023: 30.5	6 613
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management		Target 2023: 25.3	
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion		Target 2023: 24.6	
Million hectares of forest or other wooded areas under management contracts supporting biodiversity		Target 2023: 3.6	

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	11.1		13.3	23.2	28.3		
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	8.9		10.4	18.5	20.7		
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	8.9		14.5	18.4	20.4		

Million hectares of forest or other wooded areas under management contracts supporting biodiversity	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0.2		0.2	0.5	0.8		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors (Priority 5)

Performance

Specific Objective 5 aims at promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food, and forestry sector, with a focus on the following areas:

- Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture (FA 5A)
- Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing (FA 5B)
- Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, waste and residues and other non-food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy (FA 5C)
- Reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture (FA 5D)
- Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry (FA 5E)

For the period 2014 – 2020, the Member States planned EUR 10.9 billion of public expenditure under this specific objective, which corresponds to 7.7% of the total Rural Development planned public expenditure. By the end of 2018, 27.8% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1, which measures the share of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems, shows that by the end of 2018, 40.4% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 2, which measures the total investment for energy savings and efficiency, shows that by the end of 2018, 17.6% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 3, which measures the total investment in renewable energy production, shows that by the end of 2018, 16.9% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 4a, which measures the percentage of livestock units (LU) concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions, shows that by the end of 2018, 60.8% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 4b, which measures the percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting to the reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions, shows that by the end of 2018, 82.3% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 5, which measures the share of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation, shows that by the end of 2018, 89.5% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

In general, indicators relating to area- or animal-based management commitments are closer to the targets than those relating to investment support, where uptake in general is, for the time being, lower than planned, due to the different nature of the respective interventions (annual payments versus investment projects that can take some time to materialise). Implementation delays have been subject to continuous dialogue with the Member States.

Indicator 1: % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems (Focus area 5A: increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00	Actual results							13.00%
	0.20%	0.20%	1.80%	2.90%	5.26%			

Comment: 50 programmes include this Focus Area are concerned by this quantified target. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: Total investment in energy savings and efficiency (Focus area 5B: increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023

0					835 372 276			2 784 574 254
	Actual results							
	66 653 500	66 653 500	113 404 902	279 267 594	490 896 042			

Comment: 32 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (30% of the target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (EUR) (5B) + Number of investment operations in renewable energy production (EUR) (5C). This non mandatory indicator concerns 66 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 3: Total investment in renewable energy production (Focus area 5C: Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					720 338 147			2 401 127 157
	Actual results							
	2 173 000	2 173 000	59 103 898	255 265 515	405 632 714			

Comment: 64 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (30% of the target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (EUR) (5B) + Number of investment operations in renewable energy production (EUR) (5C). This non mandatory indicator concerns 66 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 4: Focus area 5D: Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing the GHG and ammonia emissions: 0.00%								0.70%
	Actual results							
	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.30%	0.45%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and ammonia emissions: 0.00%					1.44%			2.94%
	Actual results							
	2.40%	2.40%	1.60%	2.00%	2.40%			

Comment: Livestock: Out of the 53 programmes which include this Focus Area, 25 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Agricultural land: Out of the 53 programmes which include this Focus Area, 35 are relevant for this sub-indicator. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework. The indicative milestone (49% of the target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (5A). This non mandatory indicator concerns 79 RDP. Although this Performance Framework Indicator also takes into account part of the Focus Area 5A operations, this milestone is not representative for indicator 1 which has a particular implementation process compared to other operations taken into account in this indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 5: % of agricultural and forest area under management to foster carbon sequestration (Focus area 5E: Fostering carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00					0.53%			1.10%
	Actual results							
	0.30%	0.30%	0.60%	0.80%	0.96%			

Comment: 73 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (48% of the target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (5A). This non mandatory indicator concerns 79 RDP. Although this Performance Framework Indicator also takes into account part of the Focus Area 5A operations, this milestone is not representative for indicator 1 which has a particular implementation process compared to other operations taken into account in this indicator.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Million hectares of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	05 04 60 01	Target 2023: 1.4	1 005
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions		Target 2023: 5.2	
Livestock Units concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG (Green House Gas) and/or ammonia emissions		Target 2023: 1 090 067	
Million hectares agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation		Target 2023: 3.8	
Number of investment operations in physical assets in view of increasing efficiency in energy use in agricultural and food processing		Target 2023: 16 135	
Number of investment operations in physical assets in view of facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy		Target 2023: 10 156	

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Million hectares of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0.013		0.185	0.288	0.531		
Million hectares of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0.56		1.3	3.6	4.3		
Livestock Units concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG (Green House Gas) and/or ammonia emissions	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	104 549		122 766	296 991	595 917		
Million hectares agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	1.1		1.6	2.9	3.5		
Number of investment operations in physical assets in view of increasing efficiency in energy use in agricultural and food processing	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	757		1173	2248	5 619		
Number of investment operations in physical assets in view of facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	39		206	240	4 344		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

Specific Objective 6: Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (Priority 6)

Performance

Specific Objective 6 aims at promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, with a focus on the following areas:

- Facilitating diversification, creation, and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation (Focus Area 6A)
- Fostering local development in rural areas (Focus Area 6B)
- Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas (Focus Area 6C).

For the period 2014-2020, the Member States planned EUR 23.45 billion of public expenditure under this specific objective, which corresponds to 15.1% of the total Rural Development planned public expenditure. By the end of 2018, 19.1% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1, which measures the number of jobs created in supported projects, shows that by the end of 2018, 14% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 2a, which measures the percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies, shows that by the end of 2018, 113.3% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 2b, which measures the percentage of rural population benefitting from improved services/infrastructures, shows that by the end of 2018, 84.4% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 2c, which measures jobs created in supported LEADER projects, shows that by the end of 2018, 30.2% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Indicator 3, which measures the percentage of rural population benefitting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT), shows that by the end of 2018, 17.4% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved.

Member States report achievements in various fields such as diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, jobs creation and maintenance in rural areas, development and access to services and local infrastructure in rural areas, participation in local development strategies, employment opportunities created via local development strategies, and broadband expansion and better use of ICT in rural areas.

Whereas the LEADER local action group coverage has been successful, the achievements in terms of job creation are still to be improved. This may be partly because of lack of reliable data. The indicator value for services/infrastructures is low partly due to the fact that many of these projects are large and may require several years to be implemented.

Indicator 1: Number of jobs created through supported projects (outside LEADER) (Focus area 6A: Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							76 433
	17	17	990	4 221	10 784			

Comment: 76 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 2: Focus area 6B: Fostering local development in rural areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies : 0.00%	Actual results							53.50%
	21.20%	21.20%	53.20%	59.90%	60.60%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Percentage of rural population benefitting from new or improved services / infrastructures: 0.00%	Actual results							16.40%
	0.70%	0.70%	11.60%	12.60%	13.66%			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
Number of jobs created through supported projects (LEADER): 0.0	Actual results							44 109.0
	8.0	8.0	428.8	4 157.4	13 337.0			

Comment: Local development strategies: Out of the 110 relevant adopted programmes, 108 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 98% of the target for 2023.

New or improved services/infrastructure: Out of the 110 relevant adopted programmes, 76 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 24% of the target for 2023.

LEADER jobs: Out of the 110 relevant adopted programmes, 108 are relevant for this sub-indicator. The indicative milestone is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Population covered by Local Action groups (LEADER). This non-mandatory indicator concerns 107 RDPs. The indicative milestone, which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas. This non-mandatory

indicator concerns 71 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

Source: Rural development programmes

Indicator 3: % of rural population benefiting from new or improved IT infrastructures (Focus area 6C: Enhancing accessibility to use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
0.00					1.39%			5.78%
	Actual results							
	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0.20%	1.00%			

Comment: 47 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes, which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone is 24% of the target for 2023.

Source: Rural development programmes

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agricultural activities in rural areas	05 04 60 01	Target 2023: 35 437	2 277
Million rural area inhabitants benefitting from improved services and/or infrastructures		Target 2023: 51	
Million rural area inhabitants covered by a local development strategy		Target 2023: 164	
Million rural area inhabitants benefitting from new or improved services/infrastructure (ICT)		Target 2023: 17,0	

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agricultural activities in rural areas	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	39		861	2 236	7 948		
Million rural area inhabitants benefitting from improved services and/or infrastructures	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	2.1		29.5	36.5	50		
Million rural area inhabitants covered by a local development strategy	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	2.5		35.6	173.5	184		
Million rural area inhabitants benefitting from new or improved services/infrastructure (ICT)	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0.001		1.2	1.4	4.2		

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2023.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

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)
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry	8 449,0	8 460,0
Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		
Total	8 449,0	8 460,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	

3 035,0	10 463,0	10 751,0	8 265,0	8 271,0	8 449,0	8 460,0	57 694,0
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(*)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

Calculation¹² is based on the value of commitments for indicative annual allocation to focus areas based on all 118 adopted rural development programmes.

The Commission’s estimates of the overall climate contribution of both CAP funds are based on an EU wide agreed methodology. The method used by the Commission is sound, it has been prepared in a transparent and coordinated manner; it is based on Rio markers and it was communicated to the European Parliament and the Council. The tracking methodology for EAFRD is a reasonably reliable estimate for climate related expenditure and minimizes administrative burden. It currently represents 57.6% of EAFRD expenditure. The tracking methodology has to remain stable during the current MFF but could be fine-tuned post-2020.

In 2021, the EAFRD expenditure will continue to contribute to the EU’s climate action objectives. The same methodology as outlined above will be used to track the climate-related expenditure of the EAFRD, considering also that the current CAP legislation will continue to apply in financial year 2021.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry	4 433,0	4 438,0
Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors		
Total	4 433,0	4 438,0

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1 592,0	5 489,0	5 640,0	4 336,0	4 339,0	4 433,0	4 438,0	30 267,0

(*)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

Starting from Draft Budget 2016, the methodology for the calculation of the contribution to biodiversity is the following: 100% of the annual commitments in the Priority Area 4 with exception of the amounts for the areas facing natural constraints plus 40% of the annual commitments in the focus area 5E. Calculation based on the value of commitment respectively for Budget 2018 and Draft Budget 2019 and indicative annual allocation to focus areas based on 118 rural development programmes. This calculation does not take into account the impact of the review of flexibility decisions of the Member States.

In 2021, the EAFRD expenditure will continue to contribute to biodiversity. The same methodology as outlined above will be used to track this contribution, considering also that the current CAP legislation will continue to apply in financial year 2021.

Contribution to financing air quality

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
60	206	212	163	163	167	167	1 138

The methodology for the calculation of the contribution to financing air quality is the following: 40% of the annual commitments in the focus area 5B (energy efficiency) plus 40% of the annual commitments in focus area 5D (reducing greenhouse gases and ammonia emissions from agriculture). Focus areas 2A (farm modernisation) can have a positive effect on clean air. However, distinguishing investments for farm modernisation having an effect on ammonia emission reduction compared to the other investments is difficult and is not expected to represent a high percentage, so no amount is retained for this focus area.

¹² In accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 of 7 March 2014 laying down rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund with regard to methodologies for climate change support, the determination of milestones and targets in the performance framework and the nomenclature of categories of intervention for the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Gender mainstreaming

Rural development policy contributes to gender equality as the gender perspective is considered during the preparation and implementation of the RDPs. Under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Policy, the CAP supports social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Under this priority, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) supports inter alia, the development of basic services in rural areas as well as for local initiatives; it finances the start-up of non-agricultural and agricultural activities and promotes the cooperation between local actors. This can help to address the special challenges that women sometimes face in rural areas and in the agricultural sector, such as the lack of quality basic services in some rural areas (such as childcare services, broadband, transports). Moreover, all rural development measures have the potential to contribute to gender equality to a various extent, e.g. by providing support to improve skills, facilitate business development, etc. Besides that, contribution to gender equality is specifically sought in the rural development policy through:

- the possibility to submit thematic sub-programmes for women in rural areas,
- the possibility to target rural development support to women through the application of selection criteria and,
- the obligation to respect an ex ante conditionality on gender equality.

It is not possible to know the actual budgetary contribution to gender issues because this would require an in-depth analysis of the implementation of the RDPs. With the information available in the RDPs, it would only be possible to know the budget allocated to thematic sub-programmes on women in rural areas, but so far none of the RDPs has made use of this possibility.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial instruments (FI) are the key tool for providing access to finance for the farming sector and the rural economy. They also allow by leveraging with private capital and by their revolving nature to complement the rural development budget. EAFRD already met the target of doubling the use of FIs as compared to the 2007-2013 programming period. In 2019 twenty five FIs were operational (Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain). The signed funding agreements between EAFRD managing authorities and fund managers, including the EIF, totalled 28 in 2019.

By end 2019, FIs are programmed in 30 RDPs in eleven Member States with a total EAFRD allocation of EUR 519 million. The amount declared to the Commission till end of 2019 equals to EUR 125 million.

The Commission together with the EIB identified and developed the FI schemes that can be used by farmers, foresters and related rural businesses. It has also launched a specific EAFRD – EIB Initiative on Young Farmers, based also on the Omnibus proposal, combining EIB own resources and EAFRD financial instruments. Another DG AGRI – EIB Initiative focused on rural infrastructure and technical support for developing FIs in this field alongside with an Initiative for addressing price volatility in EAFRD FIs.

Under the technical assistance programme fi-compass in total 30 cases of targeted coaching on financial instruments for EAFRD managing authorities' were carried out in the period 2016-2019, of which 4 new were done in 2019. We undertook 4 EU-wide conferences with 605 participants in total. In 2019, three specific EAFRD FIs studies were published and an EU wide survey of agro-food processors was undertaken. A Study assessing the gaps in financing agriculture and agro-food sectors in 24 Member States was launched and is underway; an EU agro-food survey of financial needs was carried out in its context. The activities related to dissemination of information through conferences, specific brochures, websites and communication newsletters, etc. continued.

The Commission also tabled the new CAP proposal where FIs will continue to play an important part to foster investments in rural areas and which also introduced further legal and implementation simplifications.

Table Financial implementation of the financial instruments supported by the EAFRD (EUR million)

Country	EAFRD programmed amount	Calculated Total Public Support	Amount declared to the Commission	Execution (% spent)	Year of first disbursement to final recipients
Germany	5.0	5.8	2.1	42	2017
Estonia	35.5	39.5	35.5	100	2016
Spain	123.1	182.7	13.9	11.3	2019
France	35.9	49.7	3.95	11.0	2017
Croatia	60.0	70.6	20.5	34.2	2018
Greece	110	124.6	-	-	-
Italy	69.1	144.2	19.6	28.4	2018
Poland	31.8	50	7.5	23.6	2019

Portugal	26.9	29.0	-	-	-
Romania	87.8	94.0	21.9	25,0	2018
Slovenia	11.3	15	-	-	-
Total	596.4	805.1	125	24.1	

Note: Programmed amounts are from 23/01/2020, amounts declared are as of 15 October 2019 (Q3)

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)****Lead DG: MARE****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The EU has exclusive competence for the conservation of marine biological resources ⁽¹⁾, both in EU waters and in relation to the international obligations deriving from UNCLOS ⁽²⁾ and from other UN agreements to which the EU is a Party. The exclusive competence equally applies to the bilateral fisheries agreements signed with third countries. All these areas are regulated by the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The EMFF helps Member States to comply with the rules of the Common fisheries policy (CFP) being necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the policy, such as the sustainable management of fisheries. The EMFF is not only directed to fisheries and innovation in fisheries, aquaculture and processing, but also to diversification and promotion of the economic development of fisheries dependent areas. The EMFF supports the implementation of operational programmes set out by MS that contribute to four of the eleven thematic objectives ⁽³⁾ of the ESI funds and translate the Europe 2020 strategic objectives into investment priorities.

EU added value of the programme

Given the structural challenges facing the European fisheries and aquaculture sector, as well as the limits of the financial resources of individual MS, MS are not in a position to sufficiently address the problems themselves. That is why these problems are better addressed at EU level through multi-annual financing, with focus on a select number of relevant priorities.

Achieving sustainable fisheries may have some negative social impacts for coastal communities in the short to medium term; this needs mitigation through diversification and encouragement of fishers to find employment in expanding maritime economy sectors. This is of particular importance to coastal communities dependent on fisheries, in particular in areas where the fishing sector still faces serious problems (such as the Mediterranean and Black Seas): here a policy at EU level can provide real added value.

Several factors related to aquaculture (e.g. allocation of space, issuing and renewing of licences) have a strong subsidiarity dimension. Many marine aquaculture sites operate in marine ecosystems, which go beyond national borders and the planning of the maritime space requires coordinated planning efforts at EU-level.

Control and enforcement, as well as data collection and scientific advice, are core elements for the effective implementation of the CFP. These activities, coordinated and co-financed at EU-level, represent significant savings and synergies in terms of costs and compliance over the comparable national mechanisms.

Maritime policy and the development of the blue economy is by nature cross-sectoral and transnational, e.g. through the development of sea-basin strategies that cover several Member States and (where appropriate) partner countries; and via efficiency gains in the use of funds, application of rules and the involvement of bodies/institutions, to reduce the fragmentation and duplication of actions. In this policy field, action at EU-level is likely to produce clear benefits compared to action only at Member State/regional level. Marine knowledge assembles data and makes it accessible across the EU, Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) provides a common European maritime surveillance environment, while the sharing (at EU or sea basin levels) of coast guard capacities between agencies and Member States increases the effectiveness and efficiency of operations at sea. Maritime spatial planning is a way to better coordinate the common European maritime space and ensure coherence across borders (within and outside the EU). In blue growth areas such as ocean energy, when compared to separate Member State initiatives and budgets, the coordination of activities related to research (but also other non-technological issues) at European level accelerates the development of the sector (i.e. achieving the critical mass for investment and developing the market).

Implementation mode

Expenditure supporting the Fisheries and Maritime Policies is financed through a single fund, the EMFF, either directly or in the context of shared management with Member States. Shared management with Member States applies to measures to support fisheries, aquaculture and community-led local development, processing and marketing, compensation for the outermost regions, control and data collection activities as well as the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP). Direct management is used to implement scientific advice, specific control and enforcement measures, voluntary contributions to international organisations, Advisory Councils, market intelligence, operations for the implementation of the IMP and communication activities.

⁽¹⁾ 3 (1) (d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

⁽²⁾ United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea

⁽³⁾ Thematic objectives (TO):

TO 3: competitiveness of SMEs in the fisheries sector;

TO 4: supporting the shift towards a carbon-free economy;

TO 6: preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resources efficiency;

TO 8: promoting sustainable and quality employment.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

Shared management (2014-2020 envelope of EUR 5.687 million ⁽⁴⁾):

Overall, the implementation of the EMFF reached cruising speed in 2019, meaning that the cycle of project implementation became normal and steady and that the related payment claims should lead to a normal absorption rate of the EU funding allocations. By the end of 2019, total EMFF payments from the EU budget to Member States amounted to EUR 1.94 billion (including pre-financing and interim payments), which is 34 % of the total commitments for the period 2014-2020.

The performance review carried out in 2019 showed that 70 % of EMFF Union Priorities had achieved their milestones. A 20 % share of all performance reserves, amounting to EUR 67 million, were made available for reallocation given that the associated priority had not met its milestone. The reallocation of the reserve (Article 22(5) of CPR) allowed most Member States to make a more comprehensive review of their Operational Programme. Only one Member State (Slovakia) has lost the performance reserve.

The risk of automatic decommitment of funds allocated to specific projects but not paid out after three years has halved, from EUR 63 million at the end of 2018 to EUR 31 million at the end of 2019, confirming an acceleration of the implementation.

Direct management (2014-2020 envelope of EUR 647 million):

The implementation of the work programme for directly managed actions follows the set objectives and the actions listed in the annual programmes.

Since 2017, the biggest part of the annual envelope is used for financing projects supporting the development of blue economy (e.g. innovative solutions for maritime challenges, sea basin-focused operations aiming at promoting job creations, innovation and entrepreneurship, etc.).

In addition, the Commission continued to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy by funding Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, including the implementation of the Malta MedFish4Ever declaration and the 2017-2020 strategy actions of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean.

Funding was also provided to the Advisory Councils and for scientific advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). The Commission finances also the European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture (EUMOFA), which is a key tool in providing market intelligence to stakeholders, and policy-makers and increase market transparency. The implementation of the work programme for directly managed actions is on track.

Key achievements

Shared management:

From the beginning of the current programming period (2014-2020), over 8 700 fishing vessels, about 10 % of the EU fleet, benefited from the EMFF, 48 % of these vessels belonged to the small-scale coastal fishing fleet. The support provided continued to promote sustainable balance between fishing fleets and resources and the protection of the marine ecosystems. The EMFF has also supported over 2 000 operations related to better management of Natura 2000 areas, and more than 1 500 operations associated with other marine protected areas.

By the end of 2018 the Managing Authorities selected:

- 585 operations supporting innovation and new technologies with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 127 million;
- 26 559 operations addressing SMEs or private persons;
- 334 operations supporting the promotion of human capital and social dialogue -training, networking and social dialogue with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 11.8 million (excluding CLLD actions);
- 1 165 operations supporting energy efficiency with an EMFF contribution of around EUR 193 million;
- 14 893 projects addressing environment and resources efficiency with an EMFF contribution of EUR 532 million.

In total between 2014 and the end of 2018, more than 34 000 operations have been financed under the EMFF. The impact of these operations is delivered at the level of the coastal or maritime local communities. They help improve the sustainability of fishing, aquaculture and related activities, help maintain and protect the natural environment, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology, and increase cooperation and partnerships between businesses. This in turn adds value to the SMEs involved, supporting employment and creating a basis for growth in income. Examples of the types of projects include; replacing the engine in a fishing vessel with a more energy efficient engine, providing technical training to staff, increasing the capacity of a hatchery or installing an innovative water filtration system in an aquaculture facility. The operations financed by the EMFF benefit direct beneficiaries of the operations as well as having a multiplier effect along the production and supply chain and in related service

⁽⁴⁾ This takes into account the automatic decommitments (N+3) and the loss of the performance reserve by Slovakia.

industries. It is estimated that more than 80.000 fishermen, their spouses/partners, and 18 000 members of producer organisations as well as 40 000 employees of processing companies, benefit from the support (based on the information provided by the MS).

Under Shared management, of the EUR 5.7 billion allocation, MS plan to allocate EUR 1 billion (17.5 %) to tackling climate issues. By the end of 2018, EUR 0.44 billion of all selected projects was attributed to climate change issues. [Reference [Annex III of the ESIF Strategic report 2019](#)]

Direct management:

In 2019, the Commission's work reflected the EU's strong commitment to the sustainability, prosperity and security of our oceans.

A key deliverable in 2019 is the new technical measures regulation (EU) 2019/1241 ⁽⁵⁾ laying down technical measures concerning the taking and landing of marine biological resources, the operation of fishing gear and the interaction of fishing activities with marine ecosystems. The rules are now aligned to the reformed common fisheries policy of 2013 to better ensure sustainable fishing and to protect the marine environment. Rules have also been simplified and decentralised.

As in previous years, the Commission managed the fisheries conservation policy in pursuit of achieving maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for fish stocks by 2020. Recent economic data show that sustainable fisheries pays off in terms of higher and stable yields, fleet profitability and jobs. This explains why the Commission's proposals on the fishing opportunities 2020 in the Atlantic, the Baltic and the Black Seas, underpinned by scientific advice and a socioeconomic impact analysis, could be successfully negotiated in Council. In addition, emergency measures closed the Eastern Baltic cod fishery for the second half of 2019. However, further efforts are still needed to reach MSY for all commercially exploited stocks by 2020.

Rules to better implement the landing obligation are laid down in multiannual plans ⁽⁶⁾, or in their absence, in discard plans. For the first time, a management plan was put in place in 2019 for demersal fisheries in the western Mediterranean Sea. It is the fourth such plan, after the plans for the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the Western Waters of the Atlantic. The Baltic plan was amended to ensure a proper follow-up to the 2020 fishing opportunities for the Baltic Sea. Following a joint recommendation from the Member States concerned, four new discard plans were introduced by delegated acts from the Commission followed by intensive exchanges with the European Parliament.

The Commission continued applying the new fisheries governance put in place in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea with the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration of 2017 and the Sofia Declaration of 2018 aiming at rebuilding the fish stocks in the Black Sea and promoting small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Although the majority of the assessed fish stocks in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea are still overfished, recent data suggest that there has been a small improvement in exploitation. The Commission adopted and implemented further concrete actions to reverse the stocks situation and improve science and control, e.g. in October 2019 a proposal fixing the fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

In the context of ocean governance, it is to point out that the first progress report on Ocean Governance of March 2019 shows that the 50 actions for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans in the EU and around the world are successfully being implemented, but some need further work. In addition, the EU and Canada signed an ocean partnership in July 2019. Whereas at the first Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (5 September, Brussels), the Commission, Chinese and European stakeholders defined joint actions that will implement the first Ocean Partnership, signed with China in July 2018.

The Commission had developed an IT tool, the Our Ocean Commitment (OOC) Tracker, allowing keeping track of all the OOC commitments made by stakeholders worldwide. The OOC Tracker was used for the first time in 2019 to report on the fulfilment of OOC.

The EU organised a record number of beach cleaning actions across Europe and the world, as part of the #EUBeachCleanUp campaign 2019, thus raising awareness about oceans pollution among Europeans. 77 actions took place in 69 countries. Over 40 000 people participated. Some 850 tons of waste was removed from the oceans and beaches.

The EU adopted directive 2019/904 on single-use plastics ⁽⁷⁾, which addresses the 10 most found items on our beaches, including lost fishing gear, which accounts to some 27 % of all beach litter. Standards for recycling fishing gear were set. The posting online of maps of litter distribution in European waters through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) will help determine appropriate responses.

Since November 2012, the Commission entered into formal dialogues with 25 third countries, i.e. officially warned them of the need to take effective action to fight against Irregular Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (yellow card). Only a few countries have not shown the necessary reforms meaning that the fisheries products caught by their vessels cannot be imported into the EU (red card). A close dialogue with the EU helped Thailand to address its legal and administrative shortcomings in fisheries so that in 2019, the Commission could lift the yellow card it had issued in 2015. Also Taiwan successfully implemented the action plan as proposed by the Commission. In 2019, Ecuador was notified (yellow card) that it should develop an enforcement and sanctioning system to address IUU fishing. At this stage, the decision does not entail any trade measures. Also Panama was

⁽⁵⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) No 2019/1241 of 20 June 2019 on technical measures](#).

⁽⁶⁾ The multiannual plans are crucial to the implementation of the common fisheries policy with the objective of ensuring the sustainability of our marine resources and fisheries sector.

⁽⁷⁾ [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment](#)

notified that it should ensure adequate control over the activities of its vessels to prevent and deter them from engaging or supporting IUU fishing.

The success of the common fisheries policy depends very much on the implementation of an effective fisheries control system. The added value of this system is its contribution to a wide level playing field where the rules are applied in all fisheries in the same harmonised way across the EU. The Commission's actions on control contribute thereby to the Commission's priority to boost jobs, growth and investments. By 2019, 11 control action plans were in force. In 2019, one action plan was closed and three new actions plans to address shortcomings in the fisheries control systems of Malta, Cyprus and Italy were put in place.

In 2019, DG MARE undertook several actions to boost investments in a sustainable blue economy, including:

- raising awareness, for example during the European Maritime Day. The conference focused on boosting a sustainable blue economy and its contribution to growth, jobs and prosperity;
- fostering policy dialogue on maritime matters, notably in the Black Sea and in the Atlantic, and
- supporting programme development and investment through dedicated technical assistance mechanisms and events in sea basin regions.

Given the specific strengths and weaknesses of each sea basin region in the EU, tailor-made strategies have been put in place. In 2019, the Commission continued its work to deliver on them. By way of example a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea was endorsed on 21 May 2019 in Bucharest by Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. The Commission facilitated this key deliverable. The goal is to cooperate on blue economy for a more sustainable and healthy ecosystem of the Black Sea.

The Commission and the World Bank launched the Blue Economy Development Framework, whose aim is to help (developing) coastal states transition to diverse and sustainable blue economies while building resilience to climate change. The first pilot studies were launched in India, Vietnam and Kiribati to generate important lessons for the growing community of blue donors around the world.

EUMOFA (European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products) continued to be the reference Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture markets. This online service developed by the Commission is a market intelligence tool providing regular weekly indicators, monthly market trends and annual structural data along the supply chain. The number of visits to the database in October 2019 was 3.807, the highest number of visits ever registered (30 % more than in October 2018).

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the evaluations of the ESI funds (including the EMFF) were presented in the Programme Statement 2019 ⁽⁸⁾.

The key findings of the mid-term evaluation of the direct management part of the EMFF were presented in the Programme Statement 2019. The SWD document on the results will be published soon.

Forthcoming implementation

Shared management:

With all programmes now fully operational, the implementation of the 2014-2020 EMFF has reached cruising speed. The progress is expected to continue. The performance review of the EMFF and other ESI funds in 2019 showed that MS are progressing with implementation, with 70 % of all milestones met. DG MARE will continue to support the MS in the implementation of their programmes and increase the rate of absorption. Meanwhile, support is also being provided to MS to prepare their programmes for the next programming period.

To respond to the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, the Commission proposed an amendment to the EMFF Regulation 508/2014 ⁽⁹⁾, tabling a package of measures covering a more flexible re-allocation of the financial resources, compensation plans for temporary cessation of fishing activities, reductions in aquaculture production, and storage aid for producer organisations.

Direct management:

The amount allocated to actions in the 2020 Work Programme for procurement and grants totals EUR 90.4 million. The Commission will continue:

- implementing projects aiming at fostering the blue economy (e.g. actions to bring to market new products, services and business models in blue economy value chains and sustainable blue growth in Europe's sea basins);
- fostering international ocean governance by negotiating ocean partnerships;
- cooperating with stakeholders in the area of maritime spatial planning, marine observation and data, marine environmental improvement and common information-sharing for maritime safety and security;

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/asr2019/esif_asr2019_swd_en.pdf

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2020)142

Commission

proposal

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2020/0142/COM_COM\(2020\)0142_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2020/0142/COM_COM(2020)0142_EN.pdf)

- providing for scientific data, studies, etc. in order to base its decisions in the context of the CFP on the best available scientific advice;
- developing IT solutions in the area of control and enforcement of the CFP in the MS;
- supporting the work and programmes carried out by international organisations as well as Advisory Councils.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

A post-2020 EMFF, which was proposed by the Commission on 12 June 2018, will move towards a simplified architecture along the following elements:

- **4 priorities** – These priorities describe the scope of support of the EMFF in line with the objectives of the CFP, of the maritime policy and of the international ocean governance actions.
- **Areas of support** – The articles of the Regulation do not lay down prescriptive measures but describe the different areas of support under each priority, providing a flexible framework for implementation.
- **No predefined measures or eligibility rules at Union level** – Under shared management, it is up to Member States to draw up their programme indicating therein the most appropriate means for achieving the priorities of the EMFF. They will be granted flexibility in the setting of the eligibility rules. A variety of measures identified by the Member States in the programmes may be supported under the rules set out in the EMFF and in the Common Provisions Regulation, provided they are covered by the areas of support.
- **Conditions and restrictions for certain areas** – It is necessary to set out a list of ineligible operations so as to avoid detrimental impacts in terms of fisheries conservation, for example a general prohibition of investments enhancing fishing capacity. Moreover, investments and compensations for the fishing fleet (permanent cessation of fishing activities, extraordinary cessation of fishing activities, acquisition of a vessel, engine replacement) will be strictly conditional upon their consistency with the conservation objectives of the CFP. This is key for ensuring that financial support is targeted to the achievement of those objectives.
- **Result indicators** – The performance of EMFF support will be assessed on the basis of indicators. Member States will report on progress towards established milestones and targets and the Commission will carry out an annual performance review based on annual performance reports prepared by Member States, allowing for early detection of potential implementation issues and corrective actions. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being established for that purpose to be in place before programming begins.

This proposal aims to simplify the delivery of the EMFF compared to the very complex architecture under the 2014-2020 period, which is based on a precise and rigid description of financing possibilities and eligibility rules ('measures'). This has complicated implementation for Member States and beneficiaries. Instead of listing the measures selected from a menu of eligible actions as currently, the national programmes should focus on the strategic priorities chosen by each Member State. This architecture will optimise programme implementation towards policy objectives on the basis of performance, in the context of an on-going dialogue between the Commission and Member States on the achievement of results. Flexibility, result-orientation and mutual trust between the Commission and Member States are thus the three principles of an effective simplification.

Under shared management, programmes will be prepared by Member States and approved by the Commission. In the context of regionalisation and with a view to encouraging Member States to have a more strategic approach during the preparation of programmes, the Commission will develop an analysis for each sea basin indicating the common strengths and weaknesses with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP. That analysis will guide both the Member States and the Commission in negotiating each programme taking into account regional challenges and needs.

When assessing the programmes, the Commission will take into account the environmental and socioeconomic challenges of the CFP, the socioeconomic performance of the sustainable blue economy, the challenges at sea basin level, the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems, the reduction of marine litter and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Simplification will also be achieved through the Common Provisions Regulation, where most provisions related to implementation, monitoring and control are set out.

The EMFF will also support an effective knowledge-based implementation and governance of the CFP under direct and indirect management through the provision of scientific advice, the development and implementation of a Union fisheries control system, the functioning of Advisory Councils and voluntary contributions to international organisations. Under direct management, the EMFF will contribute to the promotion of clean and healthy seas and to the implementation of the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy developed in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 16 January 2016, in coherence with the objective of achieving or maintaining a good environmental status in the marine environment. In addition, the EMFF will support international commitments and objectives under direct management as regards international ocean governance at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, including to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, to improve the international ocean governance framework, to reduce pressures on oceans and seas, to create the conditions for a sustainable blue economy and to strengthen international ocean research and data.

Allocation of resources

The EMFF will be implemented under the following delivery systems:

- under shared management by Member States through EMFF programmes based on national strategies,
- by the Commission under direct or indirect management.

Shared management (86.5 %) and direct management (13.5 %). Such an allocation allows maintaining an appropriate balance between shared and directly managed resources.

Concerning shared management, after having deducted the value of the UK programme, Member States would retain, in nominal terms, 96.5 % of their 2014-2020 allocation. In order to ensure stability in particular with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, the definition of national allocations will be based on the 2014-2020 shares.

It is also proposed that amounts for certain areas of support under shared management are ring-fenced:

- control and enforcement and collection and processing of data for fisheries management and scientific purposes (minimum 15 % of the financial support allocated per Member State, except for land-locked countries),
- the outermost regions (ring-fenced amount covering both a compensation regime for additional costs and structural support).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council	2014 – 2020	6 396,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	3,3	3,4	3,7	3,7	3,5	3,6	3,6	24,8
Operational appropriations	116,1(*)	1 617,3	885,1	905,1	926,8	935,2	953,4	6 339,0
Executive Agency	0,8	1,9	2,6	2,9	3,0	3,2	3,3	17,8
Total	120,3	1 622,6	891,4	911,7	933,4	942,1	960,3	6 381,6

(*)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	942,055	99,77 %	651,903	99,87 %	960,254	95,75 %	769,899	40,78 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	1 086,044	99,59 %	844,783	99,82 %	962,844	95,64 %	771,774	40,78 %

(*) 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

It is too early to say whether the four specific objectives of the EMFF have been achieved. The performance review showed that 70 % of all EMFF Union Priorities (UP) achieved their milestones (103), 30 % did not achieve their milestones (46). Seven Member States (AT, CZ, DK, FI, EL, IE, SE) met all their milestones, with a further eight (BE, ES, HU, MT, PL, PT, RO,UK) missing only one milestone. BG and SK were the poorest performers. SK met none of the milestones for the three UPs in their programme. Although BG met only one milestone of the six UPs in their programme, several constructive steps including the establishment of an action plan were taken. Performance is expected to improve. The same cannot be said of SK. It follows, therefore, that a Member State's administrative capacity has a significant influence on milestone achievement.

With regard to specific UPs, UP3 (data collection and control) was extremely successful, with milestones met in 25 of the 27 Member States. Solid results were also seen in UPs 5 (marketing and processing), 6 (Integrated Maritime Policy) and 1 (sustainable fisheries). UP4 (Community-led Local Development) and UP2 (aquaculture) were less successful, but the milestones were still met in a majority of Member States. Where milestones have not been met, DG MARE has requested the Member State to put in place

mitigating actions to address the situation. These issues are monitored via annual review meetings and ongoing contact with the Member States.

That said, it should be pointed out that operations financed through shared management part have been helping improve the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture as well as maintain and protect the natural environment, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology and increase cooperation and partnerships between businesses and therefore contributing to achieving these objectives.

This in turn adds value to the SMEs involved, supporting employment and creating a basis for growth in income. This is illustrated among others by a positive upward trend in indicators 'Value of aquaculture production in the EU' and 'Employment created/maintained in the fisheries and aquaculture with support from the EMFF'.

Despite the late start of the EMFF programme due to late adoption of the related Regulation, a number of mitigating actions were taken to remedy the situation. Multiple operational programmes were modified accordingly, coupled with reallocation of funding, and other action plans to overcome delays in implementation. The amendments of national legislation and ongoing adaptation of the selection criteria reduced the time necessary for project selection. Via methodological support, increased frequency of calls, and simplification of IT interface for monitoring and certification, by end of 2019 the programme had fully eliminated all initial delays. There are elements however, that still hinder the smooth implementation of the programme, like the complexity of the national public and administrative procedures, complex acquisition of aquaculture licences, no possibilities of co-financing for potential interested beneficiaries. The Commission works continuously with the Member States in finding ways how to bring further improvement.

In addition, the mid-term evaluation of the direct part of the EMFF pointed out that there is almost universal agreement from stakeholders that the action supported by the EMFF did indeed contributed to meeting the objective of both and fisheries policies. They helped maritime policy through a more integrated governance, joined-up data, spatial plans that take into account neighbours, communication between maritime authorities with different responsibility, business support for emerging industries and sound criteria for assessing the state of the marine environment. Fisheries policy was supported through scientific advice, improved enforcement, structured stakeholder involvement, enhanced ocean governance and market intelligence.

In pursuit of fostering the implementation of the CFP, the Commission has been managing the fisheries conservation policy to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for fish stocks by 2020, which is demonstrated by a positive trend in the indicator on MSY levels. Recent economic data also show that sustainable fisheries pays off in terms of higher and stable yields, fleet profitability and jobs (see the indicators 'Profitability of the EU fishing fleet' and 'Fuel efficiency of fish capture'). Despite the overall improvement, there are areas such as the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea where most of the stocks remain exploited beyond sustainable levels. The Commission adopted and implemented concrete regional action plans to reverse the stocks situation and improve science and control. An example of this is a proposal made in October 2019 that fixed the fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and further addressed the data collection, scientific evaluation, ecosystem-based fisheries management, and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

The mid-term evaluation also noted that links with European Regional Development Fund could be improved and that a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system could be established. An indicator system is in preparation to facilitate the evaluations of the next programming period. The idea is to deliver a common monitoring and evaluation system (CMES) under direct management that is fully compatible to the shared management CMES. This includes common result indicators, common typologies and standardised implementation data. Work commenced in July 2019 and is currently in finalisation (April 2020).

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

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member- states at end 2017 (2)**	(2)/(1) %
3.Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises Outputs:	2 742,8	1 308,3	24.3 %
4.Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors Outputs:	75,6		
6.Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	1 977,5		
8.Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility Outputs:	598		
TOTAL	5 393,9	1 308,3	24.3 %

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

** In EMFF payment applications submitted by the MS there is no requirement to report on the amounts spent with regard to a given thematic objective. The amounts spent are reported by the MS at the level of priorities that might be made up of several thematic objectives. Information on the amounts spent by the MS with regard to the thematic objectives is therefore not available.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture

Indicator 1: Labour productivity (in terms of gross value added per employee) in the EU fisheries sector								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU fishing fleet: 38 700	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	41 300	42 800	49 000	51 200				
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU aquaculture: 44 000	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	49 600	52 500	57 300					
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
EU fish processing: 53 500	Actual results							Increase in fisheries sector's productivity: (%) equals or exceeds that of the EU economy (%)
	59 100	52 400	47 700	57 400				

Availability of Data: For 2018,

EU fishing fleet: The data is made available for fishing fleet and aquaculture in the month of August of year N+2 after the approval of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

EU aquaculture: The data on aquaculture will be available in December 2020 following the biannual meeting of the STECF Expert Working Group on Aquaculture.

EU fish processing: The data for fish processing will be available at a later stage.

Indicator 2: Profitability of the EU fishing fleet by fleet segment								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Average EU fishing fleet Net profit margin: 6.0 %	Actual results							10.0-12.0 %
	11.0 %	11.0 %	17.0 %	16.9 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Small scale fleet: 8 %	Actual results							
	4 %	10 %	14 %	12 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Large scale fleet: 5.3 %	Actual results							
	8.0 %	12.0 %	19.0 %	17.0 %				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2023
Long distance water fleet: 5.6 %	Actual results							
	24.0 %	6.0 %	15.0 %	15.0 %				

Availability of Data: For 2018 data is available for fishing fleet and aquaculture in the month of August of year N+2 after the approval of the Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). In the case of fish processing it becomes available later.

Indicator 3: Fuel efficiency of fish capture								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2023
Ratio catches to fuel consumption: ca. 2.05 kg of fish for 1 litre of fuel				5 % reduction			10 % reduction	10 % reduction
	Actual results							
	2.20 %	2.15 %	1.81 %	2.20 %				

Availability of Data: For 2018 data will be available at a later stage.

Indicator 4: Volume of discards of commercially exploited species								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2023
23 %		21 %		10 %		Max 5 %	Reduced	Reduced
	Actual results							

Comment: The Commission closely monitors the implementation of the Landing Obligation and reports annually to the European Parliament and the Council based on information provided by Member States, the Advisory Councils and other relevant sources. However, information on discard quantities presented by Member States is scant and, based on the questionnaires. It is not possible to say whether there have been any changes in discard quantities. In parallel, the Commission adopted its post 2020 EMFF legislative proposal in June 2018 where it emphasised the need to facilitate the implementation of the Landing Obligation through the support of investments in selective fishing gears, in the improvement of port infrastructures and in the marketing of unwanted catches. The Commission has also emphasised the need for a more effective enforcement and control of the Landing Obligation in its recent proposal for a revision of the Control Regulation, by proposing that certain vessels are equipped with continuous recording electronic monitoring devices including Close Circuit Televisions (CCTV).

Unit of measure: Percentage of discarded catches

Indicator 5: Value of aquaculture production in the EU								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2023
3.85				+2.25 % annual growth compared to 2016			4.89	4.89
	Actual results							
	3.89	4.13	4.90					

Narrative: Target: At least + 27 % compared to the baseline 2013

Unit of measure: EUR billion

Indicator 6: Relative value or volume of products placed on the market by Producers Organisations (POs), associations of POs or inter-branch organisations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
BEL: 73 100	73 300	73 500	73 700	73 900	74 100	74 300	75 100	75 100
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
DNK: 285 235	286 035	286 835	287 635	288 435	289 235	290 035	293 235	293 235
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
DEU: 176 419	176 639	176 859	177 079	177 299	177 519	177 739	178 619	178 619
	Actual results							

	Milestones foreseen							2023
EST: 1 900	1 940	1 980	2 020	2 060	2 100	2 140	2 300	2 300
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
IRL: 171 426	173 426	175 426	177 426	179 426	181 426	183 426	191 426	191 426
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
GRC: 45	7 976	15 908	23 839	31 771	39 702	47 633	79 359	79 359
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
ESP: 1 342 243	1 352 104	1 361 965	1 371 825	1 381 686	1 391 547	1 401 408	1 440 851	1 440 851
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
FRA: 653 288	655 688	658 088	660 488	662 888	665 288	667 688	677 288	677 288
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
HRV: 0	0	889	1 778	2 667	3 556	4 444	8 000	8 000
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
ITA: 165 468	168 686	171 904	175 121	178 339	181 557	184 775	197 646	197 646
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
LVA: 8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794	8 794
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
LTU: 317 916	318 416	318 916	319 416	319 916	320 416	320 916	322 916	322 916
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
NLD: 419 723	419 753	419 783	419 813	419 843	419 873	419 903	420 023	420 023
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
POL: 46 080	46 610	47 140	47 670	48 200	48 730	49 260	51 380	51 380
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
PRT: 146 826	148 826	150 826	152 826	154 826	156 826	158 826	166 826	166 826

	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
RON: 11 713	11 749	11 785	11 820	11 856	11 892	11 927	12 070	12 070
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
SWE: 776 649	776 723	776 797	776 871	776 945	777 019	777 093	777 389	777 389
	Actual results							
	Milestones foreseen							2023
GBR: 424 665	426 315	427 965	429 615	431 265	432 915	434 565	441 165	441 165
	Actual results							

Availability of Data: Due to unreliable data submitted by the MS in their AIRs no reporting is possible on this indicator at the moment.
 Source: EMFF operational programmes. Milestones are a linear extrapolation from the targets set for 2023

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Conservation, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species (UP1-SO1-measure 3)	11 06 60	Target 2023: 175	199.6
Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change (UP1-SO5-measure 3)		Target 2023: 499	
Productive investments in aquaculture (UP2 SO2-measure 1)		Target 2023: 4 753	
Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (UP2-SO4-measure 1)		Target 2023: 1 498	
Producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans (UP5- SO1-measure 1)		Target 2023: 238	
Processing projects (UP 5- SO2-measure 1)		Target 2023: 1 894	
Total			199.6

Based on the total EMFF allocation for the above-mentioned measures as per the EMFF annual implementation reports due by the end of May 2018 (EUR 1 322 million for the whole programming period). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Conservation, reduction of the fishing impact on the marine environment and fishing adaptation to the protection of species	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	134	278	810	*	
Energy efficiency, mitigation of climate change	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	3	75	262	*	
Productive investments in aquaculture	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	76	371	2 771	*	
Limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	*	30	40	162	1 461	*	
Producers organisations or associations of producers organisations supported for production and marketing plans	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	2	25	65	214	*	
Processing projects	F	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	P	30	83	210	1 233	*	

*Data on selected operations for funding in 2018 to be sent by MS to the Commission by 31 March 2020

Specific Objective 2: Fostering the development and implementation of the Union’s Integrated Maritime Policy in a complementary manner to Cohesion policy and to the Common Fisheries Policy

Indicator 1: Marine knowledge 2020 initiative: Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) measured by the number of users downloading data

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 212	1 212			5 000			17 000	17 000
	Actual results							
	1 234	2 645	4 967	14 916				

Comment: This indicator is not measured anymore. For the purpose of the strategic plan 2016-2020 this indicator was revised and replaced by 'Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of the number of downloads of data per month'. The latest reporting, as per the 2019 AAR, shows a steady to positive trend in the use of EMODnet.

Unit of measure: Unique visitors per month to the central portal

Indicator 2: Maritime Surveillance: Percentage of available cross-sectorial and/or cross-border data, as a percentage of the total information gap identified in the Impact Assessment on CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %					10 % to 20 % increase in data exchange across sectors		20 % to 40 % increase in data exchange across sectors	20 % to 40 % increase in data exchange across sectors
	Actual results							

Comment: In April 2019, CISE entered in a transitional phase to operations, managed by EMSA under a Grant Agreement signed with MARE. The impact of CISE on the information gap will be measured only in 2021, when CISE is expected to become operational.

Unit of measure: Percentage of data gap closed

Indicator 3: Percentage of the surface area of marine waters conserved through spatial protection measures in the context of Article 13.4 of MSFD

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Exclusive Economic Zone: 5.9 %				8.0 %			10.0 %	10.0 %
	Actual results							
			10.8 %	10.8 %	10.8 %	10.8 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0-12 nm zone: 10 %							20 %	20 %
	Actual results							

Comment: By the end of 2016, 10.8 % of the surface of Europe’s seas had been designated as MPAs. The % of areas designated as Marine Protected Areas has increased over last years, but the official information as published in 2017 is based on 2016 data sets, which says that 10.8 % of Europe’s waters are designated as MPAs.

Source: ETC/ICM Technical Report 04/2017 ‘Report on Spatial Analysis of Marine Protected Area Networks in Europe’s Seas II, Volume A, 2017’

https://icm.eionet.europa.eu/ETC_Reports/SpatialAnalysisOfMarineProtectedAreaNetworksInEuropesSeas_VolumeA_2017/Spatial%20Analysis%20MPA%20Networks_v1.5.pdf

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million

1. Number of contracts concluded to construct European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMOD net)	11 06 61	5	10.0
2. Actions supporting the exchange of information flows relevant to the 'Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain'.	11 06 61	6	6.4
3. Actions supporting the development of the Blue Economy in European Sea Basins (studies, pilot project, business cases)	11 06 61	10	21.0
4. Studies, pilot projects and expert support for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States and across European sea basins	11 06 61	4	4.7
5. Actions supporting the implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)	11 06 61	5	4.4
Total			46.5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of contracts concluded to construct EMOD net	F	6	6	8	4	6	8	5
	P	5	3	4*	8	5	1	
Actions supporting the exchange of information flows relevant to the CISE for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain.	F(direct management)	2	2	13	12	12	6	6
	F(shared management)	Actions in 23 MS throughout the programming period						
	P	12	3	4	8	5	1	
Actions supporting the development of the Blue Economy in European Sea Basins (studies, pilot project, business cases)	F	2	2	2	15	8	6	10
	P	7	3	16*	12	29	8	
Studies, pilot projects and expert support for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in Member States and across European sea basins	F	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
	P	5	0	6*	7	3	3	
Actions supporting the implementation of MSFD	F	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	P	8	4	7*	5	7	7	

* The difference between produced and foreseen outputs are due to the fact that in the years 2014-2015 more emphasis was laid on the implementation of actions related to marine knowledge and cross-sectoral tools (such as CISE) whereas from 2016 the emphasis shifted towards the blue economy (blue growth).

Specific Objective 3: Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas

Indicator 1: Employment created/maintained in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors with support from the EMFF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Employment created: 0							4 624	4 624
	Actual results							
			105	190	935			
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Employment maintained:							26 550	26 550
	Actual results							
			952	1 929	8 486			

Comment: The figures come from the Annual Implementation Reports for 2018 submitted by the MS to the Commission in May 2019.

Indicator 2: Number of local strategies selected by Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				276			276	276
	Actual results							
			277	368	368	367		

Comment: 368 FLAGs were approved by the end of 2017, however one in Bulgaria did not start up. No more FLAGs may be approved in the

current programming period, therefore the figure of 367 will never increase.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of operations supported by the Fisheries Local Actions Groups	11 06 60	3 460*	204.5**

* This figure is based on the average number of operations selected per year by FLAGS active under the EMFF

** Latest data from the AIR.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of operations supported by the Fisheries Local Actions Groups	F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	P	0	0	220	368*	368*	367*	

* 368 FLAGS were approved by the end of 2017, however one in Bulgaria did not start up. No more FLAGS may be approved in the current programming period, therefore the figure of 367 will never increase.

Specific Objective 4: Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy

Indicator 1: Number of apparent infringements of CFP rules by operators found in the framework of joint deployment plans (JDPs) divided by the number of inspections conducted

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
18 %				15.00 %				10.00 %
	Actual results							10.00 %
	5.38 %	4.11 %	3.49 %	4.00 %	2.60 %	2.30 %		

Methodology: Number of apparent infringements/number of inspections (ratio)

Indicator 2: Number of Member States with an effective control system

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
6				Max. 5 MS are under an action plan.				No Member States are under an action plan meaning that all Member States have an effective control system
	Actual results							0
	6	9	9	13	13	11		

Narrative: Number of Member States under an action plan to overcome shortcomings in their fisheries control system with a target that no Member State is under an action plan, meaning that all Member States have an effective control system

Comment: 10 actions plans were closed in 2019. It should be noted that the 'number of action plans' may not be the ideal performance indicator and should not be viewed in isolation. Most importantly, the absence of action plans (which is the 2020 target) does not necessarily mean that the Member States' fisheries control systems are satisfactory. This is because other instruments – such as infringements, EU pilots, etc. – also are used to address weaknesses. Besides, considering that audits of the MS systems are performed on a regular basis and that an action plan only covers specific part of the MS' control system, the 'zero'-target for 2020 does not appear realistic anymore. The 2020 target (no MS under an action plan) did not take into account the fact that certain actions would have taken longer than expected (notably those linked to IT development), nor the fact that more action plans could have been opened due to the increased auditing activity of DG MARE. In addition, action plans have been used and are being used to also progressively go beyond the minimum requirements set in the legislations, thus not necessarily reflecting a situation of non-compliance, at least not for all actions.

Indicator 3: Proportion or number of stocks that are fished at MSY levels

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017			2018	2019	2020	Target
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen									2020
ICES		59 %	59 %							

area: 59 %	Actual results							100 %
				<p>Total allowable catches (TACs) are one of the main fisheries management tools in the Northern Atlantic and adjacent areas, where the Commission proposed TACs in line with or below Fmsy for 2019, for all the 76 TACs for which Fmsy advice was available. This was not possible for 5 TACs for which the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) gave 0 TAC advice, because doing so would have led to choke situations with serious socioeconomic impacts, and where it was decided to maintain by-catch TACs at low levels. The Council set 59 TACs in line with Fmsy, which corresponds to 3 additional TACs compared to 2018.</p> <p>Of the expected landings in the Baltic Sea, 95 % come from TACs set in line with Fmsy and 4 % from TACs in line with precautionary advice. Of the expected landings (for the Fmsy-assessed stocks managed by the EU alone) in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, 99.7 % come from the TACs set in line with Fmsy; in the North Western and South Western Waters this figure is 94 % and 90 % respectively.</p> <p>For deep-sea stocks, fishing opportunities were set in November 2018 for 2019 and 2020. They account for less than 1 % of all landings in the EU. All deep-sea stocks are assessment-limited. The relevant Council decisions on deep-sea fishing opportunities are now more closely based on scientific advice than in previous years.</p> <p>For stocks subject to consultations with the Coastal States, only the blue whiting TAC for 2019 was in line with the long-term management strategy for this stock, and with ICES Fmsy advice. The EU-Norway negotiations led to a less ambitious result in terms of conservation, as only 9 out of 17 TACs were set in line with Fmsy – fewer than for 2018.</p>				
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Mediterranean Sea: 59 %	59 %	59 %						100 %
	Actual results							
				In the Mediterranean Sea, 35 out of the 40 stocks assessed were exploited beyond sustainable levels in 2017, with, on average, fishing around 2.2 times higher than their respective Fmsy. Recent data suggest that there has been a decreasing trend in the average F/Fmsy rate since 2011. This could indicate a small improvement in exploitation.				
2015 & 2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Black Sea: 59 %	59 %	59 %						100 %
	Actual results							
				In the Black Sea, 6 out of the 8 assessed shared stocks remain overfished, with the exception of sprat and rapa whelk.				

Narrative: Average fishing mortality compared to MSY values (where=1 for F=FMSY), means that the stock is fished at Fmsy (F=FMSY); where >1 means that the stock is classified as overfished in relation to the CFP Fmsy objective), for stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Exploitation at MSY rate for all commercially exploited stocks. Target set by Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the CFP.

Unit of measure: Percentage of the exploited stocks (with FMSY advice) in the North-East Atlantic and adjacent waters were fished at MSY.

Indicator 4: Degree of adequate responses to data calls under the data collection framework (100 % minus failures to deliver the full data set required)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
92 %				96 %			100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	91 %	81 %	79 %	78 %	94 %			

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects related to the establishment and validation of databases on control	11 06 60	Target 2023: 949*	85,7*
Number of vessels equipped in new control technologies (CCTV and electronic)	11 06 60		

devices) or subject to measurement of engine power			
Projects on traceability of all fisheries products	11 06 60		
Support to operational costs incurred in the context of Specific Control and Inspection programs or coordinated control deployments or in the context of action plans	11 06 60		
Number of studies related to CFP	11 06 62 01	15	5,4
Support to the national programmes for collection of biological, technical, environmental and socioeconomic data concerning the fisheries sector –	11 06 60	54	80,3**
Grants to Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and other International Bodies needed to achieve their objectives of sustainable development of fisheries resources and sustainable ocean governance through, inter alia, funding of capacity building and scientific research	11 06 62 03	34	13,0
Grants to Advisory Councils, allowing them to provide advice to the Commission and Member States	11 06 62 04	11	3,3
Operational fully-fledged Market Observatory	11 06 62 05	1	3,3
Total			191,0

* The related data for the different outputs (as shown in the table above) is not made available to the Commission by the MS. Therefore, a target to be achieved by end of 2023 has been shown. The target in the operational programmes relates to the number of projects in the area of control to be implemented by end of 2023. The operational programmes do not split the target across the different outputs.

** This figure is based on the total EMFF allocation to this Union Priority in the EMFF OPs. The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects related to the establishment and validation of databases*	F	5.180	4.446	4.944	6.954	7.734	8.974	10.224
Investments in new control technologies (number of vessels equipped)*								
Projects on traceability of all fisheries products*	P	0	28*	57*	67*	536	**	
Support to operational costs incurred in the context of Specific Control and Inspection programs or coordinated control deployments*								
Number of studies related to CFP	F	12	8	18	14	16	16	18
	P(direct management only)	8	7	9	9	7	17	
Support to the national programmes for collection of biological, technical, environmental and socioeconomic data concerning the fisheries sector	F	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
	P	27	27	27	27	27	27	
Grants to RFMOs needed to achieve their objectives of sustainable development of fisheries resources through, inter alia, funding of capacity building and scientific research	F	16	24	32	32	32	32	32
	P(direct management only)	16	30	34	25***	34	29	
Grants to Advisory Councils, allowing them to provide advice to the Commission and Member States	F	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
	P(direct management only)	7	7	10	10	10	10	
Operational fully-fledged Market Observatory	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P(direct management only)	1	1	1	1	1	1	

* Since the transition of this funding from direct management to shared management, the related data for the different outputs (as shown in the table above) have not been made available to the Commission by the MS. Slow uptake accounts for the low level of actual outputs. Compared to DB2018 forecast figures for respective outputs were added up and reported as a single number per year (i.e. not cumulated) because the Commission cannot report on the respective outputs due to the lack of detailed data.

** The information concerning outputs for 2019 is not yet available and is only due mid-2020. As in previous years, only a single figure can be given.

*** Some projects were put together in one single grant agreement.

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)
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
EMFF relevant objective/output	143,7	146,3
Total	143,7	146,3

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
134,3	125,5	137,3	139,5	142,8	143,7	146,3	969,4

(*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

These forecasts and amounts are based on the total EMFF allocation to climate objectives in EMFF Operational Programmes (EUR 969.4 million for the whole programming period). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
EMFF relevant objective/output	128,6	131,1
Total	128,6	131,1

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
120,9	115,1	122,6	124,7	127,3	128,6	131,1	870,3

(*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

These forecasts are based on the allocation in the Operational Programmes to Thematic Objective 6 – ‘Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency’ (Rio marker of 40 % of the total applied to budget line 11 06 60). The annual EMFF contribution is calculated in proportion to the EMFF tranche in the annual budget. In addition, 40 % of the relevant funding in direct management (scientific advice and knowledge, control and enforcement and voluntary contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) is included.

Gender mainstreaming

While setting up their Operational Programmes (OPs), responsible Managing Authorities are required to consult bodies promoting gender equality⁽¹⁰⁾. They should consider whether the EMFF measures targeting women in fishing/aquaculture⁽¹¹⁾ are to be included in their OPs; they must also⁽¹²⁾ ‘ensure publicity for the operational programme by informing bodies involved in promoting equality between men and women of the possibilities offered by the programme. Furthermore, Managing Authorities should⁽¹³⁾ ‘examine actions to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons’.

Finally, thought should be given (when setting up the monitoring and evaluation system) to what specific data needs may arise, to enable Managing Authorities to evaluate the actions taken to promote equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for disabled persons.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Art 5 of (EU) Reg. 1303/2013

⁽¹¹⁾ Art 29 (b) and 50 (c) of EU Reg. 508/2014

⁽¹²⁾ Art 97 (EU) Reg. 508/2014

⁽¹³⁾ Art 113 (EU) Reg. 508/2014

Access to a legal status for all assisting spouses will constitute the formal recognition of their contribution to fisheries enterprises and it will give visibility to women's participation in the fisheries sector. But some MS have yet to give this status to fisherwomen despite the claims of fisherwomen organizations and the available EU directives (2010/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council).

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The EMFF contributes to SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), by: contributing to the improvements of the economic results of the EU fisheries sector, and to the improvements of the living standards of the coastal populations which depend on that sector; allowing operators to modernise their productive tools, to diversify their sources of income or to switch to alternative economic activities.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

By promoting the conservation of the marine living resources and the protection of the marine ecosystem, the EMFF contributes to the sustainability of the production of the EU fisheries sector of healthy quality food, and thus to SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Please, see the section on gender mainstreaming above.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The main objective of the EMFF is to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), thereby contributing first and foremost to SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). To date the EMFF has funded nearly 15,000 projects on preserving the marine environment and ensuring better resource efficiency. This has been supported with an EMFF contribution of EUR 532.42 million. The EMFF has also supported over 2000 operations related to better management of Natura 2000 areas, covering an area of at least 74 000 km², and more than 1500 operations associated with other marine protected areas, covering an area of at least 704 055 km².

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Member States have the flexibility to contribute resources from programmes to financial instruments set up at national, regional level and managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority. So far one financial instrument is fully – and successfully – operating in Estonia. Several other Member States have considered, or are considering, use of Financial Instruments.

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)****Lead DG: ENV**

Associated DGs: EAC, CLIMA

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

Launched in 1992, LIFE is the only EU programme exclusively dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate action, all areas of growing public concern. Because of its limited size (0.3 % of the EU budget), the LIFE programme is not meant to solve environmental and climate problems, but rather to act as a catalyst for developing and exchanging best practices and knowledge. The programme's role is to build up and improve capacity, speed up the implementation of EU legislation, and help private players, in particular businesses, to test small-scale technologies and solutions, and leverage other funds.

LIFE activities aim in particular to target resource efficiency, including circular economy, to protect nature and biodiversity, to improve the quality of waters and air and the use of chemicals, to prevent the negative effects of noise, to mitigate emissions and to adapt to climate change.

EU added value of the programme

Compared with action at national level, the LIFE programme ensures:

- More effective knowledge-sharing. LIFE is an EU platform that enables players across the EU to learn from each other's experience on the implementation of EU legislation and policies (e.g. by financing peer reviews, by coordinating cooperation between judges, by pooling resources and expertise, etc.).
- Strengthening of solidarity and responsibility sharing. Environmental assets are often of a public good nature and are unevenly distributed across the EU ⁽¹⁾. By assisting Member States that have the most valuable EU natural capital, LIFE allows for a better solidarity and for sharing responsibility in preserving the EU environmental common goods.
- Better response to transboundary or transnational environmental problems, which cannot be adequately addressed by Member States acting alone: LIFE has helped reaching important commitments at international level on the environment/climate (i.e. the Paris agreement), and avoiding coordination failures.
- Increased coherence of EU environmental and climate legislation and policies through the definition of common targets and the development of legislation and policies (e.g. A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy). LIFE also assists Member States in progressing towards these common targets through positive incentives (i.e. by financing peer reviews, helping to enforce environmental and climate legislation and policies in Member States, etc.) and negative incentives (fines imposed by legislation on e.g. such as CO2 emissions from cars).

The EU added value of the LIFE programme has been also confirmed by the 2017 mid-term evaluation, where the overwhelming majority of the respondents of the public consultations confirmed that the programme has an important EU added value because it:

- responds to European and global environment and climate challenges, which are unlikely to be addressed by a Member State alone; and supports the coherent development, implementation and enforcement of EU environment and climate policy and legislation, (98 % of respondents);
- tackles environmental and climate problems more efficiently than it could be done at national level (98 % of respondents);
- preserves EU environmental resources which, even if unevenly distributed across the EU, benefit the EU as a whole (94 % of respondents);
- helps to leverage the funds for environmental protection and climate action (97 % of respondents);
- contributes to EU-wide sharing of 'best practices', knowledge transfer, demonstration, and awareness raising (99 % of respondents).

The high level of demand for projects combined with the relatively low level of co-financing ⁽²⁾ in comparison with other programmes, underlines the continued interest in LIFE and its capacity to address existing needs.

The wide range of beneficiaries of LIFE projects – public authorities, private companies, including small and medium enterprises, and no profit organisations – demonstrates that the programme is capable of addressing different demands and attracting a wide range of stakeholders of climate/environmental policies.

⁽¹⁾ Article 8 of the Habitats Directive explicitly links the delivery of conservation measures to the provision of EU co-financing.

⁽²⁾ LIFE finances a maximum of 60 % of eligible costs for all projects for the duration of the first multiannual work programme (MAWP 2014-2017). This rate will be reduced to 55 % during the second MAWP (2018-2020). Exceptions are foreseen for the nature and biodiversity projects related to priority habitats or species (up to 75 %) or capacity building projects (up to 100 %).

Moreover, the evidence gathered in the evaluation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (fitness-check) confirmed the strategic role that the LIFE programme plays in supporting their implementation.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) is the lead DG for the programme implementation, with DG CLIMA and DG EAC as associated DGs.

The Commission manages directly the procurement activities, direct grants and the prizes. The bulk of the LIFE grants is managed under direct management by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (EASME), in close collaboration with the relevant Commission services (ENV and CLIMA).

LIFE funds two pilot financial instruments (Private Finance for Energy Efficiency – PF4EE and Natural Capital Financing Facility – NCF) which are being implemented by the EIB under indirect management.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The implementation of the programme is on track.

Following the 24 calls for proposals for traditional projects launched from 2017 to 2019, more than 3100 proposals were received leading to the financing of 290 (grant) projects for the years 2017-2018. The call for proposals launched in still 2019 is ongoing.

On climate objectives, about 422 project applications for traditional projects focusing on climate action objectives have been received, mainly focused on climate adaptation (45 % of the total number of proposals for climate action) although the projects proposals for climate mitigation are increasing rapidly (from 30 % in 2017 to 38 % in 2019). About 67 projects were co-financed following the calls for proposals 2017 and 2018.

On environmental objectives, including circular economy, air, water, soil, chemicals, noise, resource efficiency and nature and biodiversity, about 2682 applications were received in 2017-2019 and 223 projects financed in the years 2017 and 2018. 2019 projects are being awarded. In particular, the number of applications for nature and biodiversity projects is in constant evolution and reached 328 in 2019.

For projects on environment and climate change mitigation, the large majority of beneficiaries are from the private sector (60 % and 50 % respectively). Under these priority areas, the LIFE programme seems to become more and more attractive to private businesses.

Organisations from the public sector are the main beneficiaries of climate adaptation (73 % of the total beneficiaries) and nature and biodiversity projects (61 % of the beneficiaries). For the last one, the presence of private non-commercial organisations is also noticeable (35 % of the total beneficiaries).

Since 2017, a total of 12 calls for proposals for integrated projects were launched. The demand is higher than expected: 22 integrated projects in 16 different Member States have been financed in 2017 and 2018 for implementing environment or climate specific plan or strategies. In 2019 33 concept notes have been submitted from 20 different Member States, thus confirming the success of this type of projects.

On the basis of the integrated projects financed in 2017 and 2018, the total LIFE financing of EUR 217 000 000 for the 22 integrated projects should facilitate the coordinated use of about EUR 10 000 000 000 complementary funding. On the basis of the proposals received, for each euro financed by the LIFE programme, further 45 euros of complementary funding are expected to be financed from other sources for the implementation of the targeted plans. Experience shows that the amount of additional funds mobilised by the integrated projects tend to increase during the implementation.

In addition to grants, two pilot financial instruments are being financed:

The Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF), which is conceived to demonstrate that projects which promote the preservation of natural capital, including adaptation to climate change, can be bankable. The financial structure represents an innovation which, if successful, could drive the architecture of natural capital financing across the world. Up to now, five operations have been financed.

The Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE). It aims at developing the capacity of intermediary banks to establish credit lines addressing energy efficiency investments. At the end of 2019, 11 collateral agreements with intermediary banks were signed. The totality of the guarantee (EUR 72 M) under phase 1 and an additional EUR 1,5m being re-utilised is now allocated in 11 Member States supporting a targeted total investment of up to EUR 725,7 million, a leverage of 10 times the EU money invested for this phase. The instrument was scaled up after its pilot phase, with additional funding amounting to EUR 25 million for the 2018-2020 period. The updated delegation agreement was signed in November 2019 and the new call published immediately after.

Key achievements

The LIFE programme has a wide scope, encompassing (1) nature and biodiversity, (2) climate action, (3) environment and resource efficiency, (4) support to governance at all levels, (5) awareness raising and exchange of best practices and (6) support to the implementation of the environmental and climate legislation and policies. It focuses on co-financing projects (81 % of the budget)

and procurement activities. The average duration of a project is 5-7 years. At present only 49 projects have ended and the related results have been or are being validated.

Therefore, while expected results based on aggregated value of the estimated project impact are available, actual achievements can be provided on anecdotal basis only.

(1) LIFE projects on **nature and biodiversity** are:

- improving the conditions of over 186 **wildlife species**, by, among other, increasing their site area by about 7.4 million ha by project-end (this is approximately the area of Ireland).
- Improving the status or increasing the area of **natural or semi-natural habitats** by about 42 000 ha by project-end.

Two examples of projects on wildlife species showing the potential catalytic effect of the LIFE programme are LIFE EUROTURTLES and LIFE Medturtles which, although presented by different organisations, are working together to tackle a relevant number of threats at nesting and foraging sites in a wide number of countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Slovenia – the first project – and Spain, Albania, Tunisia, Turkey). This allows to really spread best practice for the conservation of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), both listed as priority species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

Another example is the LIFE WOLFALPS project that coordinated conservation actions in the Alpine regions of France, Italy and Slovenia, to minimise conflict with people and improve the prospects for the wolf (*Canis lupus*). This involved protecting livestock to stop wolves being poisoned or shot. It also worked to make hunters, shepherds and local communities more tolerant of wolves, and addressed the loss of breeding sites and interbreeding with dogs. As a result, the number of wolf packs doubled, the species increased its range by 2 000 km and the Apennine and Dinaric wolf populations were joined up for the first time in over 200 years.

(2) LIFE projects on **climate action** are contributing to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt to climate adaptation measures to increase society's resilience to climate change and reduce the associated impacts and costs.

Several LIFE projects report reducing **greenhouse gas emissions** as one of the important objectives. Out of the projects for which validated results are available:

- No 107 LIFE projects aiming at carbon dioxide (CO₂) and have the potential to decrease emissions by about 10 million t/year;
- No 8 LIFE projects working on the reduction of methane (CH₄) emissions estimate to cut emissions by more than 1 500 t/year;
- No 9 LIFE projects affecting emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O) are forecasting to reduce emissions by 400 t/year.

The LIFE Paint-it projects aims to demonstrate a new manufacturing process to produce safe and innovative anti-fouling paints for naval applications and to eliminate the use of biocides in favour of a physical anti-fouling mode of action. With its innovative technology, the project aims to reduce the annual CO₂ emissions due to maritime transport by more than 21 million tons within 5 years after the project-end, representing a reduction of more than 4 % within the context of the project.

The Life Green Gas Network project tested a way to cut gas leaks through improved pressure control. Gas leaks waste resources and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Losses of methane and carbon dioxide from natural gas are directly proportional to network operating pressure. This is often set too high using current methods. In Lombardy, this project tested a new management and control system for regulating pressure levels in gas distribution networks. This cut greenhouse gas emissions by 6 % without compromising service delivery. The project team calculated that applying the control system across low and medium-pressure areas of Italy's gas network would save 3.9 million tonnes per year of CO₂ equivalent. It could also save gas companies and consumers money.

The LIFE SMART Hospital showed that a smart hospital is healthy for the climate. The health sector is often known to be unhealthy for the climate. In the Spanish city of Valladolid, the LIFE programme showed how to make a hospital more resilient to climate change and how to contribute to emission reductions. The LIFE SMART Hospital project improved energy performance and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It installed water-saving technologies and revamped the sorting, handling and tracing of medical waste. Energy, water and waste audits showed the positive impact of these actions on Hospital Universitario Rio Hortega. Benefits include 17 % less greenhouse gas emissions, 30 % less water consumed and 43 % less waste going to landfill. The project's actions are a blueprint for any hospital or health centre to follow.

To increase **resilience to climate change**, LIFE projects are working along two main lines of interventions:

- to reduce the area particularly vulnerable to climate change. An example is the project LIFE MASTER ADAPT. It aims to identify and test innovative tools of multi-level governance, to support regions and local authorities in defining and developing climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies and policies. LIFE MASTER ADAPT envisages reducing the extent of particularly vulnerable areas by 913 km² 5 years after the project ends.
- to increase the number of infrastructures targeted for climate resilience. Such infrastructures may include public, private and industrial buildings or services situated in urban or rural environments. These could range from large power generation plants, to water services, households or agricultural farms. An example is the project LIFE AGRI ADAPT that aims to increase the resilience of EU agriculture to climate change by demonstrating sustainable best-practice adaptation measures with an

ecosystem-based approach at farm level. The project aims to adapt 120 farms by its project-end. Another example is the project LIFE DERRIS that successfully tested an innovative model of public-private partnership between insurers, public administrations and SMEs to increase urban resilience to climate change, including through risk reduction tools for SMEs. Such tools included a Climate Risk Assessment and Management (CRAM) Tool to help enterprises to identify adaptation measures that they should implement to enhance resilience, as well as company adaptation action plans (CAAPs) that outlined numerous specific steps the participating companies could take to cope with floods, drought, high temperatures, high winds and other extreme weather events. During the project, 156 companies produced CAAPs and this number is expected to increase to 550 five years after the project-end.

(3) Environment and energy efficiency projects are:

- Working on **energy** (N. 103 LIFE projects):
 - by reducing energy consumption by about 118 million kWh/ year by project-end and by 1.2 billion kWh/year 3-5 years later (which represents the annual electricity energy consumption of ca. 340 000 homes).
 - by increasing renewable energy production by about 33 million kWh/year by project-end (this additional amount is about the average annual electricity consumption of 9 400 homes) and by 389 million kWh/year 3-5 years later (ca. 110 000 homes).

The LIFE METHAmorphosis project proposes to demonstrate, at industrial-scale, two innovative waste treatment systems, one in urban waste plants, and the other in agro-industrial and other organic waste treatment plants. In addition, the project tests the use of the bio-methane derived by the waste streams in the automotive sector. If successful, 5 years after the project the two prototypes could produce over 176 million kWh renewable energy annually (close to the annual electricity consumption of 50 000 homes).

- Improving **air quality** (N. 34 projects) by experimenting innovative methods and techniques to decrease emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), ammonia, nitrogen oxide (NO_x), particulate matter emissions (PM) and sulphur oxide (SO_x).

For example, the LIFE PSLOOP project envisages the construction of a demonstration plant able to recycle 3 000 tons of polystyrene waste per year. It foresees the establishment of a collection system able to supply the required polystyrene/expanded polystyrene (EPS/XPS) waste quantities to the demonstration plant; the production of 2 100 tons/year of PS gel and 43 tons/year of bromine; the avoidance of the emission of 210 tons/year of carbon monoxide, 25 tons/year of aromatic hydrocarbons and 10 tons/year of aliphatic hydrocarbons. It is also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12 000 tons/year (78 %) compared to the baseline scenario; and saving of 150 000 GJ of energy.

- Improving **waste management**. N. 101 projects are expected to reduce non appropriately managed waste by a total of 4.7 million t/year 3-5 years after project end (about the total municipal waste of Belgium in 2017).

The LIFE ECORKWASTE project is demonstrating the possible uses of a cork waste valorisation system. The cork will be used as absorbent material in wetlands, for the elimination of organic compounds in winery wastewater treatment systems or as substrate for energy valorisation in a gasification process. Through this improved wastewater treatment, the project will alleviate the pressure on 930 km² of wetlands in the Llobregat Basin (a decrease of approximately 3 % within the context of the project). The reduction in pressure includes removal of 90 % of both phenol and hydrogen-sulphide from the winery wastewater within the project duration (estimated at 50 mg/year and 82 mg/year, respectively).

Moreover, to ensure more uniform application of the EU Waste Shipment Directive and to stop waste being trafficked and dumped illegally, LIFE is helping environmental inspectors to work jointly across the entire EU. At the same time, LIFE projects are promoting training for public authorities, environmental inspectors and other professionals.

For example, LIFE SWEAP promotes enforcement activities by providing training for inspectors and increasing the capacity of police, customs and the judiciary to tackle waste crime in all 36 member countries of IMPEL, the EU Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law. Information sharing and an improved tool for visualising the scale and routes of illegal shipments will help detect, disrupt and prevent illegal waste trafficking. Enforcing the EU Waste Shipment Regulation promotes the efficient use of resources, in line with circular economy policy. The project is expected to contribute to a uniform application of the EU Waste Shipment Regulation; to establish an EU-wide dataset for the development of intelligence products (new enforcement, tracking and e-reporting tools); to set up a network of 150 trained customs officers across five countries – first customs training held in Estonia in May 2019; to analyse data from 12 000 waste shipment inspections per year; to develop a tool to visualise waste shipments; and to organise inspector exchange programmes to compare structural differences in competent authorities, compare the way that physical inspections are carried out and gain best practice from these inspections.

- (4) to support **environmental and climate governance at all levels**. LIFE has empowered NGOs and citizens to take legal action when environmental laws, such as on air quality, are not being enforced by statutory bodies in Member States. Projects are giving ‘citizen enforcement’ a boost by sharing knowledge about rights of access to justice and bridging the gap between lawyers, judges, authorities and the public for better environmental governance. They are giving local authorities and regional administrations guidelines on air quality legislation and building capacity among NGOs to push for better enforcement of the EU Air Quality Directive.

For example, the LIFE-A2J-EARL project aims to improve the implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law by providing the public with effective access to justice, such as judicial review, administrative review and complaints to other appeal bodies. Access to justice is a fundamental means through which citizens and NGOs can support the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies to protect the environment. The project aims to increase awareness of existing rules and case-law on access to justice in environmental matters for specific target audiences – the judiciary, bodies responsible for the administration of justice, public interest lawyers and public administrations – and to increase knowledge and capacity for overcoming legal (both substantial and procedural) challenges and obstacles to effective access to justice in the environmental field.

Another project promoting citizens' empowerment is LIFE Legal Actions. It aims to empower NGOs and citizens to take part in public participation processes on the development or revision of air quality plans, to improve their access to justice by supporting their demand for air quality measures or as a last resort to initiate legal action. The project also aims to improve the relationship between citizens and government as well as government accountability, transparency and responsiveness. The project aims:

- To empower and motivate EU citizens and NGOs to campaign for effective air quality measures by providing information about the sources and effects of air pollution and potential solutions, and by providing advice on their right to participate in decision-making processes and to take legal action if necessary; and
- To motivate political decision-makers to improve air quality legislation and implementation by advising them on existing national and European funding schemes, promoting green public procurement (GPP) as part of a resource-efficient economy, and transferring examples of best practice.

Activities will be carried out in seven EU Member States with a particular focus on Germany and the Czech Republic. The project expects to reach an estimated 13 million citizens in at least seven EU countries through awareness-raising activities.

(5) Promoting awareness raising and information on climate and environment issues and the exchange of best practices.

The project LIFE_WZROST_PL 'Raising awareness of the need for climate action' led an information campaign to promote climate change and sustainable development policy. It raised public awareness in Poland about the need for action to boost renewables, improve energy efficiency and consume sustainably. More than 8 million people viewed 10 short films made by the project, shown on the Discovery Channel and associated networks. The project worked with bloggers to build substantial public interest in its 5-minute movies and award-winning documentary film. This approach contributed to increased support for climate action and renewable energy at regional and national level in Poland.

Another example is the LIFE 4 POLLINATORS project aimed at improving pollinator conservation by creating a virtuous circle leading to a progressive change in practices across the Mediterranean region. The specific objectives are to raise citizens and stakeholders awareness on the decline of wild pollinators and the importance of pollination services for the functioning and health of ecosystems and agroecosystems and to promote attitudes and behaviour favouring native wild pollinators (creation of an interactive database on wild pollinators, better information on interactions between pollinators and plants in the Mediterranean, promotion of pesticide-free agriculture and pollinator-friendly practices in rural and urban environments) and to enhance citizens participation in data collection and greening actions and promote better environmental governance, transferring data to the relevant authorities and stimulating the development of pollinator strategies or action plans in Member States where they are missing (Italy, Greece and Spain).

(6) In terms of support to the implementation and enforcement of environment and climate legislation and policies, the LIFE programme finances, for example,

- the development of guidance and tools for industrial sectors and individual enterprises, enabling compliance with legislation on chemicals, plastics, waste, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and nature protection, among others. For example, the B.R.A.V.E. project reduced the environmental impacts of private companies. It helped to identify and develop effective measures for improving environmental legislation, by reducing financial and administrative burdens for companies registered with eco-management schemes. The project supported the full integration of EMAS, and other voluntary certification schemes such as the EU Ecolabel, into the environmental legislation of two EU Member States: Italy and Spain. Furthermore, it encouraged the adoption of the proposed measures in other areas of Italy and Spain. At least 23 measures developed by the B.R.A.V.E. project have been adopted within environmental legislation in the regions of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy and Tuscany in Italy, and in Andalusia and Valencia in Spain. In addition, Veneto, a region not originally involved, adopted one of the proposed measures as a result of the project's dissemination activities
- LIFE projects support the capacity of a European network of environmental prosecutors to share information and develop best practice to tackle environmental crime. LIFE has developed strategic partnerships with organisations representing inspectors (IMPEL), judges (EUFJE) and police and other enforcement agencies and shared information relating to environmental prosecutions throughout the EU and the rest of the world. To combat wildlife crime, LIFE has boosted the operational capacity of police, customs, prosecutors and other enforcement officials. Projects have provided training and handbooks, set up bird crime and poisoning databases and established networks of stakeholders to stop illegal killing of protected species.

LIFE non-grant activities play a unique role for the implementation, the development, the evaluation and the enforcement of environmental and climate legislation and policies. Studies and service contracts help complete all impact assessments and evaluations feeding into the Better Regulation, while scoping studies, technical assistance, stakeholder consultation activities and t

information, communication and awareness raising on EU environmental and climate legislation and policies financed by LIFE, support the Implementation of environmental and climate policies. The LIFE support takes various forms, such as:

- the analysis of Member States reports (e.g. the River Basin Management Plans prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the air quality reporting, the MS reports submitted for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive or the Seveso Directive) and the support to the EU and Member States reports to International fora (COPs, UN, OECD) such as on the implementation of the mandatory elements of the Nagoya Protocol (cd ABS Regulation).
- the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS), which is the main instrument to ensure a well-functioning EU carbon market. The Union registry serves to guarantee accurate accounting for all allowances issued under the EU ETS. The registry keeps track of the ownership of allowances held in electronic accounts, just as a bank has a record of all its customers and their money. LIFE is financing important measures positively affecting the confidentiality, integrity and/or availability of the system, thus protecting the financial interest of the Member States and the Union.
- the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances for the protection of human health and the environment. This is done by the four processes of REACH, namely the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. In this framework LIFE also supports on-going work to address the issue of endocrine disruptors, the action for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, the support for restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances. In 2019 a pilot study on the options was financed for an EU early warning system for emerging chemical risks to the environment
- the European Green Capital and European Green Leaf to reward cities which are making efforts to improve the urban environment and move towards healthier and sustainable living areas and the implementation of the Green City Accord to mobilise cities that are ready to become environmental leaders in delivering EU environmental policy objectives in the areas of air quality, noise, water, waste management, nature and biodiversity

In terms of simplification, in 2019 two important steps were undertaken:

- The launch of an ad hoc call for proposals that moves from the concept of reimbursable costs to the adoption of simplified cost options, to make more straightforward the financial management of a project for the beneficiaries and the Commission. This is a pilot experience that could be further extended in the future (see below).

The introduction of a simplified reporting for the beneficiaries involving the contents – simplified format – and the timing – less frequent reporting.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation ([COM\(2017\) 642 final](#) – [SWD\(2017\) 356 final](#)) have been presented in the Programme Statements 2018

The impact assessment accompanying the Commission Proposal for the LIFE programme 2021-2027 ([see SWD\(2018\) 292 final](#)), takes stock from the existing one to plan for further improvements.

Forthcoming implementation

In 2020, the implementation of commitments and payments will follow similar patterns of the previous years: It was decided to channel funds originally earmarked to strengthen the PF4EE financial instrument to action grants and/or procurement. The fund currently has sufficient reserves to continue implementation beyond 2020. No major differences are expected in this last year of the current MFF.

Beyond the annual routine management, the work will continue to incorporate the relevant priorities linked to the European Green Deal and, basing on the partial agreement reached in March 2019 with the European Parliament and the Council, to prepare the implementation of the programme 2021-2027.

On one side the experience acquired by LIFE is relevant for several measures that are expected to be adopted by the Commission in 2020 and in the coming years in the framework of the European Green Deal and their final formulation will have an impact in the definition of the LIFE future priorities on the other.

Extensive preparatory work is ongoing, among others, on the following measures:

- Proposal on a European ‘Climate Law’ enshrining the 2050 climate neutrality objective
- the European Climate Pact
- the extension of the ETS
- Legislation on batteries in support of the Strategic Action Plan on Batteries and the circular economy
- Waste reforms legislation
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- New EU Forest Strategy and measures to support deforestation-free value chains
- Chemicals strategy for sustainability to guarantee a toxic-free environment
- The Proposal for an 8th Environmental Action Programme.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The implementation of the commitments and payments for the years 2021-2027 could be delayed in case of delays in the negotiations and approval of the MFF, in the adoption of the legal basis or in case of change of the Executive Agency to which the bulk of the management of the LIFE programme will be delegated.

Beyond the usual implementation of grants and procurement, attention will be paid to the novelties introduced in the new programme following the ex-ante impact assessment.

They include in particular the following:

- The extension of the eligibility of the programme to the Overseas Countries and Territories.
- The need to address the low participation from some Member States which risks weakening the catalytic effect of the programme.
- The improvement of the project replication rate because the greater the replication of project results, the greater the catalytic effect of LIFE. The beneficiaries mention that the main barriers to replication are a lack of: financial means, decision-makers' interest and sense of urgency, specific information and communication of transferable solutions, and investment-planning capacity. To this end, the establishment of a technical assistance and/or a blending scheme, going beyond the current pilot experience of the 'Close to market' initiative, could be explored.
- The incorporation of the 'Clean Energy Transition sub-programme' which is at present financed under Horizon 2020, the systematic development of synergy mechanisms EU with other programmes in the framework of the opportunities offered by the Seal of Excellence and the cumulative funding.
- A more targeted steering of projects towards key priorities in case, for example, of new emerging priorities (such as have been in the current programming period the Circular Economy and the related sectors, for example plastics), or other priorities which are not adequately targeted by projects (selected following a calls for proposals on the basis of a bottom-up approach).
- The incorporation of the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST initiative) and the need to improve the participation of the Outermost Regions.
- Roll-out of and support to implementation of the EU Climate Pact, a new initiative connecting with grass root level initiatives.

The programme is in the front line to contribute to the on-going and new challenges related to the European Green Deal and the upcoming 8th Environmental Action Plan.

Consultations activities have also started to assess the current programme features in view of possible improvement. They will be continued in 2020.

In particular, a technical workshop took place in Brussels, on 6 and 7 November 2019 in view to

- present to the stakeholders the LIFE programme post 2021 with the integration of the Clean Energy transition sub-programme
- collect their inputs on the programme's action in view to accelerate the ecological, climate and clean energy transition.

Some new interesting ideas have been collected – see the [conference report](#) – such as for example:

- an extended attention on species that are declining (e.g. Red-listed species and pollinators), beyond the scope of the EU nature directives,
- setting up advisory services at regional scale, using demonstration sites and identifying local champions amongst farmers who can exert peer pressure to promote appropriate measures for the protection of nature and biodiversity,
- a greater focus on smaller projects on nature and biodiversity with higher co-funding rates through a dedicated mechanism,
- support to the definition of labels on circular materials and products to use the potential of awareness, information and education for lifestyle changes,
- involve all circular-economy actors, from national and EU-level institutions to the production value chain, retailers, consumers and recyclers. This applies for both the circular economy and quality of life,
- Support the roll-out of innovative ideas which can then be scaled up under all the sub-programmes.

In line with the impact assessment that identified a potential for further improving efficiency through adjustments of certain programme management aspects, such as the monitoring of projects, a survey among all LIFE beneficiaries on the monitoring was undertaken to understand if and how the current structure can be improved.

The preparation of the programme 2021-2027 is also a multi-faceted activity that will impact on the performance of the programme:

- The elaboration of the Multiannual Work programme 2021-2024 – to be adopted by the end of 2020 – requires extensive consultations, both internal at the Commission – via an Inter-service Working Group –, and external, with an open survey aimed to identify possible gaps, to understand stakeholders support for the different types of interventions and to explore some key implementation issues, such as the project selection procedure. Open discussions with the Member States, that will have to provide an opinion on the final text, will take place as well.

- The externalisation process – leading to the definition of the Executive Agency that will manage the bulk of the grants – and the related staff is another crucial step. The lessons learned from the current experience – resulting in a severe understaffing of the LIFE programme in the Executive Agency and in the European Commission –, and the need for a strong involvement of all the concerned services in case the management of the LIFE Programme will be transferred to a new Executive Agency will have to be addressed.

In parallel, some activities are being undertaken with a view to introduce simplification and to reinforce the assessment of the performance, with particular reference to:

- The continuation of the introduction and testing of simplified cost options, in line with the Financial Regulation, with particular reference to the operating grants.
- The improvement of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the programme, streamlining the database of the Key Performance Indicators, to embrace the different activities of the programme and to catch its ‘catalytic effect’ which is extremely challenging in terms of cost effectiveness.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 614/2007	2014 – 2020	3 456,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	18,2	5,0	4,9	4,9	4,9	5,1	5,0	47,9
Operational appropriations	381,7	424,5	453,4	483,6	514,0	548,9	578,7	3 384,8
Executive Agency	3,5	5,6	4,5	5,3	3,9	5,1	5,9	33,7
Total	403,4	435,1	462,8	493,7	522,8	559,1	589,6	3 466,4
<i>Of which contribution to European Solidarity Corps</i>					1,5	1,5	1,5	4,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	559,086	100,00 %	318,921	98,65 %	589,563	1,90 %	347,882	13,97 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	564,325	99,98 %	323,278	98,54 %	589,789	1,90 %	352,436	14,23 %

(*) 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 LIFE Programme should act as a catalyst for changes in policy development and implementation by providing and disseminating solutions and best practices to achieve environmental and climate goals, and by promoting innovative environmental and climate change technologies.

The catalytic effect of the programme being particularly difficult to catch, the current performance of the programme can be measured mainly in terms of expected results of the projects (grants), which represent more than 81 % of the overall budget.

Given the length of the award procedures and the time necessary for the project implementation (the projects are expected to last 5-7 years), first results can be provided only for the year 2018 while related values for the outputs indicators are available also for 2019.

To have the possibility to measure the expected results of the programme on annual basis, LIFE projects are required to report on their outcomes using a dedicated Key Performance Indicators webtool. The information provided by the LIFE projects is verified by the external monitors, who are experts in the field and in the country of the project. The data at project level are then aggregated to provide a proxy of the performance at programme level.

The 2018-2019 data continue the previous indicators trend and largely confirms the results of the Mid-Term evaluation as regards as the effectiveness and the EU added value of the programme.

In particular the LIFE activities are currently exceeding the 2020 milestones related to 14 out of 21 indicators.

In the [annual report of the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the budget concerning the financial year 2018](#) (2019/C 340/01), the lack of ambitions in the definition of the targets was identified as a weakness. However, in the same report, the Court of Auditors also acknowledge to have been able to calculate progress from baseline for a large majority (77 %) of the LIFE indicators included in the programme statement.

The overachievements could be linked to

- an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or
- the high quality of projects, which are selected following a strong competition.

For four indicators the programme is on track to achieve the 2020 milestones. For only one indicator the 2020 milestone will probably not be reached: the number of water bodies covered by ongoing projects which progress towards or finalised projects which achieved an improved ecological status.

Data on two indicators – the number of stakeholders and citizens participating in awareness raising activities in the framework of LIFE interventions and the percentage of increase in the participation of NGOs in consultations on EU environmental policy – are not available and their collection would not be cost-effective.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems

Indicator 1: Attributable environmental and climate improvements								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				80 %			≥ 80 % of ongoing projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved environmental and/or climate improvements	≥ 80 % of ongoing projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved environmental and/or climate improvements
Actual results								
	98 %	88 %	92 %	95 %	96 %			

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator 2: Percentage of the Natura 2000 network targeted by LIFE projects restored or brought to adequate management								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				10 %			12 %	12 %
Actual results								
	26 %	28 %	34 %	37 %	37 %			

Narrative: Target: 12 % of the Nature 2000 targeted by ongoing projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved environmental and/or climate improvements

Comment: Percentage of the Natura 2000 network targeted by ongoing projects and progressing towards restoration/ adequate management. Cumulated figures.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator 3: Percentage of surface and type of ecosystems targeted by LIFE projects restored								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				10 %			≥ 10 % of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects are progressing	≥ 10 % of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects are progressing

							towards/of finalised projects achieved an improvement/restoration	towards/of finalised projects achieved an improvement/restoration
Actual results								
45 %	67 %	63 %	57 %	55 %				

Comment: Percentage of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects and progressing towards improvement. It is extremely difficult to identify the reasons of this overachievement. It could be linked to an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or to the high quality of nature and biodiversity projects, which are selected following a strong competition.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator 4: Percentage of types of habitats and of species targeted with improving conservation status								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Habitats: 0 %				10 %			≥ 10 % of types of habitats and of species targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improved conservation status	≥ 10 % of types of habitats and of species targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improved conservation status
Actual results								
	51 %	98 %	99 %	97 %	98 %			
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Species: 0 %				10 %			≥ 10 % of types of habitats and of species targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improved conservation status	≥ 10 % of types of habitats and of species targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improved conservation status
Actual results								
	51 %	34 %	36 %	32 %	34 %			

Comment: Percentage of types of habitats and of species targeted by ongoing/ finalised projects are progressing towards an improved conservation status. It is extremely difficult to identify the reasons of this overachievement. It could be linked to an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or to the high quality of nature and biodiversity projects, which are selected following a strong competition.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

General Objective 2: To improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to act as a catalyst for, and promote, the integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including by increasing the public and private sector's capacity

Indicator 1: Number of interventions developed or undertaken that implement plans, programmes or strategies pursuant to Union environmental or climate policy or legislation

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				27			70	70
Actual results								
		15	23	37	47			

Comment: Although many LIFE interventions will implement plans, programmes or strategies pursuant to Union environmental or climate policy or legislation, integrated projects (IPs), which are new under the LIFE programme, are specifically designed for this and are therefore used as the reference de minimis indicator.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: IPs

Indicator 2: Number of LIFE interventions (projects, measures, approaches) suitable for being replicated or transferred

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			360			≥ 900	≥ 900
Actual results								

		280	310	392	470	657		
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Comment: Projects within the meaning of Articles 2 and 18 (a), (b), (c) and (h) Regulation No 1293/2013 will be specifically assessed for their potential replicability/transferability and are therefore used as the reference indicator. It is expected that 80 % of these projects implement replicable/transferable actions. Number of ongoing/finalised projects implementing replicable/transferable actions.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: Number of ongoing projects/of finalised projects implement replicable/transferable actions.

Indicator 3: Number of interventions achieving synergies with or mainstreamed into other Union funding programmes, or integrated into public or private sector practice

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				27			70	70
	Actual results							
		15	23	37	47			

Comment: Although all projects should to a certain degree promote synergies and integration into practice, integrated projects (IPs), which are new under the LIFE programme, are specifically designed for this and are therefore used as the reference indicator.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: IPs

General Objective 3: To support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors

Indicator 1: Number of interventions to ensure better governance, dissemination of information and awareness of environmental and climate aspects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				420			800	800
	Actual results							
	122	252	324	496	648	731		

Comment: Although all interventions contain an information, dissemination and/or awareness raising component, the interventions financed to 'support better environmental and climate governance and information' (budget item 07 02 03 and 34 02 03), whether funded through grants or procurement, are specifically designed to address this objective and are therefore used as the reference indicator. They include the operating grants. The figures are cumulative and in 2017 include the European Solidarity Corps initiatives financed by LIFE.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: Interventions

General Objective 4: To support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Indicator 1: Number of interventions to support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				1 300			1 700	1 700
	Actual results							
		970	1 305	1 625	2 089	2 507		

Comment: All LIFE interventions, whether funded through grants, procurement or financial instruments, support the implementation of at least one of the priority objectives of the 7th Environment Action Programme. Figures include interventions over 100.000 EUR and are cumulative.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler) and database on the actions of the Annual Management Plan

Unit of measure: Interventions

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation (Environment and Resource Efficiency priority area)

Performance

The indicators related to the first specific objective – Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation – in 2018-2019 are evolving in line with the last year assessment.

The results show the potential of the integrated projects with three integrated projects on Waste financed in Finland, France and Greece and ten integrated projects on water addressing the implementation of River Basin Management Plans.

Out of the five indicators related to this specific objective, the only indicator which 2020 milestone will probably not be reached is related to the water bodies covered by ongoing projects which progress towards or finalised projects, which achieved an improved ecological status.

One possible explanation is linked to the lower number of traditional projects on water that have been financed during 2014-2018 in comparison with the period 2007-2013. This is due to the lack of funding linked to the growing importance of a new priority – circular economy – which emerged during the current programme and which could not be addressed through additional funding. So far, more than 290 million EUR have been mobilized into over 180 LIFE projects contributing to Circular Economy.

For example the LIFE BIOPOL project (LIFE15 ENV/IT/000654) foresees the design and construction of an Industrial Prototype Plant able to produce green chemicals & leather making Biopolymers from biomass and industrial by-products. In accordance with the European Dangerous Substances Directive, almost 31 % of the volume of the chemicals used by the European leather industry are hazardous substances. The project is expected to reach the following results: 80-90 % increase of waste biomass re-used, 70-90 % reduction in the hazardous substances, reduction of discharged leather-process effluents e.g. 50-60 % of inorganic sulphates and chlorides salts and reduction of 70-80 % of the Product Environmental Footprint of the new Biopolymers related to the current tanning, retaining and fat liquoring agents.

Indicator 1: Number of water bodies covered by projects and thus progressing towards or having reached an improved ecological status

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				100			170	170
	Actual results							
	70	83	93	102	105			

Comment: LIFE contribution is calculated taking into account an estimated total of 138 000 water bodies and the fact that 43 % of water bodies already achieved good ecological status according to the Commission Communication, A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Water Resources. COM(2012) 673 final of 14th November 2012. Number of water bodies covered by ongoing projects and progressing towards an improved ecological status.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: Water bodies are covered by ongoing projects which progress towards or finalised projects which achieved an improved ecological status

Indicator 2: Population benefiting from improved air quality

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				1 000 000			1 400 000	1 400 000
	Actual results							
	370 000	842 600	934 000	1 100 000	1 500 000			

Comment: Number of persons covered by ongoing/ finalised projects which progress towards improved air quality.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: Persons covered by ongoing projects which progress towards or finalised projects which achieved improved air quality.

Indicator 3: Percentage of regions covered by waste IPs and thus progressing towards or having reached adequate waste management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0.0				2.0 %			3.0 %	3.0 %
	Actual results							
		1.8 %	2.5 %	2.5 %	3.9 %			

Comment: Three integrated projects (IPs) have been financed on Waste covering 11 regions, in which the project activities have started.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: % of regions are covered by waster IPs and progress towards or achieved adequate waste management.

Indicator 4: Percentage of River Basin Districts (RBD) covered by IPs and thus progressing towards or having reached adequate management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				3 %			5 %	5 %

	Actual results						
	2 %	4 %	5 %	8 %			

Comment: Percentage of RBD covered by IPs and progressing towards adequate management. Eight integrated projects, out of ten integrated projects on water, are addressing the management of river basin districts and have started their activities.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: Percentage of RBD are covered by IPs and progress towards or achieved adequate management.

Indicator 5: Number of interventions to improve the knowledge base for Union environmental policy and legislation, and for assessing and monitoring factors, pressures and responses having an impact on the environment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0								680
	Actual results							
	120	285	382	462	588	681		

Comment: Estimated to be 100 % of the interventions financed by the 07 02 01. Cumulative figures.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler) and database on the actions of the Annual Management Plan

Unit of measure: Interventions

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects)	07 02 01	56 ⁽¹⁾	130,3
2. Public Procurement (contracts)	07 02 01	42 ⁽¹⁾	24,9
Total		98	155,2

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects)	F	0	50	57	60	65	69	74
	P	0	54	55	74 ⁽⁴⁾	77 ⁽⁴⁾	54 ⁽³⁾	56 ⁽¹⁾
2. Public Procurement (contracts) ⁽²⁾	F	47	49	49	51	58	60	42 ⁽¹⁾
	P	55	33 ⁽³⁾	69 ⁽⁴⁾	37 ⁽³⁾	49	40 ⁽³⁾	

⁽¹⁾ Adjusted because the number of contracts/grant agreements above than 100 000 EUR is lower

⁽²⁾ Above 100 000 EUR.

⁽³⁾ The average contract value was bigger than the one initially foreseen and this resulted in a number of contracts lower than initially planned. If the trend will continue, the number of outputs foreseen will be adjusted.

⁽⁴⁾ The average grant/contract value was lower than the one initially foreseen and this resulted in a bigger number of contracts/grant agreements than initially planned.

The number of contracts and grant agreements envisaged under the 07 02 01 has been reduced taking into account the experience and the reduction of the budget.

Specific Objective 2: Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems (Biodiversity priority area)

Performance

The indicators on nature and biodiversity are evolving in 2018-2019 in line with the previous year.

The results show a clear overachievement related to all the indicators of this specific objective. This overachievement could be linked to the following:

- An initial underestimation of the potential project results linked to the initial lack of estimate of these results and/or to the high quality of nature and biodiversity projects, which are selected following a strong competition.
- The increase in the budget devoted to the nature and biodiversity projects which has finally materialised in 2017 in the adoption of a delegated act improving the budget percentage, stated in point 3 of Art. 9 of the LIFE Regulation, from 55 % to 60.5 % for projects devoted to nature and biodiversity conservation out of the overall budgetary resources devoted to projects under the Environment sub-programme.

The Natural Capital Financing Facility provides loans, equity and guarantees to nature and climate adaptation measures that can generate revenues or save costs. It is intended to establish a pipeline of replicable, bankable operations that will serve as a 'proof of

concept' to demonstrate to potential investors the attractiveness of operations directly addressing biodiversity and climate adaptation objectives.

It has initially registered a slow uptake because of the need to adapt banking practices for assessing the returns of such investments combined with the need to improve the quality of the project applications. Several adjustments have been made as a follow-up of the LIFE mid-term evaluation to increase the visibility of the instrument and to operationalise the technical assistance facility. The project pipeline has significantly improved as a result.

In 2019 the NCFE financed the first operation supporting a biodiversity off-setting scheme. The operation consists of a EUR 5 million loan to the French CDC Biodiversité, a subsidiary of the Caisse des Dépôts, who will use the loan for the rehabilitation and management of conservation sites around France. The rehabilitation and management of conservation sites will allow CDC Biodiversité to generate offset credits (Unités de Compensation) for clients which are required to offset their impacts on certain habitats and species as a condition of a planning permission. This loan will enable CDC Biodiversité to support investment in new sites, while keeping its existing sites, some of which have high ecological value, and make the necessary investments to register and market the credits of those sites to comply with regulatory requirements in France.

Indicator 1: Percentage of surface and type of ecosystems targeted by LIFE projects restored

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				10 %			≥ 10 % of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improvement/restoration	≥ 10 % of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects are progressing towards/of finalised projects achieved an improvement/restoration
	Actual results							
	45 %	67 %	63 %	57 %	55 %			

Comment: Percentage of ecosystem surfaces and type targeted by ongoing projects and progressing towards improvement. It is extremely difficult to identify the reasons of this overachievement. It could be linked to an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or to the high quality of nature and biodiversity projects, which are selected following a strong competition.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator 2: Percentage of habitats targeted progressing towards or improving conservation status as a consequence of LIFE interventions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				10 %			≥ 10 %	≥ 10 %
	Actual results							
	46 %	98 %	99 %	97 %	98 %			

Comment: Percentage of habitats targeted by ongoing projects and progressing towards improved conservation status. It is extremely difficult to identify the reasons of this overachievement. It could be linked to an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or to the high quality of nature and biodiversity projects, which are selected following a strong competition.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: Percentage of habitats targeted by ongoing projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved improved conservation status.

Indicator 3: Percentage of species targeted progressing towards or improving conservation status as a consequence of LIFE interventions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				10 %			≥ 10 %	≥ 10 %
	Actual results							
	66 %	34 %	36 %	32 %	34 %			

Comment: Percentage of species targeted by ongoing projects progressing towards improved conservation status.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: Percentage of species targeted by ongoing projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved improved conservation status.

Indicator 4: Percentage of the Natura 2000 sites covered by nature IPs and thus progressing towards the implementation of

prioritised actions frameworks								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				4 %			6 %	6 %
	Actual results							
			12 %	20 %	23 %			

Comment: At present n.18 integrated projects (IPs) are supporting the implementation of Prioritized Action Frameworks developed in Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, France, Lithuania, Sweden, Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland and Cyprus pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Unit of measure: Percentage of the Nature 2000 sites are targeted by nature IPs and progress towards or achieved the implementation of prioritised actions frameworks.

Indicator 5: Number of interventions to improve the knowledge base for Union nature and biodiversity policy and legislation and for assessing and monitoring factors, pressures and responses having an impact on nature and biodiversity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				300			700	700
	Actual results							
	19	80	214	323	519	615		

Comment: Estimated to be 100 % of the interventions financed by the 07 02 02 plus the number of 'Nature' projects and 1/3 of the operating grants financed under 07 02 03. Cumulative figures.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler) and database on the actions of the Annual Management Plan

Unit of measure: Interventions

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects)	07 02 02	58	204,0
	07 02 03	4	7,0
2. Public Procurement (contracts) *	07 02 02	22	16,8
Total		84	227,8
Outputs			

(1) Above 100.000 EUR

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects)	F	0	64	65	70	75	80	58
	P	0	49 ⁽³⁾	87 ⁽⁴⁾	73	72	64 ⁽³⁾	
2. Financial instrument operations (projects) ⁽²⁾	F	0	1	1.5	2	0	0	0
	P	0	0	0	0.5	1,5	2,5	
3. Public Procurement (contracts) ⁽¹⁾	F	20	22	22	25	29	34	22
	P	19	5 ⁽³⁾	20	38 ⁽⁴⁾	28 ⁽⁴⁾	24 ⁽⁴⁾	

(1) Above 100.000 EUR

(2) The financial instrument Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF) is funded half through 07 02 02 and half through 34 02 02. Half of the operations financed under the instrument are included here.

(3) The project proposals received/contracts awarded were bigger than expected.

(4) The project proposals received and the contracts launched were lower in size than expected.

The trend can be identified linked to the submission (and award) of bigger projects and the reduction of the number of contracts above 100 000 EUR. The expected number of operations for 2020 has been revised accordingly

Specific Objective 3: Support better environmental governance and information at all levels (Environmental Governance and Information priority area)

Performance

The indicators related to the third specific objective – Support better environmental governance and information at all levels – in 2018-2019 are evolving in line with the last year assessment.

Data on the number of stakeholders and citizens participating in awareness raising activities in the framework of LIFE interventions are not available as such. However, for example, the campaign aimed at reducing the impact of 10 Single Use Plastics (SUPs) frequently abandoned in European beaches and seas reached 150 million citizens and more than 1 thousand articles were published on the plastic strategy and the singles use plastics.

Data on the percentage of increase in the participation of NGOs in consultations on EU environmental policy are also not available because the consultations on EU environmental policy not always include data on the type of respondents/organisations. All NGO’s funded by operating grants are expected to increase their participation in consultations on EU environmental policy. All the NGO beneficiaries of operating grants interviewed during the mid-term evaluation declared that their participation increased but were not able to provide a percentage.

Indicator 1: Number of stakeholders and citizens participating in awareness raising activities in the framework of LIFE interventions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0							1 000 000	1 000 000
	Actual results							

Comment: The data collected are not available in the form required by this indicator. The external study reported that almost 63 million individuals have visited the projects websites, with an average duration of the visits of about six minutes. A total of almost 271 thousand project documents and communication material has been downloaded by interested users. More than 48 thousand individuals, over 1,400 companies, and over 1,500 NGOs and 1,300 public bodies have been interviewed

Unit of measure: Stakeholders or citizens

Indicator 2: Number of interventions to support communication, management and dissemination of information in the field of environment and to facilitate knowledge sharing

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				420			800	800
	Actual results							
	101	294	362	494	748	833		

Comment: Although all interventions contain an information, dissemination and awareness-raising element, governance and information interventions, whether funded through grants or procurement, are specifically designed to address this objective and are therefore used as the reference indicator. Cumulative figures.

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler) and database on the actions of the Annual Management Plan

Unit of measure: Interventions

Indicator 3: Percentage of projects promoting and contributing to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental law

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				5 %			≥ 5 %	≥ 5 %
	Actual results							
		39 %	42 %	49 %	57 %	63 %		

Comment: It is expected that information and governance projects focusing on enforcement and compliance promotion will significantly increase awareness of relevant public bodies and civil society, leading in some projects that progress towards or reach actual improvements. Percentage of governance and information projects progress towards improved compliance and enforcement of Union environmental law. Cumulative figures. It is extremely difficult to identify the reasons of this overachievement. It could be linked to an initial underestimation of the potential project results.

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Unit of measure: % of ongoing governance and information projects progress towards/of finalised projects achieved improved compliance and enforcement of Union environmental law.

Indicator 4: Percentage of increase in the participation of NGOs in consultations on EU environmental policy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0 %				12 %			≥ 12 % increase	≥ 12 % increase
	Actual results							

Comment: The consultations on EU environmental policy not always include data on the type of respondents/organisations. The collection of this kind of information would be extremely cumbersome and not cost effective, given the results could change significantly basing on the subject matter of the consultation. All NGO's funded by operating grants are expected to increase their participation in consultations on EU environmental policy. All the beneficiaries of NGO operating grants interviewed during the mid-term evaluation declared that their participation increased but were not able to provide a percentage. This indicator should be modified.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects) ⁽¹⁾	07 02 03	12	7,4
2. Public Procurement (contracts) ⁽²⁾	07 02 03	40	26,8
3. Operating grants (work programmes of non-profit making entities/NGOs)	07 02 03	16	9,0
Total		68	43,2

⁽¹⁾ Excluding the action grants on nature included under the indicators for the specific objective 2.

⁽²⁾ Above 100.000 EUR

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects) ⁽¹⁾	F	0	15	8	9	10	11	12
	P	0	14	6	10	11	10	
2. Public Procurement (contracts)	F	44	50	57	60	64	51	40
	P	44	43 ⁽²⁾	48 ⁽²⁾	55	59	58	
3. Operating grants (work programmes of non-profit making entities/NGOs)	F	0	16	16	16	16	16	16
	P	0	19 ⁽³⁾	19 ⁽³⁾	16	25	17	

⁽¹⁾ Excluding the action grants on nature included under the indicators for the specific objective 2.

⁽²⁾ The average contract value was bigger than the one initially foreseen and this resulted in a number of contracts slightly lower than initially planned.

⁽³⁾ Additional funds were made available to finance operating grants in 2015-2016.

Specific Objective 4: Reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions and development and implementation of EU climate policy and legislation (Climate Change Mitigation priority area)

Performance

EU greenhouse gas emissions declined by 2 % in 2018 (compared to 2017) and reached their lowest level since 1990. Emissions were 23 % below the 1990 level, overachieving its 2020 target. However, implementation will have to be accelerated significantly first to reach the 2030 target of minus 40 % GHG emissions domestically and secondly for the EU to become climate-neutral by 2050.

The LIFE programme does provide the necessary resources to underpin its proposed policies by using a wide range of mathematical models, tools and methods to evaluate the potential economic, social and environmental consequences and prepare successful negotiations. Success stories contributing to the reduction of emission of greenhouse gases of the last decade are, to name a few, the conclusion of the Paris agreement, the 2030 climate and energy framework and the elaboration of a long-term strategy for a climate-neutral economy by the middle of the century. Moreover, the programme has contributed to the design and implementation of e.g. the Energy Union governance where Member States have to submit their final National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) by the end of 2020 for implementation in the years to come.

The EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) is a cornerstone of the EU's policy to combat climate change and its key tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions cost-effectively. It is the world's first major carbon market and remains the biggest one covering 45 % of the GHG emissions in the EU. LIFE finances the required continuous maintenance and new developments, such as linking the EU-ETS with the Swiss emissions trading system demonstrating the EU commitment to the creation of an international carbon market. The linking agreement is the first of its kind and demonstrates that setting rules for international

carbon markets work and can form the basis for good cooperation between systems. Another example of sound use of LIFE money are the security measures against possible cyber-attacks of the single Union Registry that ensures the accurate accounting of allowances issued under EU ETS. In 2010/11 several successful cyber-attacks occurred against national registries and theft of allowances was reported. Despite the migration in June 2012 of the national registries to a single registry supervised by the Commission, and a considerable number of additional security measures in place, the latest risk assessment demonstrates clearly that the Union is still exposed to a reputational risk and legal/financial liabilities if new cyber-attacks would succeed.

At the end of 2014, the innovative financial instrument Private Finance for Energy Efficiency was established under LIFE, aimed at addressing the limited access to adequate and affordable commercial financing of energy efficiency investments. To date, the totality of the guarantee (EUR 72 M) under phase 1 is allocated in 10 Member States supporting a targeted total investment of up to EUR 699 million, a leverage of almost 10 times the EU money invested for this phase. The instrument was scaled up after its pilot phase, with additional funding amounting to EUR 25 million for the 2018-2020 period. The updated delegation agreement was signed in November 2019 and the new call for projects published immediately after.

LIFE is also supporting 63 projects on the ground in the field of climate change mitigation, many of them contributing directly or indirectly to GHG emissions reduction.

Indicator 1: Number and coverage of climate change mitigation strategies or action plans developed or implemented through LIFE								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
In 2012 less than 10 % of the climate mitigation project proposals submitted in LIFE+ concerned development of mitigation strategies and action plans. implementation of at least 1 climate change mitigation strategy or action plan per Member State implementation of at least 1 climate change mitigation strategy or action plan per Member Stat	Support development and/or implementation of at least 1 climate change mitigation strategy or action plan in 13 different geographical regions				Support development and/or implementation of at least 1 climate change mitigation strategy or action plan in 13 different geographical regions		Support development and/or implementation of at least 1 climate change mitigation strategy or action plan per Member Stat	
	Actual results							
	7	13	20	26	33			

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Indicator 2: Tons of greenhouse gases reduced by new technologies, systems, methods or instruments and/or other best practice approaches developed and taken up following LIFE examples									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Reduction in tons of greenhouse gasses per project:					-20 %		-20 %	Relative reduction in tons of greenhouse gasses per project of at least 20 % compared to project baseline.	
	Actual results								
	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Percentage of project promoting innovative technologies and/or best practices:					80 %		80 %	80 %	
	Actual results								
	43 %	53 %	63 %	68 %	72 %				

Source: Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Units of measure: (1) Average percentage of reduction of tons of greenhouse gas emissions for climate mitigation projects. (2) Percentage of the projects funded in climate change mitigation priority area 2014-2018 that promote innovative technologies and/or other best practice solutions for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Indicator 3: Number of interventions to improve the knowledge base for Union climate policy and legislation, and for assessing and monitoring factors, pressures and responses having an impact on the climate (cf. Article 14(b) Regulation 1293/2013)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Integrated projects: 0	80 %							100 %
	Actual results							
		100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %			
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Traditional projects:	30 %							25 %
	Actual results							
		34 %	39 %	41 %	40 %			

Availability of Data: Baseline for Traditional Projects: no data available

Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects)	34 02 01	40	65,1
2. Financial instrument operation (projects)	34 02 01	400	0,0
3. Public Procurement (contracts)	34 02 01	60	20,7
Total			85,8

Estimated to be 100 % of the interventions financed by the 34 02 01

For the financial instrument Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE), the number identifies the interventions at final recipients' level.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects)	F	0	15	16	18	26	27	40
	P	0	13	17	14	20	19	
2. Financial instrument operation (projects)	F	0	50	350	400	400	400	100
	P	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	138	279*	
3. Public Procurement (contracts)	F	22	18	16	18	22	35	60
	P	27	13	32	34	46	57**	

* 10 agreements with financial intermediaries were signed. Financial intermediaries are developing their own loan proposals towards final recipients. By the end of 2019, 279 Energy Efficiency loans have been concluded with 234 different final recipients.

** of which 33 with value above 100 000 EUR

Specific Objective 5: Increased resilience of the EU to climate change (Climate Change Adaptation priority area)

Performance

The LIFE programme supports in protecting people, planet and welfare against the impacts of climate change.

Over the last year, further progress has been achieved to implement the EU Adaptation Strategy, which prepares Member States for current and future climate impacts. Twenty-six Member States have now a national adaptation strategy in place, while the remaining are close to finalising their strategies.

In 2019, more than 1 900 cities and towns in Europe have committed through the Covenant of Mayors to enhance their climate resilience (increase of 900 subscribers since 2018). At the COP25 in Madrid, the European Commission and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy confirmed a joint commitment to the next phase of the Global Covenant.

The Commission will increase its current support, including a significant contribution from the LIFE programme, for this initiative in 2020, in its determination to tackle the climate crisis, to close the climate protection gap including insurance, damage and loss control across governance levels and sectors.

To date, LIFE is also supporting 67 projects on the ground in the field of climate change adaptation.

Indicator 1: Number and coverage of climate change adaptation strategies or action plans developed or implemented

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
16				All MS have adopted a national adaptation strategy	All MS have adopted a national adaptation strategy	All MS have adopted a national adaptation strategy	All MS are effectively implementing their national adaptation strategies.	All MS
	Actual results							
			21	25	25	26		

Narrative: Target: All MS are effectively implementing their national adaptation strategies

Source: Annual activity report DG CLIMA – 2018

Unit of measure: Member States that have adopted an adaptation strategy

Comment: Latvia adopted an adaptation plan and Croatia has adopted an adaptation strategy in April 2020

Indicator 2: Attributable climate resilience, broken down by sector, due to the demonstrated new technologies, systems, instruments and/or other best practice approaches developed and taken up following LIFE examples

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Increasing climate resilience: Under the 2012 call of the LIFE+ regulation, only 15 % of climate project proposals submitted were on adaptation. The projects promoting innovative policy approaches: 80 %				80 %	80 %	80 %	80 %	80 % of funded projects promoting innovative policy approaches and/or other best practice solutions for more climate resilience.
	Actual results							
		73 %	69 %	70 %	69 %			

Unit of measure: Percentage of climate adaptation projects promoting innovative policy approaches and/or other best practice solutions for more climate resilience.

Indicator 3: Number of interventions to improve the knowledge base for Union climate policy and legislation, and for assessing and monitoring factors, pressures and responses having an impact on the climate resilience (cf. Article 15(b) Regulation 1293/2013)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
IPs: 30 %				80 %	80 %	80 %	100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
		100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %			
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Traditional projects:				30 %	30 %	30 %	25 %	25 %
	Actual results							
		37 %	38 %	36 %	34 %			

Comment: Percentage of the traditional projects funded in climate change adaptation priority area 2014-2018.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects)	34 02 02	16	39,6
2. Public Procurement (contracts)	34 02 02	15	7,9
Total			47,5

Estimated to be 100 % of the interventions financed by the 34 02 02.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects)	P	0	16	19	22	15	16	16

	F	0	11*	16*	14	25	15	
2.Financial instrument operation (projects) **	P	0	1	1,5	2	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0,5	1,5	2,5	
3.Public Procurement (contracts)	F	8	10	11	12	12	13	15
	P	8	8	8	12	4	6	

** The financial instrument Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFE) is funded half through 34 02 02 and half through 07 02 02. Half of the operations financed under the instrument are included here.

Specific Objective 6: Support better climate governance and information at all levels (Climate Governance and Information priority area)

Performance

The EU is committed to being a leader in global climate action. Beyond our borders, DG CLIMA continued its extensive outreach with international partners in different fora (i.e. the UN Climate Summit, the G7/G20, the COP25 in Madrid, etc.) to encourage other countries to raise their level of ambition and accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement. Preparation and participation in these key events in the process of raising ambition of stakeholders globally is, i.e. funded through the LIFE programme.

Climate action communication activities focus on main political priorities. In 2019, for instance, actions focused on key policy developments such as outreach around the Commission’s strategic vision for a climate-neutral EU published in November 2018, the 2030 climate and energy framework, international climate action, and building awareness and understanding on climate change and EU climate action in the context of the increased prominence of climate issues and their integration into various policy areas. Starting in 2020, LIFE will support financially the promotion and launching of the ‘Climate Pact’ to connect with the grassroots level in civil society aiming for behavioural change. This one of the top initiatives in climate action of the headline ambition ‘EU Green Deal’ of the new Commission.

So far, the LIFE programme has co-financed 24 governance and information projects. LIFE operating grants provide structural support to non-governmental organisations working in the field of climate change.

Indicator 1: Number of stakeholders and citizens participating in awareness raising activities in the framework of LIFE interventions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0							1 000 000	1 000 000
	Actual results							

Comment: The data collected are not available in the form required by this indicator. The external study reported that almost 63 million individuals have visited the projects websites, with an average duration of the visits of about six minutes. A total of almost 271 thousand project documents and communication material has been downloaded by interested users. More than 48 thousand individuals, over 1,400 companies, and over 1,500 NGOs and 1,300 public bodies have been interviewed

Unit of measure: Stakeholders or citizens

Indicator 2: Number of interventions to support communication, management and dissemination of information in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation and to facilitate knowledge sharing

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of projects targeted to specific governance: Less than 5 % of the traditional climate project proposals submitted related to climate awareness raising activities at local, regional, national or cross-border levels				10 %	10 %	10 %	All LIFE	All LIFE
	Actual results							
		13 %	16 %	16 %	16 %			

2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of projects achieving knowledge sharing: All LIFE projects under the priority area climate governance and information achieve knowledge sharing.				All LIFE projects under the priority area	All LIFE projects under the priority area	All LIFE projects under the priority area	All LIFE projects under the priority area	All LIFE projects under the priority area climate governance and information achieve knowledge sharing.
	Actual results							
		All LIFE projects	All LIFE projects	All LIFE projects	All LIFE projects			

Comment: Although all interventions contain an information, dissemination and awareness raising element, governance and information interventions, whether funded through grants or procurement, are designed to address this objective and are therefore used as the reference indicator. 20 out of 126 climate projects are governance and information projects.

Unit of measure: Projects targeted to specific climate governance, awareness raising or information activities at local, regional, national or cross-border levels.

Indicator 3: Share of projects promoting and contributing to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate law

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				5 %	5 %	5 %	More than 5 %	More than 5 %
	Actual results							
		11 %	13 %	11 %	13 %			

Comment: Percentage of governance and information projects progressing towards improved compliance and enforcement of Union climate law: No 2 projects out of 19 on governance and information projects.

Source: Percentage of governance and information projects progress towards improved compliance and enforcement of Union climate law.

Indicator 4: Number of interventions emanating from NGOs funded by LIFE with an impact on EU policy

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
6				Stable level			Stable level.	Stable level.
	Actual results							
		5	6	6	9	9		

Narrative: Baseline: Under the 2012 call of the LIFE + Regulation, the work programme of 6 specific climate NGO's proposals plus a number of environmental NGO's that also have a climate focus were co-funded.

Unit of measurement: Number of NGOs presenting a climate related work programme receiving an operating grant.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Action grants (projects)	34 02 03	10	10,0
2. Public Procurement (contracts)	34 02 03	27	7,6
3. Operating grants (work programmes of non-profit making entities/NGOs)	34 02 03	9	3,0
Total			17,6

Estimated to be 100 % of the interventions financed by the 34 02 03

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Action grants (projects)	F	0	4	5	6	7	7	10
	P	0	7*	6	7	5	8	
2. Public Procurement (contracts)	F	10	11	21	22	17	25	27
	P	8	9	26	33	43	31*	
3. Operating grants (work programmes of non-profit making entities/NGOs)	F	0	6	6	6	9	9	9
	P	0	5	6	6	9	9	

*of which 11 with value above 100 000 EUR

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30 % of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)
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Narrative justification Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets (if needed)

The LIFE programme contributes to the Europe 2020 priorities as follows:

- All the LIFE projects help to put the EU on a path to resource-efficiency and sustainable growth. These are projects aimed at halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity, improving resource efficiency, addressing environmental and health concerns, moving towards a low-carbon and resilient economy and preventing the consequences of floods, droughts, the rise of temperatures and sea levels ⁽³⁾.
- A contribution to innovation is expected from projects funded under all priority areas aimed at developing policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions. This includes the development of innovative technologies for environment/climate challenges.

The external study extracts from the indicator database that 61 % of the climate change adaptation projects and over 80 % of all the climate change mitigation projects aim to help develop innovative technologies, systems and/or instruments. The external monitors confirmed that this is the result of more emphasis on the business perspective of projects introduced in recent years.

- Ongoing projects to promote innovation and investments in energy efficiency and the PF4EE are designed to help reduce energy demand and thus to make the EU less energy dependent, which is one of the objectives of the Energy Union.
- Although employment is not the primary aim of the LIFE programme, the external study estimates the contribution of LIFE to job creation.

It has to be underlined that some extremely valuable policy achievements initiated under LIFE will shape the EU economy in the coming decades:

- The development and adoption of the Circular Economy Package. The package consists of a new legislative proposal on Waste, and an Action Plan ⁽⁴⁾ with concrete actions. The revised legislative proposal on waste establishes a clear and ambitious long-term vision for waste management and recycling, while proposing concrete measures to address obstacles on the ground and taking into account the different situations across Member States. The action plan on the circular economy complements this proposal by setting out measures to 'close the loop' of the circular economy and tackle all phases in the lifecycle of a product: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials.
- The COP 21 Summit, which led to the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement set out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2 °C and aiming to 1.5 °C. The recent ratification of this agreement was welcomed as a great success ⁽⁵⁾ and opens the way for the continuation of EU leadership in the global transition to a low-carbon future.
- The 2030 climate and energy framework which defines three key targets for the year 2030: at least 40 % cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), at least 32 % share for renewable energy, at least 32.5 % improvement in energy efficiency. The framework helps drive progress towards a low-carbon economy and build an energy system that ensures affordable energy for all consumers, increases the security of the EU's energy supplies, reduces our dependence on energy imports and creates new opportunities for growth and jobs. It also brings environmental and health benefits – e.g. through reduced air pollution.
- With the European Climate Law, the Commission puts the objective of achieving climate-neutrality by 2050 into legislation. It ensures that there is both discipline and accountability in the actions to achieve this 2050 objective. It sets out further work towards setting a new 2030 target and lays out how we establish a 'trajectory' between 2030 and 2050. The importance of adaptation to climate change is underlined and thought is given to ensuring public participation in this fight changing patterns of behaviour.

⁽³⁾ In connection with this, 'The implementation of green recovery measures in the EU', Cambridge Econometric et al (2011) assessed green measures focused on energy efficiency and climate change mitigation as part of recovery packages. It was found these measures contributed to economic recovery and provided a temporary boost to employment. The multiplier effects for green investment were similar to those from any other kind of investment and supported the general conclusion for LIFE projects that they support growth and jobs.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52015DC0614>

⁽⁵⁾ European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said: 'Today's decision shows that the European Union delivers on promises made. It demonstrates that the Member States can find common ground when it is clear that acting together, as part of the European Union, their impact is bigger than the mere sum of its parts'.

Therefore, the contribution of the LIFE programme to the Europe 2020 priorities is 100 % of the budget lines 07 02 01; 07 02 02; 07 02 03; 34 02 01; 34 02 02 and 34 02 03.

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	73,1	85,9
Contributing to increased resilience to climate change	38,0	47,5
Support better climate governance and information	15,4	17,6
Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation	48,7	50,3
Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems	69,2	71,6
Total	244,4	272,9

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
186,0	199,7	213,5	229,0	247,2	244,4	272,9	1 592,7

(*)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

Explanation Table ‘Relevant objective/output’:

In the case of LIFE the contribution of the different activities to climate mainstreaming has been defined taking into account the expenditures under each budget article.

Contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: Estimated to be the total operational budget for the priority areas climate change mitigation (budget article 34 02 01);

Contributing to increased resilience to climate change: Estimated to be the total operational budget for the priority areas climate change adaptation (budget article 34 02 02);

Support better climate governance and information: Estimated to be the total operational budget for the priority area climate governance and information (budget article 34 02 03);

Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation: Estimated to be 40 % of the projects financed under the priority area resource efficiency (budget article 07 02 01 total budget for 2019 is EUR 150,3 million, out of which EUR 121.8 million are devoted to projects and for 2020 the total budget is EUR 155,2 million, out of which EUR 125,7 million are devoted to projects);

Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems: Estimated to be 40 % of the projects financed under the priority area nature and biodiversity (budget article 07 02 02 – total budget for 2019 is 213,6 million EUR, out of which EUR 173,0 million are devoted to projects and, in 2020, the total amount is EUR 220,8 million with EUR 178,9 million devoted to projects).

Explanation Table ‘Programming Climate action’:

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).

The above data are up-dated on the basis of the most recent figures available. The tracking methodology remained stable, compared with previous year, being translated into the above-mentioned percentages of allocations by budget lines.

Some expenditure under the LIFE sub-programme for environment and the LIFE sub-programme for climate action contribute to both biodiversity and climate objectives, especially given the desired synergies between them. Thus each of the tracking exercises has to be seen separately, and the total funds tracked as being related to one of the objectives has to be seen independently and cannot be added to the funds related to the other objective.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation	48,7	50,3
Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems	213,6	220,8
Support better environmental governance and information at all levels	7,0	8,0
Contributing to increased resilience to climate change	14,9	18,6
Total	284,2	297,7

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
195,1	217,1	227,6	242,8	265,6	284,2	297,7	1 730,1

(*)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

Explanation Table ‘Relevant objective/output’:

In the case of LIFE the contribution of the different activities to biodiversity has been defined taking into account the expenditures under each budget article.

Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation: Estimated to be 40 % of the projects financed under the priority area resource efficiency (budget article 07 02 01 total budget for 2019 is EUR 150,3 million, out of which EUR 121.8 million are devoted to projects and for 2020 the total budget is EUR 155,2 million, out of which EUR 125,7 million are devoted to projects);

Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems: Estimated to be the 100 % total operational budget for the priority area nature and biodiversity (budget article 07 02 02);

Support better environmental governance and information at all levels: Estimated to be 100 % of the projects focused on nature and biodiversity financed under the priority area governance and information (budget article 07 02 03 – total budget for 2019 is EUR 48 million, out of which EUR 14 million are devoted to projects, out of which EUR 7 million are for projects focused on nature and biodiversity and, in 2020, the total amount is EUR 50,2 million, out of which EUR 16 million are devoted to projects, with EUR 8 million for nature and biodiversity);

Contributing to increased resilience to climate change: Estimated to be 40 % of the total operational budget for the priority areas climate change adaptation devoted to projects (budget article 34 02 02 – total budget for 2019 is EUR 41,5 million, out of which EUR 37,3 million are devoted to projects and total budget for 2020 is EUR 44,4 million, out of which EUR 39,6 million are devoted to projects).

Explanation Table ‘Programmation Biodiversity’:

(*) 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).

Biodiversity related expenditure is tracked pursuant to Article 27 and Recital 40 of the LIFE Regulation (Regulation N.1293/2013). At present a system for tracking biodiversity related expenditure has been developed at project level. The tracking methodology remained stable compared with previous years and is largely based on an existing OECD methodology (‘Rio markers’), adapted to provide for quantified financial data. Expenditures have been thus marked in one of the three categories: biodiversity related only (100 %); significantly biodiversity related (40 %); and not biodiversity related (0 %). Some expenditure under the LIFE sub-programme for environment and the LIFE sub-programme for climate action, such as the expenditures for the NCCF, can contribute to both biodiversity and climate objectives, especially given the desired synergies between them. Thus, each of the tracking exercises has to be seen separately and the total funds tracked as being related to one of the objectives has to be seen independently and cannot be added to the funds related to the other objective.

Contribution to financing clean air

The table below provides a view of the expected contribution of the LIFE Programme to air quality in the period 2014-2018 and indicates the way in which it is calculated:

Action	Marker	LIFE Contribution (EUR)
LIFE projects focused on clean air	100 %	84 242 292.00
LIFE projects contributing to clean air as a secondary benefit	40 %	20 768 463.20

Total		105 010 755.20
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The methodology for calculating air quality spending was defined at the beginning of 2020 based on Rio markers, with the intention to capture the contribution of the programme to 'clean air', thus encompassing actions towards increasing air quality and reducing air pollution).

The financing for air quality has to be assessed at project level as follows:

- LIFE spending for projects focused on clean air (100 %);
- LIFE expenditures for projects significantly contributing to clean air as secondary benefit (40 %) and
- other LIFE expenditures (0 %).

This is the first year that the contribution of the LIFE Programme to air quality is required: data are not available on all the on-going 2014-2018 projects.

In particular, data on projects focused on clean air are available on 2014-2018 projects and data on projects having clean air as secondary benefit (40 %) are not available for 2018 and cover only two projects in 2017.

As a consequence, the contribution of the LIFE programme to clean air which appears in the table is underestimated

Gender mainstreaming

A gender dimension has been developed at project level. The tracking methodology remained stable compared with previous years and is largely based on an existing OECD methodology ('Rio markers'), adapted to provide for quantified financial data.

A gender dimension is taken into account in some specific areas of interventions of the LIFE Programme to identify how men and women relate to the environment in a different way, i.e. how the effects of hazardous chemicals and waste affect men and women.

However, the LIFE programme does not include any specific gender equality objective.

In terms of action, in line with the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, a gender dimension is taken into account to identify and highlight the different impacts of hazardous chemicals and wastes on men and women and to promote the consideration of gender issues in hazardous chemicals and waste management at the national and regional levels.

The contribution of the LIFE programme to the gender equality is not significant, given the related activities are components of multidimensional projects.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The LIFE programme supports this **SDG 2** because it encourages an environmentally friendly agriculture, in view of the protection, preservation and improvement in the quality of water, air and soil and the protection of bio-diversity.

To improve resource efficiency in food production and reduce impact on water resources, LIFE is also promoting sustainable nutrients management in agriculture.

Moreover, the National Emission Ceilings Directive for air pollutants, the Member States' targets to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions as well as the proposal to integrate the land use sector into the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework are aimed at incentivising Member States to take additional sustainable action in their agriculture sectors.

As an example, project LIFE AGRI ADAPT aims to increase the resilience of EU agriculture to climate change by demonstrating sustainable best-practice adaptation measures with an ecosystem-based approach at farm level. The overall objective of the AgriAdapt project is to demonstrate that three of the most important farming systems in the EU (livestock, arable and permanent crops) will become more climate-resilient through the implementation of feasible and sustainable adaptation measures which also have positive crosscutting environmental benefits. To this end, different measures will be tested in 120 pilot farms across the four main EU Climate Risk Regions and the conclusions obtained will be used to elaborate General proposals for key farming systems. The project will also promote sustainable adaptation measures among farmers, farmers associations, technical consultants, food standard organisations and agricultural assurance companies.

Furthermore, LIFE is acting in reducing food waste. For example, LIFE project FLAW4LIFE aims at raising the consumers' awareness on the food waste issue and providing support to the farmers at the same time. In particular, the project is targeting the acceptance of 'ugly fruit' within the community. Through its approach, the project expects an increase of involved farmer's productivity, with 157 farmers involved per year. As a result, total of 165 tons of waste were avoided during 2015, corresponding to 125.031 KgCO₂eq.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

On **SDG 3**, taking into account that environmental stressors having significant impacts on health, LIFE complements Member States' action through legislation and other initiatives on environment related health problems, which are linked to air quality, industrial emissions, chemicals, waste and water.

Examples include the 7th Environment Action Programme, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, or the rules on the sustainable use of pesticides which underline the link with health policy aspects.

The EU Chemicals Policy also covers regulation on persistent organic pollutants; trade in hazardous chemicals; fluorinated gases; and hazardous waste. The so-called 'REACH' framework aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals, while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

LIFE is funding a number of projects working on improving air quality and specific air pollutants and to reduce the risks from chemicals.

For example, the Polish Integrated Project LIFE-IP MAŁOPOLSKA aims at the full implementation of the Małopolska Air Quality Plan (MAQP). The project estimates that through its actions it will reduce PM10 and PM2.5 emissions by about 25 000 kg/day and 21 000 kg/day respectively. It is worth noting that the project has a transnational approach assisting cooperation within the hotspot (southern Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic) by joint activities as well as exchange of experiences in the area of air quality improvement. In addition to the IP budget itself, the project will facilitate the coordinated use of €798 million complementary funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the ERDF, National and Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, and national and private fund, as applicable.

The project LIFE Fit for REACH is working on the reduction of emissions by substitution of hazardous chemicals and resource efficiency. The project offers Baltic SMEs a full 'chemicals management package', including proposals on how to implement substitution as a core action to reduce environmental impacts and support in communicating this good environmental performance to the society. Amongst other activities, LIFE Fit for REACH will test and implement a set of complex measures in six companies which shall substitute some of the identified hazardous substances or increase the efficiency of the resource use and lead to reduction of emissions of these substances. It will also implement 'low effort – low costs' measures to substitute hazardous substances or to introduce good chemicals management practices in additional 50-80 SMEs. The project is also helping Latvia's largest producer of household chemicals to get 'greener'.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The EU water policy is a cornerstone of the LIFE Programme and provides for a framework to address water protection and achieve good ecological status for inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. It comprises regulation including on drinking water, bathing water and urban wastewater, prevention of pollution caused by nitrates, industrial emissions, pesticides and persistent organic pollutants.

The transition to a circular economy should also lead to greater resource efficiency for example by improving the conditions for water re-use in several sectors.

LIFE projects are working on sustainable management of water bodies. In particular, LIFE projects are reducing the water bodies affected by water pressures and risks. This is done through a variety of actions, like reducing pollution of aquatic bodies from contaminated water/fluids, removal of barriers within rivers, implementation of River Basin Management Plans, etc.

As an example, LIFE ECORKWASTE will demonstrate the possible uses of a cork waste valorisation system. The cork will be used as absorbent material in wetlands, for the elimination of organic compounds in winery wastewater treatment systems or as substrate for energy valorisation in a gasification process. Through this improved wastewater treatment, the project aims to alleviate the pressure on 930 km² of wetlands in the Llobregat Basin (a decrease of approximately 3 % within the context of the project). The reduction in pressure includes removal of 90 % of both phenol and hydrogen-sulphide from the winery wastewater within the project duration (estimated at 50 mg/year and 82 mg/year, respectively).

The German Integrated project Living River Lahn aims at achieving a good ecological status/potential of surface waters in the catchment area of the Lahn river in Germany. Among other activities, this project will identify sources of pollution and improve the water quality of the Lahn and its tributaries; prepare and implement measures for linear ecological connectivity for barrages and weirs, investigate the options for the creation of retention areas along the river and improved ecosystem services; re-establish natural water regulation wherever possible; and elaborate integrated pilot strategies and implementation plans on how to organise and finance inland waterways in order to achieve 'good ecological status/potential'. The solutions identified by the project should be transferred to several other rivers in Germany, facing similar issues. In addition to the project budget itself, the project will facilitate the coordinated use of around €27 million of complementary funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and national funds.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Through the circular economy package and the plastic strategy, LIFE addresses economic and environmental concerns by maximizing efficiency in the use of resources, and thus contributes to **SDG 8**.

Moreover, the 7th Environment Action Programme confirms that EU prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed in a sustainable way, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored.

An example of how LIFE contributes to tackling marine litter pollution while promoting additional income for fishermen/women is the project LIFE LEMA. This project aimed to provide local administrations with a methodological guide and prediction tools for the efficient management of floating marine litter in the southeast waters of the Bay of Biscay. The project established statistical models to predict the movement and accumulation points of floating marine litter; developed a computer tool to integrate data on floating marine litter collection, detection and prediction methods; designed a management plan to prevent and reduce floating marine litter; and used innovative technologies to detect floating marine litter. Through its work, the project demonstrated marine litter collection actions that could provide fishermen/women with an additional source of income while reducing marine pollution. Quantitatively, the project achieved the collection of more than 40 tons of floating marine litter and another 40 tons of floating wood.

In addition, LIFE PSLOOP is aiming at enabling the recycling of construction waste containing polystyrene. The project's process for producing recycled polystyrene material is much more energy and resource efficient than the production of polystyrene from virgin raw materials. The project will construct a recycling plant to demonstrate this process on an industrial scale, aiming at 3000 tons/year of recycled polystyrene. In addition, the project aims to create a relevant value chain with recycling and collection companies by demonstrating a standard collection and pre-treatment system.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework strives for a competitive low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change identifies resilient infrastructure as a priority action area under the strategic objective of mainstreaming adaptation measures.

The circular economy fosters eco-innovation and sustainability objectives.

LIFE is working on improving the climate resilience of infrastructures. In particular, 21 LIFE projects are working on increasing the number of infrastructures targeted for climate resilience. Such infrastructures may include public, private and industrial buildings or services situated in urban or rural environments. These could range from large power generation plants, to water services, households or agricultural farms.

As an example, the LIFE DERRIS project successfully tested an innovative model of public-private partnership between insurers, public administrations and SMEs to increase urban resilience to climate change, including through risk reduction tools for SMEs. Such tools included a Climate Risk Assessment and Management Tool to help enterprises to identify adaptation measures that they should implement to enhance resilience, as well as company climate adaptation action plans that outlined numerous specific steps the participating companies could take to cope with floods, drought, high temperatures, high winds and other extreme weather events. During the project, 156 companies produced such plans and this number is expected to increase to 550 five years after the project-end.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The 7th Environment Action Programme has as a horizontal priority objective to make the Union's cities more sustainable.

Other environmental and climate policies and legislation are vital for sustainable urban development such as Noise Legislation, the EU's Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Strategies, Drinking Water and Urban Wastewater Treatment, the framework on energy performance of building, the strengthen of the resilience of urban settings through climate related risks.

Urban energy consumption generates about three quarters of global carbon emissions. Therefore, cities play a crucial role in terms of energy and climate policy (the Clean Air Package, Air Quality, etc.). The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a bottom-up local and regional action for tackling in an integrated manner climate change mitigation and adaptation, and access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

Moreover, the circular economy package contributes to this SDG under many aspects, such as by addressing sustainable waste sorting and recycling and by shifting energy consumption onto more sustainable pathways.

LIFE is funding projects with direct impact on this topic. For example, LIFE-SOUNDLESS is aiming at a sustainable and healthy future for urban areas through the demonstration of the effectiveness of innovative noise-reducing asphalt mixes using recycled waste materials, to mitigate noise pollution. The project will also encourage public bodies to integrate environmental factors into their calls for tender in street construction. By recycling and re-using waste from different industries, the project will also help implement waste management objectives. Concretely, the project is aiming at a reduction of at least 6 dB in noise level compared with the current situation in the demonstration road sections.

Another example is LIFE IMPETUS which is working on improving current barriers for controlling and removing pharmaceutical compounds (PhC) in urban wastewater treatment plants with conventional activated sludge treatment. The project examined PhC concentration, control methods in urban waste-water treatment plants, bacterial antibiotic resistance and PhC bioaccumulation in clams situated near the exit of the plants. In addition, the project tested at semi-industrial scale, a novel activated carbons material made of pine nuts for removal of PhC in waste-water plant processes. The project collected two years of data of PhC in 2 urban

CAS-urban waste-water treatment plants (~ 9000 results) and isolated 7000 antibiotic-resistant colonies in raw and treated waste-water.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

In view of reaching **SDG 12**, resource efficiency and circular economy actions aim to decouple economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation. By covering the whole cycle from production and consumption to waste management, they are at the core of the LIFE actions under the priority areas Environment and Resource Efficiency.

Moreover, the 7th Environment Action programme has as a key objective to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy. Another related key objective is to safeguard EU citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.

Several LIFE projects are working on improving Waste Management.

The LIFE M3P project, for example, aims to promote and develop industrial symbiosis by connecting SMEs to foster alternative uses of their waste streams. It aims to close the loop by identifying and characterising industrial waste, and turning it into a resource (secondary raw material) for another industry. This will be achieved through the use of a digital online platform – M3P (Material Match Making Platform) – at the European level. LIFE M3P will also demonstrate the feasibility of a more efficient use of raw materials, by the systematic application of eco-design techniques to facilitate the recovery and re-use of parts that would previously have become waste. Through the above activities the project aims at a waste reduction of about 60 000 tons (10 % reduction within the context of the project) during its implementation.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation are two priority areas of the LIFE programme. The 2015 Paris Agreement is a historically significant landmark in the global fight against climate change; a success for the world and a confirmation of the EU's path to a low-carbon and climate resilient economy. With the support of LIFE, ambitious 2030 targets have been set up to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy. Now, the Von Der Leyen Commission is proposing even more ambitious targets to be enshrined in the Climate Law Renewable energies and energy efficiency play an increasingly important role in tackling climate change.

The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is a key tool for cutting greenhouse gas emissions from large-scale facilities in the power and industry sectors, as well as the aviation sector.

The EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change provides a framework and mechanisms to improve the preparedness of the EU for current and future impacts of climate change, thus contributing to a more climate-resilient society.

LIFE projects are aiming at reducing CO2 emissions and promote renewable energy production.

As a practical example, LIFE METHAmorphosis demonstrated, at industrial-scale, two innovative waste treatment systems, one in an urban waste treatment plant, and the other in an agro-industrial waste treatment plants, to produce upgraded high quality bio-methane. The participating automotive sector tested the biofuel in passenger vehicles and heavy duty vehicles during thousands of kilometres driving. The car manufacturer SEAT aims to use the results for rolling out their bio-methane strategy which has the potential of saving millions of tons of CO2 emissions in the transport sector. The project estimates that 5 years after its end the two prototypes could produce over 176 million kWh renewable biomass energy annually (translated to electricity, this value is close to the annual electricity consumption of 50 000 homes).

On a larger scale, the Belgian Integrated project BE-REEL! aims to create the conditions for the full implementation of the strategic housing renovation plans of Flanders and Wallonia regions in Belgium. The demonstration and pilot actions are estimated to lead to more than 8000 renovated dwellings. The direct GHG emission reductions due to all the project actions will amount to over 18 600 tonnes of CO2 per year. In the long run, the goal of the strategies is to renovate all existing housing, achieving a reduction of 75-80 % of CO2 emissions and energy use by 2050 and to influence the low-emission strategies of all cities and communities in Flanders and Wallonia, as well as the Brussels Capital Region.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The 7th Environment Action Programme sets the objective to protect the Union's natural capital to, inter alia, reduce the impact of pressures on marine waters, in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status.

The Birds and Habitats legislation complement the Marine Strategy Framework by protecting 5 % of the EU sea area through a network of Marine Protected Areas part of 'Natura 2000'.

Moreover, to tackle marine litter and pollution, LIFE supports a wide set of instruments, including regulation on waste management and prevention, port reception facilities for ship generated waste and cargo residues.

LIFE is funding large Integrated Projects within the marine environment. One such example is the Spanish Integrated Project LIFE-IP INTEMARES working on an integrated, innovative and participatory management for Natura 2000 network in the Marine Environment. Its objective is to implement the Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 in the Spanish marine Natura 2000 network and ensure its effective management. Through this approach, the project expects to ensure the maintenance or restoration of the favourable conservation status of priority habitats and species. To achieve this the project will improve critical knowledge for

the management of the Natura 2000 network activities; improve monitoring of habitat types and species listed in the annexes of the Nature Directives for a better assessment of their conservation status; and provide information, training and adequate awareness to all stakeholders for achieving conservation targets in Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore, the project will promote sustainable tourism and employment related to the Natura 2000 network. It is worth noting that the project estimates that it will facilitate the coordinated use of €22 million complementary funding from EMFF, ESF and national funds.

Another example is the French Integrated Project LIFE IP – MarHa that aims to achieve or maintain a favourable conservation status for French marine habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. To achieve this, the integrated project will ensure effective and transparent management of the sites; coordinated implementation of the Habitats Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive, while incorporating the connection between land and sea; improved capacities and tools for implementing Natura 2000 policy; the integration of marine users and activities; and assessment of the conservation status of marine habitats on a biogeographical scale and monitoring devices for adaptive management. The project should also strive to achieve greater recognition by society of the marine Natura 2000 initiative as well as reinforcement of international cooperation.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The environmental *acquis* provides a high level of protection in areas such as water quality and nature conservation, though the development and implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and of the Natura 2000 network.

The EU Forest Strategy has as one of its key principles global forest responsibility, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.

The circular economy offers an opportunity for modernising the economy, making it more green and competitive. It also contributes to lower carbon dioxide emission levels and energy savings as well as decreased air, soil and water pollution. It focuses on resource efficiency and minimising waste and has a strong potential in terms of new jobs and growth and for stimulating sustainable consumption and production patterns.

LIFE is funding a significant number of project aiming at improving ecosystem health and wildlife species.

All 12 types of ecosystem are being addressed by on-going projects.

For Wildlife species, on-going projects are expected to lead to an increase in the population of the species and/or to lead to increase in their site area or length.

As an example, LIFE for Safe Flight aims to reinforce the red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) population globally by mitigating threats, including legal acts against hunting/poaching and removing power lines; raising awareness about the species and the threats it faces; as well as establishing monitoring schemes to protect it. Based on the above, the project is expected to increase the population of the red-breasted goose by about 15 000 individuals (27 % increase against the baseline situation at the project's start) and increase its area of habitat by about 7 000 ha (1 % increase).

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Two pilot financial instruments have been financed under LIFE to test innovative approaches:

- the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) supports investments for the implementation of Member States' Energy Efficiency Action Plans through financial intermediaries;
- the Natural Capital Financing facility (NCFF) is designed to demonstrate that natural capital projects can generate revenues or save costs. It intends to establish a pipeline of replicable, bankable operations that will serve as a 'proof of concept' and that will demonstrate to potential investors the attractiveness of such operations directly addressing biodiversity and climate adaptation objectives.

Following an ex ante assessment analysing the potential demand and defining the best possible conditions for their financing, delegation agreements between the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) were developed and signed.

PF4EE

Following the signature of the delegation agreement, the EIB has started to make agreements with financial intermediaries, which then have to develop their own portfolio to provide loans for energy efficiency investments. PF4EE is indeed contributing to creating a new financial product in the market targeting energy efficiency and consequently directly contributing to the decarbonisation of our economy, in line with the COP21 goals.

Phase I: At the outset of the PF4EE, support of total investment up to about EUR 540 million was expected, with an objective to sign operations in six to ten Member States. The deployment has been more challenging and slower than expected.

By the end of 2019, 11 agreements have been signed with intermediary banks for a total guaranteed sum of EUR 72 million utilised and an additional 1.5m reutilised of which EUR 17.2 million were posted on cash collateral accounts. Implementation of operations

on the ground have started in seven countries. As at 31 December 2019, the total signed nominal amount of loan portfolios covered through collateral agreements reached EUR 97.9 million (loans to final recipients).

Phase II: The instrument was scaled up after its pilot phase, with additional funding amounting to EUR 25 million for the 2018-2020 period. It is expected that additional support of total investment will reach EUR 160 million under this phase. The updated delegation agreement was signed in November 2019 and the new call published immediately after.

In terms of energy efficiency, since the signature of the first collateral agreement, investments supported by the PF4EE have generated primary energy savings of 216.67 Gwh/year and have reduced the level of CO2 emissions by 57 190 tons of CO2. Reduction of CO2 emissions as a result of investments supported by the PF4EE instrument reached 24 616 Tons of CO2 / year in 2019.

NCFF

NCFF supports the financing of loans and equity for investments contributing to biodiversity and/or climate change adaptation objectives. This represents an innovation which, if successful, could drive the architecture of natural capital financing. Between 9 and 12 operations are expected to be financed until the end of 2021, as the duration has been extended. The support facility is being used for developing new projects.

Several operations have been scrutinized according to the criteria jointly defined by the Commission and the EIB in the delegation agreement. They have not been retained for funding (for more information see above 'Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information' under specific objective 2).

Following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the LIFE Programme, several adjustments have been introduced in the management of the NCFF in agreement with the EIB, including more flexibility on the provision of technical assistance, the prolongation of the implementation period without additional financing, the reduction of the minimum amount for an operation, the opening of a guarantee facility, some targeted promotional activities to stimulate the potential demand.

The first operation was signed in 2017. In 2018 and in 2019 respectively, three and two operations were signed. It appears that the market, although still limited, is waking up to biodiversity and climate as compared to when the NCFF was conceived.

Among them, we had the first NCFF operation integrating nature-based solutions in a city. A EUR 5 million NCFF loan will finance and support the integration of green components into the restoration of public squares and streets, create green corridors between different greened areas and contribute to the natural restoration of Athens second landmark hill after the Acropolis, Lycabettus hill. The objective of this operation is to support the implementation of the Athens Resilience 2030 Strategy and thus contribute to reducing urban heat islands, increase natural water infiltration and improve overall attractiveness of the project areas. This loan is attached to a EUR 55 million framework loan for resilient urban renewal and development to the Municipality of Athens.

HEADING 2: Sustainable growth: natural resources**Compulsory contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international organisations and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)**

Lead DG: MARE

I. Overview***What the programme is about?*****Sustainable Fisheries Agreements**

Under its exclusive competence of negotiating bilateral fisheries agreements the European Commission negotiates, concludes and implements bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) between the European Union and third countries with the objective of contributing to a regulated framework for the EU long-distance fishing fleet while ensuring a suitable exploitation of the third countries' relevant fisheries resources and supporting competitiveness of the Union's fishing fleet. Within the framework of the SFPAs, the Commission maintains a political dialogue on fisheries related policies with third countries concerned, in coherence with the principles governing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the commitments under other relevant European policies in order to contribute to healthy fish stocks around the world. SFPAs constitute a benchmark for the management of international fishing policies and therefore also contribute to fostering the EU position as a global and leading actor in the field of international fisheries.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and international organisations

Given the exclusive competence of the EU for the conservation of marine living resources and international obligations deriving from the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the implementing UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), to which the EU is Party, the Commission pays compulsory annual contributions deriving from EU membership in these bodies. This includes various RFMOs where the EU has an interest and bodies set up by the UNCLOS, namely the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

EU added value of the programme**Sustainable Fisheries Agreements**

The conclusion of bilateral agreements with third countries is necessary to allow European Union fleets access to fish surplus stocks that are not being fished by the coastal States' local fleets and to provide sustainable food supply to the European citizens. Most of these fish stocks cannot be found in European waters (tuna, small pelagic species, crustaceans, cephalopods). An important part of the EU fleet depends on them and therefore needs access to the waters of non-EU countries. At the same time, these bilateral agreements are playing an essential role in developing the partner country's governance of the fishing sector in a sustainable manner through the provision of sectoral support.

In summary, SFPAs deliver the following overall benefits:

- SFPAs give the European fleet access to fishing grounds under a clearer, uniform and more stable legal framework, offering greater legal certainty for European vessel owners, and contributing to their competitiveness;
- SFPAs foster scientific cooperation between the EU and its partner countries;
- SFPAs promote transparency and sustainability in the partner countries that also apply to other agreements between the partner countries concerned and other fleets present in their EEZ. This is therefore contributing to the sustainable management of fishing resources worldwide.
- In the partner countries, SFPAs encourage improved governance and management of the local fisheries sector by supporting the monitoring, control and surveillance of national and foreign fleets' activities. SFPAs provide significant funding to contribute to the sustainable development of local fishing activities, and to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and international organisations

In line with the External Dimension of the CFP, which is an exclusive Union policy, the EU promotes better international fisheries and ocean governance and the sustainable management of international fish stocks as well as defends EU economic and social interests within these organisations. As the EU is a Contracting Party to the UNCLOS and UNFSA it must cooperate with other fishing nations and be a member of RFMOs when fishing in high seas. As the sole representative for all EU fishing interests in RFMOs with a common strategy for all EU fleets, the EU is a leading member in these organisations and has the clout and authority to defend the EU interests more effectively and forcefully than EU Member States separately.

Implementation mode

Expenditure related to compulsory contributions to RFMOs and other international organisations as well as to Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements are implemented directly by the Commission.

II. Programme Implementation Update**Implementation Status (2017-2019)**SFPAs

At the end of 2019, a total number of 13 protocols ⁽¹⁾ to Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) were in force, to be compared with 9 at the end of the previous year. The voted budget was fully utilised to pay access and sectoral support as foreseen in given protocols.

In 2019, SFPA-related negotiations were successfully completed for the renewal of the SFPA protocol with São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal and Seychelles and were ongoing with Madagascar and Kiribati.

Following the completion of legislative procedures, new SFPA protocols with the following countries started to apply in the course of 2019: Morocco, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Senegal and São Tomé e Príncipe. In the case of Mauritania, a one-year extension had been agreed upon, which ensured continuity of operations at the expiry of the previous protocol, in line with the negotiation mandate.

Also in 2019, a mandate to open negotiations for a new SFPA with Greenland was adopted as well a mandate to renew the Access agreement to Mayotte waters. In addition, preliminary steps have been taken in view of obtaining a negotiation mandate with Liberia and Cook Islands, through the launch of procedures for the ex-post and ex-ante evaluations of the SFPA Protocols with these countries.

RFMOs

According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), RFMOs are the responsible bodies for the sustainable management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. They play a critical role in promoting the preservation and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, while contributing to food security, fair, healthy and sustainable food systems, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as sustainable growth and jobs. RFMOs also offer an opportunity to increase the role of the EU as a global actor and to promote the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law in the areas of the CFP and a level-playing field for Union operators in line with Article 28 of the basic regulation. The EU, represented by the Commission due to the exclusive competence under the CFP, plays an active role in 5 tuna and 12 non-tuna RFMOs, Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and other organisations.

The EU paid its membership contributions to 13 RFMOs ⁽²⁾ and 3 other International Bodies in view of the EU's membership to them (i.e. CMS, ITLOS, ISBA) in 2019 as foreseen in the budget 2019.

Key achievementsSFPAs

The number of fishing authorisations issued in 2019 in the framework of the SFPAs in force

- slightly increased to a total of 412 authorisations issued in 2019 for 128 vessels related to tuna agreements (one vessel can receive several authorisations to fish in various countries) and
- increased from around 343 to 470 authorisations for 207 vessels in the case of mixed fisheries, essentially because of the reactivation of the SFPA with Morocco.

This achievement demonstrates the efficiency gains obtained in the implementation and management of SFPAs with a high take-up of fishing opportunities made available in the framework of bilateral agreements as well as an increased level of fishing activity compared to the previous year.

In addition, SFPAs have also been contributing to the development of the fisheries sector in the partner countries and to better governance of their fisheries sector. A significant part of the total EU budget for SFPAs has been devoted to the concrete projects funded under sectoral support and related mostly to control and surveillance capacities, small port infrastructures, landing facilities and laboratories, equipment for small-scale fishermen. At the same time, they contribute to eliminating illegal fishing and providing good framework conditions for local fishermen. SFPAs therefore also contribute to ensuring food security to local coastal communities. Concrete projects financed include for example the supply of fishing equipment for small fishermen, including localisation and safety kits, the reinforcement of sanitary control capacity in ports, landing facilities with storage and ice facilities, financing the acquisition of patrol boats and their maintenance, training of fisheries inspectors and observers, etc.

⁽¹⁾ 9 tuna agreements: Cape Verde, Cook Islands, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Senegal, Mauritius, Liberia, Sao Tome e Principe and Seychelles; and 4 multi-species (mixed) agreements: Mauritania, Morocco, Greenland and Guinea-Bissau.

⁽²⁾ There are 4 organisations targeting the conservation of tuna (CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT and IOTC), 1 targeting the conservation of salmon (NASCO) and 8 targeting general fisheries aspects (CCAMLR, GFCM, NAFO, NEAFC, SEFAO, SIOFA, SPRFMO and WCPFC)

RFMOs

Overall, the EU has remained the key driver for progress in RFMOs and for increasing their performance. In 2019, the EU tabled (or co-sponsored) 47 proposals in the RFMOs, of which 24 were adopted. Due to the decisions taken in RFMOs, the stocks under their purview are generally in good shape with the fisheries managed at sustainable levels.

The EU's voluntary contributions to the scientific advice of RFMOs played a key role in several RFMOs, including ICCAT, NAFO IOTC, WCPFC and IATTC. In 2019 there was also good progress in the protection of vulnerable species such as sharks, mobula ray, seabirds, and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). Key deliverables were the adoption of a quota for blue sharks in ICCAT, a strong conservation measure for mantas and mobula rays to protect these vulnerable species by the IOTC, both based on EU proposals, and the adoption of a new bottom-fishing framework to protect VMEs by the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO). In addition, the EU is also continuously improving the management of FADs used in tuna fisheries, and promote the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) or fisheries restricted areas.

Evaluations/ studies conducted

The results of the evaluations carried out in 2019 are taken on board in the negotiations for the renewal of agreements, more notably in relation to the level of fishing opportunities agreed upon, the relevant technical provisions applicable and the rules regarding the implementation and monitoring of the multiannual sectoral programmes. The main conclusions of the evaluations were as follows ⁽³⁾:

Greenland

- The 2016-2020 Protocol is considered to bring significant benefits to both parties and to address the needs of the various stakeholders.
- The EU fleet has made very good use of the fishing opportunities offered which concern various species such as cod, pelagic and demersal redfish. The protocol also allows for exchanges of fishing opportunities with Norway and the Faeroe Islands that are beneficial to the EU fleet as a whole.
- The evaluation considers that the renewal of the Agreement and its Protocol clearly appears as the preferred option and should retain a similar technical and financial approach as the current one, with some technical adaptations aimed at improving the implementing conditions of its access and sectoral support components.

Mauritania

- The evaluation indicates that the protocol renewal is the preferred option for both parties, with certain modifications to be introduced in order to improve the functioning of the protocol and better assess the impact of fishing on exploited stocks and ecosystems.
- In a future Protocol, it is suggested, in particular, to adjust the level of fishing opportunities to the fishing history of EU fleets, especially for fleets targeting small pelagics and hake and to effectively implement a transparency clause for fishing activities in Mauritania, in order to best define surplus fisheries resources available in Mauritanian waters for foreign fleets, along with the equity of access to these resources.
- About the sectoral support component, the evaluation considers that improvements should be made to ensure rigorous management and monitoring of the funds and activities are financed by the agreement, and more broadly, to ensure coherence with additional support financed by other partners.

Senegal

- The 2014-2019 Protocol has been evaluated as overall effective, responding to the needs of the EU distant water fleet and at the same time supporting in an effective way Senegal's fisheries management capacities.
- The Protocol benefits from a good cost-benefit ratio for both the EU and Senegal since both parties obtain a fair share of the total value added of catches: respectively EUR 5 and 3.2 for every EUR 1 invested by the EU.
- The Protocol is also good regarding the utilisation of sectoral support funds which has improved in the second half of the protocol and which is overall meeting the significant needs of Senegal, particularly with regard to strengthening fisheries surveillance and supporting artisanal fisheries.

Seychelles

- The 2014-2020 Protocol has been evaluated as effective in terms of its objective of contributing towards sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in the waters of Seychelles and highly relevant to the needs of the stakeholders concerned.
- The evaluation has pointed out to the very good equation between the fishing opportunities offered and their actual utilisation and the high degree of added value generated for both parties.
- The Protocol has been coherent with other EU interventions in the Western Indian Ocean, and the sectoral support provided did contribute to strengthening fisheries governance both in Seychelles and in the region.

⁽³⁾ More information on these studies can be found: <https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies>

Forthcoming implementation

Regarding SFPAs, it is expected that new SFPAs with Mauritania, Greenland, Liberia and Cook Islands will enter into force in 2021, thus contributing to an increase in the total number of operational SFPAs. In the years to come, the governance model represented by SFPAs will continue to be promoted with the objective of consolidating the SFPA network through timely renewal of protocols and new agreements when relevant. The sectoral support component of SFPAs will continue to support the sustainable management of fisheries resources in third countries, in particular the reinforcement of capacities, the promotion of scientific capacity, surveillance and control mechanisms and the support to small-scale fisheries. It will also contribute to the promotion of the blue economy in economies which are highly dependent on the maritime sector.

The EU will continue its membership in the RFMOs. The priorities will likely remain mostly focused on contributing to improving the scientific advice in RFMOs and improving the performance of those organisations.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

As part of the next EU budget framework for the 2021-2027, the European Commission proposed to allocate the budget of EUR 990 million [in current prices] for the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, including the compulsory contributions to the RFMOs and other international organisations as well as the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

This funding will be used for renewing existing as well as concluding new protocols with third countries to allow the EU fleet to access to fish surplus stocks in those countries' exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and to contribute to a sustainable food supply to European consumers. As fishing for highly migratory and straddling stocks in the high seas is concerned, the European Union is bound by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1995 United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) to cooperate with other parties by participating in RFMOs and other international organisations. They are the main vehicle for multilateral cooperation, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainability of fish stocks under their purview. Therefore, the Commission will continue to pay compulsory contributions to these organisations.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application		Reference Amount (EUR million)					
	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations	80,0	135,6	135,7	127,0	94,5	147,9	148,0	868,8
Total	80,0	135,6	135,7	127,0	94,5	147,9	148,0	868,8

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	147,900	100,00 %	142,086	100,00 %	80,157	98,54 %	78,232	27,37 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	147,900	100,00 %	142,086	100,00 %	12,314	641,46 %	13,932	153,72 %

(*) 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

SFPAs

With a total number of 13 SFPAs protocols currently in place and with an objective of renewing SFPAs protocols with Gabon, Madagascar, the 2020 target of 15 protocols in place should be achieved. The number of active vessels in the framework of the SFPAs has increased to 128 for to tuna agreements and to 207 vessels in the case of mixed agreements. This shows a large increase compared to previous years, in line with the 2020 target, thanks to an evolution in the total number of SFPAs in force and in particular thanks to the reactivation of the SFPA with Morocco. This implementation and management of SFPAs has led to a high take-up of fishing opportunities made available in the framework of bilateral agreements as well as an increased level of fishing activity and therefore providing more fish on the European markets. At the same time, SFPAs performed well in contributing to eliminating illegal fishing.

RFMOs

The Commission continued to deliver on its commitment to achieve more sustainable fisheries worldwide. The contributions are being rather successful in achieving their objective as up to 88 % of all conservation measures adopted by RFMOs in 2019 to which

the EU is a member were in line with scientific advice. The main shortcoming is the decision-making procedure set out in RFMOs which is consensus. As such, this result does of course also reflect the reality of decision-making within RFMOs where the EU is not the only actor involved in the process. The 2020 target of 100 % will continue to be pursued by the Commission. Other identified shortcomings are the lengthy procedures for the identification and implementation of the projects as well as the delays in the reporting by RFMO. Several individual reminders were sent out to recall the applicable rules and the existing deadlines.

There are currently illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing IUU listing procedures in place in all RFMOs. In addition to that, an increasing number of RFMOs have cross listing procedures (e.g., NAFO, SEAFO, SIOFA, IOTC) and/or specific provisions to address the responsibility of nationals involved in IUU fishing (e.g., CCAMLR, SPRFMO, SIOFA). Only one RFMO, IATTC, has not adopted PSM measures to date despite the fact that the EU has been submitting a proposal to establish PSM in IATTC every year since 2010. The Commission will continue to push for the adoption of PSM in this organisation. International discussions on the adoption of Catch Documentation System (CDS) for high value species was monopolised until the end of 2017 by side progress made by the FAO on the adoption of voluntary guidelines. In 2018 and 2019, ICCAT, CCAMLR and CCSBT undertook technical discussions to introduce improvements to their existing CDS. The Commission will continue to advocate the adoption of CDS in all RFMOs.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To promote, through active involvement in international organisations, sustainable development for fisheries management and maritime governance in line with the CFP objectives, and ensure that fishery resources are maintained above or restored above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield

Indicator 1: Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted, for all species under the purview of RFMOs to which the EU is a member

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
49 out of 53 (92 %)				95 % of the conservation measures adopted				All conservation measures adopted
	Actual results							
				55 out of 57 (96 %)	52 out of 59 (88 %)	57 out of 65 (88 %)		

Availability of Data: Data for NEAFC pending.

Unit of measure: Conservation measures adopted by RFMOs in their annual meeting are in line with the best available scientific advice.

Indicator 2: Tools to fight IUU fishing adopted in RFMOs

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
IUU listing in place in all relevant RFMOs, port state measures adopted only in some RFMOs, catch documentation system in place in CCAMLR for tooth fish and ICCAT for Bluefin tuna.				Revision of transshipment procedures in CCAMLR. Adoption of MCS in SIOFA. Revision of country-by-country compliance process in SPRFMO.	Adoption of PSM in IATTC; Revision of country-by-country compliance mechanisms in IOTC. CCAMLR and SPRFMO.	Adoption of PSM measures in IATTC. revision of PSM and IUU procedures in SPRFMO.		IUU listing procedures in place and operational in all RFMOs (annual). incremental introduction of port state measures in all RFMOs in line with the FAO Port State Measures until 2020. Gradual introduction of catch documentation systems for high value species until 2020.
	Actual results							
	Adoption of PSM in CCSBT	Revision of IUU listing procedures in CCAMLR and a new measure in SIOFA. Implementation of revamped e-CDS in CCAMLR. Revision of MCS measures in SEAFO. Revision of VMS legal framework and selection of VMS	Revision of IUU listing procedures in IOTC. CCAMLR and CCSBT; new Port Inspection Scheme in SIOFA; Revision of CDS requirements in CCAMLR; Revision of PSM in SEAFO. Voluntary Port	Revision of IUU listing procedures in CCAMLR IOTC and SIOFA; Revision of country-by-country compliance procedures in SIOFA.	Revision of IUU procedures to include cross-listing (IOTC and SIOFA) as well provisions related to nationals involved in IUU fishing (SIOFA and			

			provider in SPRFMO. Adoption of electronic PSM in IOTC&IUU listing procedures and vessels without nationality in SIOFA and IOTC Adoption of a GFCM recommendation on Port State Measures.	state procedures adopted in WCPFC. Adoption of a GFCM recommendation on a regional plan of action to combat IUU.		SPRFMO). All RFMOs except IATTC have PSM in place.		
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Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Annual financial contributions to RFMOs enabling the right of full participation in decision-making in the RFMO concerned	11 03 02	14*	5.2
2. Contribution to the annual budget of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISBA UN), convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)	11 03 02	3	0.2
Total		17	5.4

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Annual financial contributions to RFMOs enabling the right of full participation in decision-making in the RFMO concerned	F	12	13	14	14	14	14*	14*
	P	12	13	13	13	13	13	14*
2. Contribution to the annual budget of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISBA UN)	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	2	3	3	3	3	3	3

* Subject to the approval of the accession instrument adoption of the Council Decision of the new RFMO (NPFC)

Specific Objective 2: To establish, through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies

Performance

At the end of December 2019, 13 SFPAs were in force: Greenland, Morocco, Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Ivory-Coast, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Mauritius and Cook Islands. Negotiations for a new SFPA with Mauritania as well as negotiations for the renewal of the dormant SFPAs with Madagascar and Kiribati were ongoing, which resulted in not meeting the 2019 milestones for indicator 1 and indicator 3.

Indicator 1: Number of Sustainable Fisheries Agreements in force								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
10	13	13	14	14	15	15	15	15
	Actual results							
	13	13	14	12	9	13		

Indicator 2: Fishing possibilities for EU vessels								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Tuna vessels: 118	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
	Actual results							
	134	115	121	121	121	128		

2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Vessels for mixed SFAs: 63	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Actual results							
	112	123	165	160	160	207		

Indicator 3: Number of matrix adopted for the follow-up of the sectoral support (matrix of objectives, indicators and targets adopted with the third country, for each protocol in force)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
10	13	13	14	14	15	15	15	15
	Actual results							
	13	14	14	12	9	13		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Financial contribution to all the protocols in force providing access for EU vessels in third countries waters	11 03 01 and reserve line	16	145.2
Total		16	142.6

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Financial contribution to all the protocols in force providing access for EU vessels in third countries waters	F	13	13	14	14	15	15	15
	P	13	14	14	12	9	13	15

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SFPAs contribute to the achievement of the following goals:

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements provide the guarantee that only surplus resources will be fished by EU fishing fleet operating in third country waters. They therefore contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries resources and to food security for local population dependent on fishing resources. This is being reinforced in some SFPAs though provisions regarding compulsory landings, or in-kind donation of fish which also contribute directly or indirectly to improved nutrition in developing countries.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements are a tool to help promote long-term resource conservation, good governance and the sustainable development of our partners' fisheries sector. In addition, thanks to the sectoral support, the scientific, administrative and technical capacity of local partners for the sustainable development of their fisheries is being reinforced, in coordination with development policy tools. SFPAs therefore contribute directly to the sustainable management of fisheries worldwide.

HEADING 3:

Security and citizenship

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Lead DG: HOME

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) promotes the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration. This Fund contributes 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.

EU added value of the programme

The management of migration flows presents challenges which cannot be dealt with by the Member States acting alone. Some Member States bear a heavy burden due to their specific geographic situation and the length of the external borders of the Union that they have to manage. The principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States is therefore at the heart of the common policies on asylum and immigration. EU funding supports the implementation of those principles.

Furthermore, the adoption of measures and the pooling of resources at EU level will increase significantly the EU leverage necessary to convince third countries to engage with the EU on those migration related issues which are primarily in the interest of the EU and the Member States.

Implementation mode

For the implementation of the allocated budget, the Commission uses several implementation modes:

- Shared management, implemented by the Member States
- Direct management of grants and procurement: Support to Union actions and emergency assistance under AMIF, in cooperation with international and civil society organisations, via grants and contracts awarded through calls for proposals and procurement.
- Indirect management of entrusted entities: Support to programmes implemented through delegation agreements under AMIF annual work programmes.

II. Programme Implementation Update

In 2017, **the national programmes** were substantially modified to include additional funding linked to resettlement (EUR 455.6 million), return (EUR 140.8 million) and measures implementing the EU Action Plan on the integration of third- country nationals (EUR 140 million), in particular those carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities in the context of Member States' Migrant Integration Strategy.

In 2018, the national programmes were again revised

- To include EUR 30 million and EUR 20 million to support respectively the integration of third country nationals and the return of irregular migrants.
- To reflect the outcome of the mid-term review exercise carried out in accordance with article 15 'Mid-term review' of the Regulation ⁽¹⁾ laying down general provisions on AMIF and ISF.

In December 2018, the AMIF Regulation was amended ⁽²⁾ to allow the reuse of the non-consumed resources for the two Council Decisions dating from 2015 on relocation and the Council Decision dating 2016 on legal admission for other Union migration priorities beyond 2018.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/2000 amending article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards the

Furthermore, in 2019, the national programmes were revised to include additional resources of EUR 97.6 million for resettlements to be carried-out by the Member States in 2020. The national programmes will be revised again in 2020 to include additional funding for resettlement.

By 15 February (or 1 March upon justified request) 2020, Member States submitted their annual accounts covering the financial year 2019; together they have requested a total amount of EUR 583 million. By 31 March 2020, the Annual Implementation Reports for AMIF were submitted by Member States. Over period 2014-2019, EUR 2.25 billion was actually spent by the MS, equivalent to an absorption rate of 50.36 %.

Example of a shared-management projects on-going: Spain

Due to the increased number of asylum seekers in the country, a reallocation of AMIF funds towards the asylum area took place in 2018 (EUR 74 million), in view of developing 4 500 new places in the **reception centres**, and be able to provide the necessary health and social support to 50 000 persons. In parallel, funds are used to strengthen the capacities of the **Office for Asylum**, with a development of a fully automatized system for a quicker processing of the asylum applications, as well as the co-financing of the salary of 75 temporary asylum experts, to be replaced by trained State officials by 2020.

The **emergency assistance** instrument provides financial assistance to Member States, International Organisations and (exceptionally) EU Agencies to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation in a Member State, in particular in the area of migration, border management and security. It is the main tool of DG HOME to provide strategic operational support of EU added value at short notice in the form of grants and contribution agreements. By end-December 2019, the total amount of AMIF emergency assistance granted to Member States since 2015 reached EUR 1.266 million. In 2019, 21 grants and contribution agreements were signed for a total of EUR 208 million, of which EUR 133 million for actions implemented by two international organisation (UNHCR and OIM) for the benefit of Greece.

Emergency assistance in Greece

Since the beginning of 2019, Greece continued to see a rise in the number of migrants. In 2019, 73 626 arrivals have been recorded in Greece (60 151 by sea and 13 475 by land), compared to 47 915 arrivals recorded in 2018. This represents 54 % increase, while between 2018 and 2017 the increase was of around 38 %. The trend continues, in the first months of 2020, 8 762 people arrived in total: 7 046 by sea and 1 716 by land. The number of irregular migrants present on the Aegean islands continues to increase significantly, reaching for the first time since the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement a peak of 41 474 migrants on 11 March 2020. The islands remain overcrowded and the reception capacities, both in the islands and in mainland, are stretched to the maximum. Due to the continuously increased arrivals, the Greek authorities, with the support from the Commission, needed and still need to further step up their efforts to address the shortcomings in migration management, in particular on the reception capacity and asylum processing sides. That's why in 2019 it was necessary to further reinforce emergency funding for Greece by means of a budget authority transfer, which covered, among others, a significant part of the reception needs in the mainland and in the islands, the protection of the unaccompanied minors through the provision of accommodation, guardianship and foster care services, as well as the access to the Greek Asylum Service, an Integration project and the Assisted Voluntary Return scheme.

Emergency assistance in Cyprus

The migratory situation in the Eastern Mediterranean route also led to the granting of further emergency assistance to Cyprus. More specifically, in December 2019 the Commission awarded an emergency assistance grant of EUR 1.8 million under AMIF to strengthen the existing structures and operational capacity of the Social Welfare Services to cope with the rapidly increasing numbers of asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors.

Emergency assistance in Spain

AMIF Emergency assistance in Spain focussed in 2018 and 2019 on actions deployed by the national authorities to deal with the irregular migration, for a total EU allocation of EUR 52 million. In 2019, a new project operated by the Red Cross was awarded, aiming at providing humanitarian support to strengthen 50 000 migrants reaching the Spanish coast, by delivering first-aid to protect their lives and health, detecting potential victims of human trafficking and identifying persons likely to need international protection.

In 2019, **Union actions projects** selected under the 2015 annual work programme were closed, while those selected under the 2016 and 2017 programmes were still running. New grant agreements and delegation agreements were concluded for actions under the 2018 annual work programme and their implementation started in the end of 2019 or in early 2020. The AMIF 2019 work programme for **Union actions** was adopted on 10 May 2019 for a total envelope of EUR 88.9 million and the relevant calls will be finalised in 2020.

In July 2019 a single call for proposals covering priorities such as fostering of integration of persons in need of protection through private sponsorship schemes, involvement of newly arrived third country nationals in local communities, social and economic

recommitment of the remaining amounts committed to support the implementation of Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and (EU) 2015/1601² or the allocation of those amounts to other actions under the national programmes. Article 18(3) of the AMIF Regulation states that 'those amounts shall not be transferred to other actions under the national programme'. In order to be able to use these remaining amounts for voluntary relocation, resettlement and / or other Union migration priorities beyond 2018, an amendment of Article 18 of the AMIF Regulation was needed.

integration of migrant women, launching of awareness raising and information campaigns on the risk of irregular migration, and the training of Member States' experts in the area of asylum, was published with a deadline of 30 January 2020. This call attracted a lot of interest with 334 applications received which will be evaluated in the spring of 2020.

Apart from the open call for proposals mentioned above, this work programme also supports the Regional Development and Protection Programmes in North Africa and in the Horn of Africa, the implementation of the Mobility Partnership Facility, the support to the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism as well as procurements to support the Commission's activities.

The AMIF also continued to support the **European Migration Network (EMN)**. The 2019-2020 work programme for grants related to the EMN was adopted on 12 November 2018 for an amount of EUR 18 million and the evaluation of the applications from all Member States was concluded in early 2019.

Key achievements

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund remained in 2019 a key source of financial assistance to cope with increased migratory flows and reception of asylum seekers.

In 2019, 379 340 **asylum seekers** received assistance from the programme (2018 – 370 374).

DG HOME also supports Member States in their efforts to integrate third country nationals. In 2019, 954 496 third-country nationals have received integration assistance. This assistance covered, among others, language and civic orientation training, preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market and capacity building.

Coordinated **resettlement efforts**, providing to persons in need of international protection a safe and legal way to reach the EU, have continuously increased since 2015 and were recognized as one of the 'Top 20 achievements of the Juncker Commission' ⁽³⁾.

Resettlement operations are an important part of the AMIF, with almost EUR 1 billion allocated to them in the 2014-2020 programming period, which constitute almost ¼ of the overall financial value for the Fund. This corresponds to 101 116 persons to be resettled, of which 62 651 persons have been reported in payment claims to the Commission up to 2019 included (62 % implementation).

Taking into account the success of the implementation of the '50 000' scheme and the delays in the adoption of the Union Resettlement Framework by the co-legislators, the Commission put in place a new ad hoc resettlement scheme covering the year 2020 with a target of 20 000 persons. Responding to the Commission's call, Member States collectively pledged almost 30 000 resettlement places. This generous pledge – going beyond initial expectations – confirms the Member States' commitment to resettlement and their resolve to scale up safe and legal pathways to protection in Europe. The collective EU pledge for 2020 represents almost 50 % of global pledges. The expansion of EU resettlement is in line with the UNHCR 3-year (2019-2021) Strategy and was welcomed by all stakeholders at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019.

In order to reduce incentives for irregular migration, the Fund contributed in 2019 to the **return** of 64 518 persons (both voluntary and forced), slightly below the level of 2018 %, when 70 239 persons were returned. This corresponds to EUR 90.25 million in payments declared by the Member States in 2019 to the Commission. In particular, through the financial support given to the Member States for the Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration Programmes, 30 009 persons have been returned voluntarily in 2019. Among return related projects, it is important to mention the ERRIN project run by the Netherlands in cooperation with other Member States, which contributed to assistance with voluntary return of 11.000 persons to 17 third countries, with a perspective of 20.000 persons until June 2021. The EU funding for this project will be extended until 1 July 2022 for two purposes: (1) to allow for reaching the target of 25.000 persons and (2) to prepare for the transition of the network activities to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA).

In 2019, 23 530 of the returned migrants received pre or post return reintegration assistance co – financed by the fund. The return operations organised by the Member States complement the return operations organised by the European Border and Cost Guard Agency. The agency has organized 330 return operations with charter flights in 2019 (down from 345 in 2018, but well above the target of 130 set in the 2016–2020 Strategic Plan), returning 10,900 persons (compared to 12,200) to their countries of origin. In addition, the number of people returned by scheduled flights tripled to almost 4,800 persons (to 81 countries), increasing efficiency and reducing costs. It is worth recalling that the Agency can only assist Member States to implement enforceable return decisions issued by competent national authorities.

AMIF also provided, together with the United Nations Refugee Agency, over EUR 264 million to meet accommodation needs on the Greek mainland and the islands. On an annual basis, 25 000 places are being provided under the ESTIA (Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation) scheme and more than 90 000 asylum seekers are receiving cash assistance. The Fund also provided, together with international partner organisations, nearly EUR 108 million for the protection of children in Greece, and ensure access to schools and basic education. Until end-2019, approximately 1 100 places have been made available in shelters for

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/euco-sibiu-annex-iii_en.pdf

unaccompanied children in the mainland and more than 12 000 children are estimated to have attended education at public schools. Finally, between mid-2018 and end-2019, in average 600 places for unaccompanied children were provided in hotels, and since spring 2019 five safe zones were constructed and are operating in the Greek Islands.

Examples of success stories under shared management

Germany

Terre des hommes Deutschland is running the project ‘Child-oriented reception of unaccompanied minors through qualification, knowledge and networking’ for a total EU Contribution of EUR 576,224.69. It was conceived in response to the increasing number of unaccompanied minors (UM) arriving in Germany since 2015, who were applying for asylum and the resulting high number of requests for advice, networking and training (pedagogical and legal, in particular) by all people involved in assisting UM, in particular employees of youth welfare institutions and social services, guardians, judges. The goal of the project is to improve the quality in assisting UM through specific education and training of relevant stakeholders involved with the reception and asylum procedures of UM. The project also enhances the networking among these stakeholders, thereby supporting the exchange of expertise on matters relating to child welfare and legal aid and representation for UM.

Sweden

The project ‘Stadsdelsmors’, for a total EU Contribution of EUR 513,991, is running from 2016 till 2020 and it aims to break down social isolation and increase the participation of a particular target group of third country nationals in society, namely those who are living in social exclusion (legally resident third-country nationals or those who are in the process of acquiring legal residence). The project is developed in close exchange with similar projects in other European and Schengen countries (Denmark, Norway and Germany). The aim is that the target group should have access to social and professional networks in order to extend their networks and social health and this is realised inter alia through the provision of information on social issues in easy Swedish. Until now, 1512 persons were helped in the context of this project.

Greece

Under the AMIF National Programme, Greece launched in December 2017 a call of EUR 50 million public contribution (EUR 37, 5 million EU contribution) to subsidize the operation of **Unaccompanied Minors’ Hospitality Structures** (shelters for UAMs). The call was intended to cover the period 2018-2020. All shelters will provide all the services needed to ensure safe living conditions for the unaccompanied minors (accommodation, food, clothing and basic items, daily essentials, Medicare) and specialised psychosocial, educational, legal and other services to safeguard the minors’ rights, ensure their gradual integration into society, and their growth and development. Under the current call 45 structures are already fully operational and provide some 1200 accommodation places, while another 4 applications are under evaluation for the provision of another 150 places and more NGOs have expressed their interest.

Another flagged project implemented under the Greek AMIF National Programme is the **assisted voluntary returns (AVRR) scheme** which is implemented by IOM with the amount of the EU contribution reaching EUR 24.3 million. In the last years, 21.389 third country nationals have been informed about the AVRR project and 4886 (21 %) have returned to their countries of origin. In September 2019, the Greek Authorities awarded to IOM a second grant in order to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the voluntary returns, which is the main outflow from the migration system in Greece. The new grant has an implementation period of 3 years and is also including the financing of the operation of the open AVRR centre in Galatsi (Athens district) that has been supported by DG HOME emergency grants until the end of August 2019. The amount of the EU contribution of this project is EUR 39 million for three years.

Italy

In the context of the current financial framework, Italy attached particular attention to **strengthening the monitoring system of reception facilities** through the implementation of project ‘MIRECO’ (EU contribution: EUR 2.7 million). This project aimed to monitor and improve the reception conditions of the refugees by standardizing the verification tools at national level and by improving the operational capacity of the authorities in charge. This has led to the establishment of a permanent observatory composed of relevant organizations (IOM, UNHCR, National Association of Italian Municipalities/ANCI) and the constant sharing of monitoring results in the observatory, which is useful for the creation of an integrated monitoring system for the -qualitative standards of reception services. Until October 15, 2018, monitoring visits to 706 centres were carried out to monitor reception quality standards.

Another milestone of Italy’s activities under its AMIF national programme is the **healthcare of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers**, including persons with mental issues. Project ‘FARI 2’ (estimated EU contribution EUR 1.4 million) had as main objective to reach out to and assist beneficiaries of and applicants for international protection (around 2,500), including unaccompanied minors; to launch/reinforce integrated intervention models; to enhance operators’ skills and improve the

performance of regional health services (around 1,800 healthcare operators at local health centres and reception centres); to provide medical guidance and to analyse the healthcare experiences of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection.

Examples of success stories under emergency assistance

AMIF emergency assistance funding played an important role in supporting front line Member States facing increased numbers of arrivals. Below some successful examples of this funding:

Greece

To address this situation, the Commission has awarded towards International Organisations and Greek authorities a number of emergency assistance projects in order to alleviate the situation. EUR 69 million were granted to IOM to run the project for Site Management Support for the provision of accommodation and related services in 30 camps in the mainland for approximately 27.000 places, increasing by 7 000 places the capacity of the mainland sites in comparison to 2018. The project lasted the whole of 2019. Furthermore, in December 2018 the Commission awarded over EUR 194 million to UNHCR to fund an accommodation scheme and cash assistance (ESTIA) that provides approximately 25.000 places in apartments and adequate shelters on the mainland and several islands for most vulnerable cases. The project equally covered the whole of 2019.

Moreover, in July 2019, the Commission awarded to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) the HELIOS project, which is a pilot integration project composed of three different components: education, accommodation and employability. The beneficiaries enrolled (international protection), have the obligation to attend language courses and simultaneously with the assistance of IOM and its partners find apartments for rent. For the period from 16 July until the end of 2019, 10.249 beneficiaries were reached and assisted, 5.990 were enrolled to HELIOS project and received support for independent living and 616 beneficiaries received rental subsidies upon finding independent housing. The aim is that in the next phase the beneficiaries will be able to integrate into the labour market. The amount of the project reaches EUR 47 168 302 92.2 million and the end of the project is scheduled for the end of November 2020. In addition, from March 2020, the MERIMNA project for the Safeguarding of children in the borders, for the creation and operation for safe zones in the Reception and Identification Centres in the islands and in Fylakio, is run by IOM. More than 500 children have resided in these structures in 2019.

Italy

Italy received AMIF emergency assistance to improve the performance of its asylum procedures through the provision of asylum experts, interim administrative staff, IT equipment, inter-cultural mediation and other services to assist with the registration and processing of asylum applications. Under two on-going EMAS projects, for a total amount of EU contribution of EUR 20.3 million, the Ministry of Interior receives support to implement the procedure for the recognition of international protection: 81 inter-cultural mediators and 20 legal officers are deployed at the Immigration Offices at the local Questura and Air Borders offices to assist Police Officers in the immediate registration of asylum requests. The administrative activity at Police Offices, offices of the Territorial Commissions and of the National Commission has been simplified to reduce, for example, the average time dedicated to the analysis of requests and for first instance decisions.

EU emergency assistance also supported Italy in the area of return. In particular, the Italian Ministry of Interior has recently completed an emergency action for the assisted voluntary return and re-integration of 1 080 ⁽⁴⁾ migrants with the International Organisation for Migration as implementing partner (EU contribution: EUR 6 million).

Moreover, in July 2019 the Ministry of Interior received from the Commission EUR 0.7 million AMIF emergency assistance to carry out the humanitarian evacuation of approximately 450 vulnerable asylum seekers from Libya and Niger to Italy. The evacuation operations, implemented jointly with UNHCR and the Italian Institute for Migration and Poverty have been completed successfully, with the last evacuation from Niger in November 2019.

Malta

In addition, throughout 2019, a number of MS, continued voluntary relocation supported by the AMIF emergency funding. For instance, in July 2019, the Commission awarded emergency support to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under AMIF for the voluntary relocation of up to 500 persons from Malta to EU Member and Associated States of Relocation for an EU contribution of EUR 0.5 million. By the end of 2019, a total of 325 persons had been assisted in their relocation and 175 persons were remaining to be transferred. On 24 January 2020, the Commission decided to extend the ongoing project and awarded to IOM an additional amount of EUR 0.5 million to relocate up to 500 more persons until 31 July 2020 following the continued disembarkations in this Member State.

Union actions

Examples of AMIF funded Union actions can be found in the Snapshot s published by the Commission at the following link

⁽⁴⁾ It is to be noted that these numbers are not included in the number of persons reported in the indicator section, as the indicator under the specific objective only aggregate data reported under the shared management national programmes

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/20190909_snapshot-2019-eu-asylum-migration-integration-internal-security-fund_en

In 2019, cooperation with local and regional authorities has been strengthened in the area of integration. In particular, DG HOME has reinforced its cooperation with the Committee of Regions on integration, supporting the initiative **Cities and Regions for integration**. Under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, DG HOME financed in 2019, for a total of EUR 14.5 million, the creation of **eight transnational networks** of cities and regions for cooperation on integration which will start in 2020 and run during three years. On 3 December, DG HOME organised a large conference on integration at local level with more than 400 representatives from local and regional authorities across Europe. DG HOME also continued its support to Member States through the **European Integration Network**.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest Interim evaluation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2017 (SWD (2018) 340 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0339&from=EN>) have been presented in the Programme Statements DB2020.

By 31 December 2023, the Member States will provide an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under their national programmes and by 30 June 2024 the Commission will present an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of the legal bases.

At the same time, DG HOME is implementing the **Action Plan** following the internal audit findings on the monitoring and reporting on the implementation and performance of National Programmes. In particular, DG HOME has strengthened its processes for monitoring the National Programmes and increased its efforts to improve the reliability of performance data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports submitted annually. More attention will be given to the consistency of data reported by the Member States. DG HOME will provide guidance to the Member States with a view to ensure common understanding of the indicators established in the Fund and to establish better links with information provided in the accounts.

Moreover, the European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the strengthening of the management of the AMIF emergency assistance and national programmes. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA's recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF.

Forthcoming implementation

It is expected that, following the information received in the 2019 AMIF Annual Accounts and Annual Implementation Reports, the implementation of the Funds will gain further momentum. DG HOME intends to steer the Member States even more to enhance the implementation of the programme, among others through the participation to national monitoring committee meetings, bilateral discussions, monitoring visits, messages at political level, etc.

A revision of the national programmes is envisaged in 2020 in order to include the additional funding for resettlements to be carried-out by MS in 2020.

Grant agreements under the AMIF 2019 annual work programme for Union actions will be concluded in 2020 and the implementation of the actions will start. In continuation of previous years, it will cover the area of integration of third-country nationals for which seven priorities have been established in the annual work programme. It will also concern the asylum and migration policy, including the external dimension of this component to enhance third countries' capacity to provide that asylum-seekers and refugees receive effective protection, assistance and durable solutions (repatriation, local integration and/or resettlement) (Regional Development and Protection Programmes).

The European Migration Network (EMN) is supported under the EMN 2019-2020 work programme.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission's proposals aim to provide a response to increased migratory, mobility and security challenges, with more flexible funding instruments (AMF, BMVI and ISF) to address unforeseen migratory events and border protection at the core of the new budget, including a fairer distribution key

In the current AMIF, the allocation key for the national programmes was fixed at the beginning of the programming period, based on statistical data underlying the SOLID annual programmes from 2011 to 2013. Because the migration situation in the EU changed drastically in the years following the adoption of the current MFF, the allocations to the national programmes did not adequately correspond to the respective needs of Member States. In addition, there was no possibility to update the allocation key during the programming period based on the real needs and pressures.

Learning from this, Annex I of the AMF proposal 2021-2027 includes criteria for allocation of the funding to the Member States based on statistical data that give evidence and better reflect the real-time needs of the Member States. The criteria is based on statistical data taking into account various 'stocks' and 'flows' that reflect the needs and pressures experienced by different Member States in three key areas covered by the Fund: asylum, legal migration and integration and countering irregular migration

including returns. This aims to reflect more accurately the specific circumstances of Member States at different stages of receiving third country nationals. In addition, COM proposed to use the latest three reference years closest to the start of the programming period to provide a more updated picture of the actual needs for each Member State.

The proposal also introduces the possibility to update the allocation key at mid-term review when additional 10 % of funding is allocated or at any moment when additional funding would be allocated to Member States based on the allocation key to reflect more accurately any changes in the needs and pressures in Member States and support those Member States that might in the future be faced with a disproportionate workload.

In the 2021-2027 period the AMIF will be succeeded by the Asylum and Migration Fund, which aims to support comprehensive migration management, grounded on the principles of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility. The AMF will channel 60 % of the total financial envelope of the Fund to the Member States' programmes whereas the remaining 40 % will be managed through a thematic facility, which will periodically provide funding for a number of priorities through top ups to Member States' programmes (specific actions), Union actions and emergency assistance allowing for a more flexible use of the Fund.

Among the specific priorities for 2021, one could mention:

- supporting persons in need of international protection while ensuring solidarity and responsibility-sharing among the Member States – in particular via resettlement and relocation schemes as well as emergency funding;
- supporting integration measures at national, local and regional level;
- supporting mobility schemes in the area of legal migration;
- returns and fight against irregular migration;
- strengthening partnership and cooperation with third countries for the purpose of managing migration;
- providing support to the European Migration Network.

The programming exercise has started and the Member States have been invited to submit their draft programmes by 30 April 2020. Adoption of programmes and forthcoming implementation of 2021 appropriations will depend on the outcome of the MFF negotiations.

References:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund (COM(2018) 471 final).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC	2014 – 2020	3 137,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,5	2,5	2,1	2,5	16,3
Operational appropriations	228,4(*)	620,9	1 796,6	1 612,0	745,4	1 188,9	946,2	7 138,3
Total	230,5	623,0	1 799,0	1 614,5	747,9	1 191,0	948,7	7 154,6

(*)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	1 183,791	100,00 %	875,348	99,83 %	1 233,275	35,96 %	952,409	21,67 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	1 193,883	99,88 %	798,508	110,41 %	1 242,138	36,37 %	963,492	22,39 %

(*) 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

Taking into account the volatile and challenging migration situation throughout the 2014-2019 period, it is important to stress that the AMIF is achieving its objectives. AMIF provides the financial means to push forward the EU's agenda on migration. DG HOME works to establish a comprehensive approach on this agenda, developing legislative proposals to establish and improve common EU action, monitoring and enforcing the correct implementation of applicable rules by the Member States.

Overall AMIF has generated important EU added value, despite the relatively small size of the funds in comparison with the important challenges imposed by the crisis that occurred during this period. The main benefit at EU level arises from the transnational dimension of certain actions but also the benefit of burden-sharing at EU level, supported in particular by the Emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism.

Sustainability has been thoroughly considered by AMIF through checks mechanisms set in place at programming and implementation stages across most instruments, although to a lesser extent by the Emergency assistance due to the nature of the actions. Overall, most of the innovative measures (e.g. simplified cost-options, multiannual programming) are considered particularly beneficial by beneficiaries and appear to have achieved simplification. Room for improvement appears to exist, especially in what concerns the internal coherence of the fund (among AMIF management modes) because there is little awareness among beneficiaries about the actions and projects realised within the AMIF framework. Similarly, the administrative burden appeared to be the main factor that undermined the efficiency, including some control measures that appeared too stringent for the Member states even if AMIF has led to simplification relative to the past. Finally, the monitoring and evaluation system under AMIF in line with the Better Regulation guidelines needs further improvement, including in terms of definitions of its indicators and the collection of data.

In terms of performance, for many of the indicators set in the AMIF, either the milestones have been exceeded or even the targets have been achieved. The implementation of AMIF will run until end-2022, and thus 3 years of implementation remain. Up to 2019, AMIF has attained an absorption rate of 50.3 %, which can be considered overall satisfactory. In 2019, the Member States have submitted EUR 583 million of payments to the Commission, similar to the level of the 2018 expenditure (EUR 605 million).

Strengthening the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

According to Eurostat data, 721 000 asylum applications (of which 657 000 first time applicants) were lodged in the EU in 2019. This represents an 11 % increase compared to 2018 (but 45 % less than the peak in 2015), indicating that the pressure on national migration systems remained at high level.

DG HOME continued to make efforts facilitate discussions on the legislative package to reform CEAS, but co-legislators could not reach an agreement. Consequently, in the absence of an agreement, AMIF continued to provide the necessary emergency assistance to the Member States faced with migration pressure to improve their asylum systems and to reception capacities. Emergency assistance is the main tool of DG HOME to provide strategic operational support of EU added value at short notice in the form of grants and contribution agreements. The interim evaluation of the Fund also confirmed the emergency assistance as being one of the main benefits as EU level. By the end of January 2020, the total amount of AMIF emergency assistance since 2015 reached EUR 1.26 billion.

In this context, special attention was paid to the most vulnerable, particularly the unaccompanied minors due to the high number of unaccompanied children present in the Member States. For example, in 2019, DG HOME supported Greece to develop a strategy for unaccompanied children to ensure their safety. Moreover, EUR 50 million contributed to the protection of the unaccompanied minors through the provision of accommodation, guardianship and foster care services

As regards the AMIF national programmes, already in 2019, the Fund reached its 2020 targets in the field of **asylum**: 2.7 million target group persons have received assistance since 2014 as compared to the target of 1.28 million. The number of persons trained in asylum-related topics largely exceeds the target, with more than 52 709 persons trained since 2014 as compared to a target of 25 205 persons. Targets are also exceeded for the number country-of-origin information products and this is due to the activities of one Member State, which has produced far more products than initially planned.

When it comes to creation of new asylum reception capacity, fewer number of places have been created in 2018 (3 027) and 2019 (3 578), as compared to 2017 (14 770). Due to the reduced number of asylum seekers, a number of Member States seem not need to create new capacity with support from the Fund. Cumulatively, 30 026 places have been created with support provided under the national programmes, significantly below the overall target of 50 778 places.

Coordinated resettlement efforts, providing to persons in need of international protection a safe and legal way to reach the EU, have continuously increased since 2015 and were recognized as one of the 'Top 20 achievements of the Juncker Commission'. Taking into account the success of the implementation of the '50 000' scheme and the delays in the adoption of the Union Resettlement Framework by the co-legislators, the Commission put in place a new ad hoc resettlement scheme covering the year 2020 with a target of 20 000 persons. Responding to the Commission's call, Member States collectively pledged almost 30 000 resettlement places. This generous pledge – going beyond initial expectations – confirms the Member States' commitment to resettlement and their resolve to scale up safe and legal pathways to protection in Europe. The collective EU pledge for 2020 represents almost 50 % of global pledges. The expansion of EU resettlement is in line with the UNHCR 3-year (2019-2021) Strategy and was welcomed by all stakeholders at the Global Refugee Forum last in December 2019.

Resettlement operations are an important part of the AMIF, with almost EUR 1 billion allocated to them under the national programmes in the 2014-2020 programming period, which constitute almost ¼ of the overall financial value for the Fund. This corresponds to 101 116 persons to be resettled, of which 62 651 persons have been reported in payment claims to the Commission up to 2019 included (62 % implementation).

Effective integration and legal migration

The gap between the employment rates of third-country nationals compared to EU nationals is used as an indicator to measure progress in integrating third country nationals in EU societies. The gap between the employment rates of third-country nationals compared to EU nationals has effectively increased from 13.4 percentage points in 2014 to 14.6 in 2018. It did however narrow in the last two years, down from 15.5 percentage points in 2017 to 14.6 in 2018.

DG HOME supports the MS in their efforts to integrate third-country nationals, through funding and by working with a broad range of stakeholders to promote integration. The aim is to make migration an opportunity for both third-country nationals and host societies,

DG HOME continued to work closely with North African Countries on migration and security. By supporting the EU-Africa Trust Fund with EUR 30 million under the Union actions, DG HOME contributed in 2019 to shaping the strategic approach to countries in North of Africa. Financial support to specific areas in Morocco contributed to reducing the number of irregular migrants on the Western Mediterranean route. To build up or strengthen asylum and reception systems and to address protection needs in African countries, DG HOME contracted in 2019 EUR 19.5 million through the Regional Development and Protection Programme, rolling out new actions in Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Under the AMIF national programmes, almost 6 million target group persons have received integration assistance already surpassing the target of 2.6 million. Moreover, number of local, regional and national policy frameworks already exceed the target: 8 957 were already put in place as opposed to the target of 7 443.

However, when it comes to the number of persons who participated in pre-departure measures, the results are far below target set (71 097 persons versus 240 920 target). The data up to 2019 shows very uneven results in Member States. There are MS exceeding significantly their targets, others remain at zero or are at a very early stages of fulfilling their targets. The reasons can vary from MS to MS: the target have by been largely overstated, lack of pre-departure programs, lack of target groups, efficiency of national administrations, etc.

Furthermore, of the 62 cooperation projects foreseen by MS, up to 2019, only 44 have been reported. Nevertheless, it should be noted, that, through Union Actions, DG HOME has promoted cooperation projects between local and regional authorities through targeted calls for proposals.

In the period 2014–2020, EUR 1.027 billion have been allocated under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to support measures on integration and legal migration. In 2019, Member States reported expenditure for EUR 101 million, reaching a cumulative of EUR 377 million (36.7 % absorption rate).

Effective return policies

For the asylum system to be credible, migrants with no right to stay in the EU need to be **returned**. However, return is seen as an area where further improvement should be made. Prospects of improvement depend both on better cooperation by third countries and on Member States' effectiveness in implementing returns.

Unsatisfactorily low return rates persist due to inefficient enforcement of existing instruments at EU and national level, and a common readmission policy that does not fully deliver. In 2018, the total return rate of irregular migrants was 41.49 % (42.36 % in 2017). The rate of effective return to third countries also slightly decreased to 35.63 % (37.55 % in 2017)⁵. This decrease is partially explained by the lower performance regarding returns to the Western Balkans, where, in the previous years, the rate approached or exceeded 100 % and pushed the average EU rate up. If data regarding the Western Balkans countries is removed from the overall EU return data, the rate of effective return to (other) third countries in fact increased from 29.34 % in 2017 to 31.64 % in 2018.

In 2019, the rate of return to third countries decreased to 31.5% (compared to 35.63% in 2018)⁶. This decrease is partially explained by the combination of a significant increase in return decisions issued (around 34 000 more than in 2018, in particular in some Member States; i.e. Greece, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland and the Netherlands), that has not been matched by a similar trend in numbers of effected returns to third countries (around 9 000 less than in 2018). This trend prevailed for a number of important countries of return. Even the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries, which traditionally pushed the average EU rate up with rates close to 100%, witnessed in 2019 (like in 2018) a decrease and influenced significantly the overall rate due to the high proportion of return decisions issued to their nationals out of total number of decisions.

Additional efforts are required to address key challenges to the effectiveness of returns through measures both in Member States and with third countries. Actions taken include the following:

⁵ The effective return rate excludes the bilateral transfers between Member States.

⁶ The return rate for EU-27 (without the UK) was 29% in 2019 compared to 32% in 2018.

- DG HOME put forward a proposal for a recast of the Return Directive and will continue to push for its adoption;
- Enhanced role of EBCGA (in 2019, 10 900 were returned with charter flights + 4776 with scheduled flights);
- DG HOME will continue to negotiate and implement readmission agreements and informal arrangements with non-EU countries; Member States should make full use of the arrangements already in place.
- Enhance the Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes.

Under the EU-Turkey Statement, returns of Syrians to Turkey have continued, but at a very slow pace. In 2019, 30 Syrians were returned from the Greek islands to Turkey. In total, 1,995 persons were returned to Turkey between March 2016 and the end of 2019 under the EU-Turkey Statement.

In total, EUR 998.6 million have been allocated to priorities in return (voluntary and forced) under the national programmes in 2014–2020 and EUR 457 million have been spent so far, reaching an absorption rate of 45,8 %. In 2019, Member States declared payments of EUR 90.25 million to the Commission.

The AMIF supported Member States in the return of 64 518 persons in 2019, slightly below the level of 2018 when 70 239 persons were returned with the support of the Fund. The 2019 data shows a significant increase in forced returns (34 509 persons in 2019 versus 29 610 in 2018) whereas voluntary returns saw a decrease in 2019 (30 009 in 2019 versus 40 629 in 2018).

Enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States

As the 2016 Commission proposal for the Dublin regulation revision aiming, inter alia, at ensuring fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States by complementing the system with a corrective allocation mechanism, has not been adopted by the co-legislators, there was a need for emergency measures to support the Member States facing unproportioned numbers of arrivals. Therefore, in addition to their national allocations, several Member States, notably Greece, Italy and Spain⁽⁷⁾, benefit from the AMIF emergency assistance, allowing them to save more lives at sea, receive the arriving migrants in conditions, attaining better humanitarian standards, ensure basic healthcare as well as protection to vulnerable groups. The emergency assistance amounts granted up to end-December 2019 to Greece are EUR 841 million and to Italy EUR 178 million.

The funding to support the emergency relocation scheme has been allocated in the 2016 Budget for a total number of persons of 160 000 persons. Due to the expiry of the scheme, the Commission proposed the amendment of Article 18 of the AMIF Regulation to open up the possibility for Member States to use the remaining unused funds for the relocation (EUR 505 million) for other actions. This was agreed by the co-legislators (Regulation (EU) 2018/2000). Accordingly, through revision of national programmes in 2019, this funding has been reallocated to voluntary relocation (EUR 26 million) and resettlement (EUR 116 million), among other key priorities in the migration area and the remaining amount to other policy areas such as asylum, integration or return. Currently, 36 268 persons to be relocated are foreseen in the national programmes, including for voluntary relocation. Up to 2019, in the annual accounts, Member States have reported 32 069 persons relocated under the relevant 2015 Council Decisions out of a total 36 268 persons (88 % implementation).

It is to be noted that the role of the emergency assistance tool within the future Fund AMIF will remain important for next period 2021-2027 in order to address unforeseen events linked to the volatile migration situation.

The European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the **strengthening of the management of the AMIF emergency assistance and national programmes**. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc. In that respect, it should be noted that the indicators below are only encompassing national programmes projects (see comments below the tables)

While the Commission started implementing the ECA's recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF. This includes also improved performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data in line with the Common Provision Regulation.

In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission services will develop definitions for each indicator set out in AMF Regulation. This will ensure a common understanding of each indicator across all Member States and programmes. Moreover will this not only greatly contribute to improving data quality, it will also enhance data comparability. Member States will be required to develop this performance framework for each of its HOME funds programmes and underpin it by methodological considerations.

The managing authority, in its yearly management declaration and as part of the annual assurance package, will have to confirm the reliability of submitted data relating to indicators and the progress of the programme. The annual performance review will be an occasion for a policy dialogue with the Member States on issues of programme implementation and performance. In particular, the annual performance reports will provide qualitative information on programme implementation going beyond the quantitative data submitted for the indicators. It will complement the bi-monthly transmission of structured data and strengthen the performance review process. In the context of the performance framework, Commission services will hold at least two meetings with Member States during the programming period.

All data required for monitoring progress in programmes implementation including outputs and results will be transmitted electronically. Every two months Member States will transmit structured data on the common indicators to the Commission. Thus,

⁽⁷⁾ Member States receiving emergency assistance under AMIF: AT, BE, BG, HR, CY, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LU, NL, SI, ES, SE.

the Commission services will have a much more updated picture of programme performance than in the current period. In addition, the HOME programmes will now also use the open data platform which had been established in the current programming period for the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will allow stakeholders to access almost real time data on programme implementation. This is an important novelty for the HOME funds, which in the current period do not publish data on the open data platform.

In addition, Member States are required to set up a system of electronic data exchange between beneficiaries and managing authorities, and between different authorities of the management and control system. This requirement builds on the current CPR regulation, which did not cover the HOME funds, and further develops certain aspects of data collection. It is thus a novelty for the HOME funds. Beneficiary and project information, as well as the performance reports will be published on a dedicated website run by the managing authority. This will give greater visibility to achievements and allow better communication.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy, while fully respecting the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Indicator 1: Effectiveness of return policy as reflected by the ratio between the number of irregular migrants returned to their country of origin compared to return decisions issued

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
39.2 %				Increased ratio			Increased ratio	Increased ratio
	Actual results							
	41.75 %	42.70 %	50.60 %	42.36 %	41.49 %	37.82 %		

Methodology: Baseline calculation: 166 975 effected returns/425 875 issued with a return decision. The indicator measures the number of third country nationals who have left the territory of a Member State following an administrative or judicial decision or act stating that their stay is illegal and imposing an obligation to leave the territory compared to the total of return decisions issued. Data include persons who are transferred from one Member State to another under the mechanism established by the Dublin Regulation ([Council Regulation \(EC\) No 604/2013](#) and [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1560/2003](#) amended by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 118/2014](#). Excluding these transfers, the rate of effective return was at 31.5 % in 2019 (35.63 % in 2018)

Comment: Extract from Eurostat on 05/06/2020. Data are revised on a continuous basis according to the most recently updated data provided by the countries. For accuracy purposes, the indicator should be called: ‘Effectiveness of return policy as reflected by the ratio between the total number of irregular migrants returned compared to return decisions issued’.

Source: Eurostat

Indicator 2: Ratio voluntary/forced return

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
45.5 %				Increased			Increased ratio	Increased ratio
	Actual results							
	58.4 %	80.3 %	117.3 %	125.8 %	109.2 %			

Comment: Eurostat on 28/01/2019. Data are revised on a continuous basis according to the most recently updated data provided by the countries.

Indicator 3: Difference in employment rates of third-country national (TCN) compared to that of EU nationals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Points of difference: 11.9				12				
	Actual results							
	13	14	14	16	15			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Employment rate of Third-country nationals:								
	Actual results							
	56.30 %	56.70 %	53.60 %	57.40 %	59.30 %			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

Employment rate of Host-country nationals:								
	Actual results							
	69.70 %	70.70 %	67.20 %	72.90 %	73.90 %			

Comment: 10 points. Given the migratory context/refugee crisis, this figure will not decrease drastically over the short term. Integration efforts by MS supported by the EU could produce an effect as from 2017/2018 unless the overall EU economic situation deteriorates.

Source: Eurostat. Baseline 2013: Employment rate of non-EU citizens has decreased from 54.9 % in 2011 to 52.6 % in 2013, whilst the employment rate for EU nationals remains stable at 64.5 %.

Unit of measure: Percentage points and percentages respectively.

Indicator 4: Convergence of recognition rates for international protection by Member States for asylum applicants from the same third country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
				Lower (increased convergence)			Lower (increased convergence)	Lower (increased convergence)
	Actual results							
	25.2	27.3	28.2	29.0	24.4			

Methodology: The standard deviation in the recognition rates in the Member States for asylum seekers from Afghanistan is 20.1 (the higher the standard deviation, the higher the difference between MS's recognition rate in comparison to the average recognition rate).

Comment: Standard deviation of the recognition rates for Afghanistan for Q1Q3 2018. For Member States with at least 100 decisions regarding asylum seekers from Afghanistan.

Source: Calculations based on Eurostat data

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to strengthen and develop all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension

Indicator 1: Number of target group persons provided with assistance through projects in the field of reception and asylum systems supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			643 350			1 286 700	1 286 700
	Actual results							
	155 246	386 669	874 732	1 323 954	1 694 688	2 074 028		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020, reflecting the current situation on migration flow which is decreasing.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the common requirements for reception conditions set out in the Union acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in accordance with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under the Fund and percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			25 389			50 778	50 778
	Actual results							
	1 533	3 065	8 651	23 421	26 448	30 026		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020, reflecting the current situation on migration flow which is decreasing. It appears that the Member States are reducing the capacity of new reception accommodation infrastructure, likely linked to the reduced number of asylum seekers in some countries.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund, and that number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund: 0	0			12 603			25 205	25 205
	Actual results							
	0	1 826	7 798	21 752	37 625	52 709		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund of the total number of staff trained in those topics: 0 %	0 %			28 %			56 %	56 %
	Actual results							
	0 %	10 %	18 %	28 %	31 %	1		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020. The indicator shows a continuous increase of number of persons trained in asylum-related topics.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Number of country-of-origin information products and fact-finding missions conducted with the assistance of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			36 123			72 246	72 246
	Actual results							
	0	11 799	22 659	34 711	49 867	66 214		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020. The indicators shows a continuous increase.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 5: Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies in Member States

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			72			143	143
	Actual results							
	2	41	57	68	70	83		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 6: Number of persons resettled with support of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	7 362			30 139			101 116	101 116
	Actual results							
	0	3 766	16 189	24 844	38 887	62 651		

Comment: Provided in the annual accounts sent by Member States on 15 February each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States in the 2019 accounts as of 15/02/2020 (number of persons resettled).

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects aiming at improving reception and asylum systems.	18 03 01 01	482	152,4
Projects aiming at improving Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies.	18 03 01 01	23	9,6
Persons pledged for resettlement with the lump sum.	18 03 01 01	0	0

Projects under Union actions aiming at strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System.	18 03 01 01	15	32,8
Persons benefitting from the voluntary humanitarian admission scheme – Turkey.	18 03 01 01	0	0
Total (projects)		520	194,8

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects aiming at improving reception and asylum systems.	F	81	240	450	351	506	955	482
	P	0	109	191	337	605		
Projects aiming at improving Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies.	F	20	20	20	16	23	23	23
	P	0	6	9	18	34		
Persons pledged for resettlement with the lump sum.	F	7 362	9 312	7 700	5 765	1 462	633	0
	P	60	3 215	12 423 (*)	24 844 (**)	14 043 (***)		
Projects under Union actions aiming at strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System.	F	10	10	12	9	11	13	15
	P	0	6	5	3	3		
Persons benefitting from the voluntary humanitarian admission scheme – Turkey.	F	n/a	n/a	n/a	13 000	17 000	0	0
	P	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		

(*) Source: Annual Implementation Reports 2016 from the Member States.

(**) Source: AMIF Annual Accounts 2017.

(***) Source: AMIF Annual Accounts 2018.

Specific Objective 2: to support legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, such as labour market needs, while safeguarding the integrity of the immigration systems of Member States, and to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals

Indicator 1: Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			120 460			240 920	240 920
	Actual results							
	0	9 259	20 573	33 039	52 776	71 097		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March 2017 – Germany data only.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Number of target group persons assisted by the Fund through integration measures in the framework of national, local and regional strategies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			1 312 031			2 624 062	2 624 062
	Actual results							
	51 105	118 834	1 559 560	2 913 692	4 948 785	5 903 281		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third-country nationals and involving civil society and migrant communities, as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			3 722			7 443	7 443
	Actual results							
	8	402	2 314	4 817	7 522	8 957		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on the integration of third-country nationals supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
0	0			31			62	62
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	17	19	44		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 5: Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies in Member States

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
0	0			67			134	134
	Actual results							
	1	4	29	46	66	81		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects aiming at facilitating legal migration and increasing the number and quality of pre-departure measures.	18 03 01 02	6	9,6
Projects related to integration measures, both at local and regional level.	18 03 01 02	423	92,2
Projects aiming at increasing the capacity of Member States to support legal migration to the Union and to promote the effective integration third-country nationals.	18 03 01 02	54	14
Projects under Union actions within Asylum and Migration Fund aiming at supporting legal migration to the Union and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals.	18 03 01 02	48	84,2
Total		531	200,0

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects aiming at facilitating legal migration and increasing the number and quality of pre-departure measures.	F	7	7	8	17	6	5	6
	P	0	1	5	8	12		
Projects related to integration measures, both at local and regional level.	F	81	240	450	929	741	379	423
	P	0	97	495	733	1334		
Projects aiming at increasing the capacity of Member States to support legal migration to the Union and to promote the effective integration third-country nationals.	F	27	45	80	165	62	48	54
	P	0	21	44	110	237		
Projects under Union actions aiming at supporting legal migration to the Union and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals.	F	10	10	10	30	18	10	48
	P	0	0	17	25	39		

Specific Objective 3: to enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States which contribute to combating illegal immigration, with an emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin and transit

Indicator 1: Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
0	0			14 020			28 040	28 040

	Actual results						
	40	1 033	5 215	9 254	18 561	24 660	

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			101 810			203 620	203 620
	Actual results							
	7 614	27 896	51 634	67 942	91 719	115 249		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total: 0	0			307 050			614 100	614 100
	Actual results							
	5 929	48 506	87 936	141 383	211 622	276 140		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Voluntary returns: 0	0			158 085			316 170	316 170
	Actual results							
	4 522	37 560	67 576	88 504	129 133	159 142		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Forced returns: 0	0			148 965			297 930	297 930
	Actual results							
	1 407	10 946	20 360	52 879	82 489	116 998		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			3 428			6 856	6 856
	Actual results							
	29	4 695	10 793	17 565	21 124	30 096		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 5: Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate return policies in Member States								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			22			44	44
	Actual results							
	2	6	10	19	19	29		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of measures accompanying return procedures.	18 03 01 02	47	45,5
Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of return measures.	18 03 01 02	80	102,1
Projects aiming at increasing the practical cooperation between Member States and the capacity of Member States to develop effective and sustainable return policies.	18 03 01 02	22	4,7
Projects under Union actions aiming at enhancing fair and effective return strategies in the Member States.	18 03 01 02	1	4
Total		150	156,3

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of measures accompanying return procedures.	F	40	45	50	114	53	42	47
	P	0	41	51	80	121		
Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of return measures.	F	54	70	85	194	90	72	80
	P	0	48	98	85	147		
Projects aiming at increasing the practical cooperation between Member States and the capacity of Member States to develop effective and sustainable return policies.	F	14	18	22	50	23	22	22
	P	0	18	5	7	12		
Projects under Union actions aiming at enhancing fair and effective return strategies in the Member States.	F	10	10	10	4	25	8	1
	P	2	1	6	29	6		

Specific Objective 4: to enhance solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States, in particular with those most affected by migration and asylum flows, including through practical cooperation

Indicator 1: Number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another with support of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0				160 000			36 268	36 268
	Actual results							
	0	34	5 175	24 523	31 375	32 069		

Comment: Provided in the annual accounts sent by Member States on 15 February each year.

Methodology: this indicator monitors relocation operations under the two Council decisions of September 2015 as well as under ad hoc voluntary operations. It should be noted that the number of persons relocated under the two 2015 Council decisions is 34 712 persons, reported by Greece and Italy. It includes relocations to Schengen associated countries. Without the SACs, the number of persons relocated under the two Council decisions in the Member States is 31 693.

Unit of measure: Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			3			7	7
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0	1		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020. In the annual implementation reports, the objective of solidarity is expressed via transfer, relocation and resettlement of people, not via projects.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects addressing relocation.	18 03 01 01	0	0
Persons pledged for relocation with the lump sum.	18 03 01 01	0	0
Persons transferred in the framework of the Dublin reform and/or emergency actions addressing migratory pressure	18 03 01 01	14	395
Total (projects)		14	395

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects addressing relocation.	F	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
	P	0	0	1	1	2		
Persons pledged for relocation with the lump sum.	F	0	0	160 000	0	0	0	0
	P	0	4	6 467 (*)	53 320 (**)	49 941 (***)		
Persons transferred in the framework of the Dublin reform and/or emergency actions addressing migratory pressure	F	7	7	30	20	8	2	4
	P	0	17	20	11	18		

(*) Source: Annual implementation report 2016 covering the accounting period (16/10/2015 – 15/10/2016).

(**) Source: AMIF Annual Accounts 2017.

(***) Source: AMIF Annual Account 2018.

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
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Gender mainstreaming

The AMIF Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 516/2014) stipulates that eligible actions need to take account of the human rights-based approach to the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and should, in particular, ensure that special attention is paid to, and a dedicated response is provided for, the specific situation of vulnerable persons, in particular women, unaccompanied minors and other minors at risk. Support for third country national victims of trafficking is ensured on this ground.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

AMIF supports the most vulnerable groups by providing material aid, providing assistance in housing, means of subsistence, health, psychological and social care including through adapting reception centres and services to the most vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

AMIF makes a meaningful contribution to safe migration by supporting information campaigns on legal migration channels to the EU, legal migration through resettlement and family reunification and by promoting mobility schemes to EU such as circular or temporary migration schemes. AMIF also contributes to social inclusion of third country nationals by supporting their integration, active participation in the society and their acceptance in the receiving society through for instance, actions focusing on civic orientation and training, including language trainings to newcomers, or promoting meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between third country nationals and the receiving society.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

As of 2016, AMIF contributes to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. The initial contribution of EUR 5 million to the Trust Fund foreseen under the AMIF 2017 annual work programme for Union actions was reinforced up to a total of EUR 77 million in order to address funding gaps identified especially for the North Africa window of the EUTF, and where needs on the root causes of migration are more pressing. Furthermore, in 2018, DG HOME contribution to the Trust Fund was increased from an initial EUR 5 million to EUR 23 million. In 2019, an additional 30 million euros was included in the AMIF work programme. In 2020 EUR 50 million are foreseen to be paid.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Internal Security Fund

Lead DG: HOME

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) promotes the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. The ISF is composed of two instruments, ISF Borders and Visa and ISF Police. ISF Borders and Visa's main objective is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, while safeguarding the free movement within it and facilitating legitimate travel. This includes effective processing of Schengen visas by supporting a common visa policy and achieving a uniform and high level of control of the external borders, with the twofold aim of ensuring the smooth crossing of the external borders by legitimate travellers and detecting illegal movements, thus contributing to effectively managing irregular migration. The ISF Police component focuses on the fight against crime and risk and crisis management, in particular by supporting actions to prevent and fight terrorism and radicalisation (both on online and on the ground), as well as increasing resilience and protection of public spaces. It also contributes to prevention of and fight against serious and organised crime, including drugs, human beings and firearms trafficking, and cybercrime. Moreover, the fund ensures support to Member States to enhance information exchange and work toward an interoperable IT architecture for security and borders and to strengthen cross border police cooperation and training.

EU added value of the programme

The management of migration flows and security threats represents a challenge which cannot be dealt with by the Member States acting alone. In fact, some Member States bear a heavy burden due to their specific geographic situation and the length of the external borders of the Union that they have to manage. The abolition of internal border controls makes it even more necessary to ensure that the external borders are effectively protected and must be accompanied by common measures for the effective control of the Union's external borders, including the support for the relevant IT systems: SIS II (Schengen information system), VIS (Visa information system), Eurodac (Identification of applicants) and Eurosur (European Border Surveillance system). The principles of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities not only among the Member States but also between the Member States and the EU are therefore at the heart of the common policies on asylum, immigration and external border management. EU funding supports the implementation of those principles.

In the area of security, serious and organised crime, including trafficking in human beings, terrorism and other security-related threats are increasingly cross-border in nature. Transnational cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities is essential to successfully prevent and fight these crimes, for example through the exchange of information, joint investigations, interoperable technologies and common threat and risk assessments.

Dealing with migration flows, the management of the EU's external borders and the security of the EU requires substantial resources and capabilities from the Member States. Improved operational cooperation and coordination involving the pooling of resources in areas like training and equipment create economies of scale and synergies, thereby ensuring a more efficient use of public funds and reinforcing solidarity, mutual trust and responsibility sharing for common EU policies among Member States. This is particularly relevant in the area of security, where financial support for all forms of cross-border joint operation is essential to enhance cooperation between police, customs, border guards and judicial authorities, in close cooperation with the HOME affairs EU agencies: European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA), European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA), European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Implementation mode

For the implementation of the allocated budget, the Commission uses several implementation modes:

- Shared management, implemented by the Member States
- Direct management of grants and procurement: Support to Union actions and emergency assistance under ISF, in cooperation with international and civil society organisations, via grants and contracts awarded through calls for proposals and procurement.
- Indirect management of entrusted entities: Support to programmes implemented through delegation agreements under ISF annual work programmes.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

Shared management

After an initial delay in the adoption of the legal bases of the Home Affairs Funds by the co-legislators all ISF Member State national programmes were adopted in 2015 with their implementation reaching a cruising speed in 2017.

The four Schengen Associated Countries (SAC) Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein also participate in the ISF-Borders and Visa instrument of the fund. The process regarding the participation of SAC has been successfully finalised. All four national programmes of SAC were adopted (The ISF national programme for Norway was adopted in September 2017 while the adoption of the programmes of Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland took place in the course of 2018).

Since 2017, the ISF national programmes have been revised on several occasions:

- for ISF-Police, to include 2017 top-up amounts of EUR 70 million for the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and EUR 22 million for interoperability of information systems;
- for ISF-Borders & Visa, to include in 2017 additional EUR 76 million and in 2018, EUR 128,7 million for the purchase of equipment to be put at the disposal of the EBCG Agency during joint operations;
- in addition, still in 2018 to include an overall amount of EUR 192.3 million allocated equally to all the Member States participating in the ISF Borders & Visa instrument to cover certain costs for the implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES): each Member State received a top-up to their national programme of EUR 6 million;
- in 2018 to include an additional overall amount of EUR 158.6 million (EUR 128 million foreseen in article 6(1)c) of the ISF Borders & Visa regulation plus an EUR 30.6 million as contribution from three SAC), through the revision of the national programmes;
- in 2019 to include an overall amount of EUR 212.4 million allocated to all the Member States participating in the ISF Borders & Visa instrument to cover costs related to the adoption of ETIAS and the recast of the SIS II Regulations as well other substantial costs incurred with the development of border management IT systems. Of the total amount, EUR 96.5 million was allocated for ETIAS, EUR 36.8 million for SIS-recast, and EUR 79 million, funded from the SAC contribution to ISF Borders & Visa, for IT systems in general.

Based on the latest adopted national programmes, the overall allocation to Member States under ISF national programmes now reaches EUR 3.06 billion. As regards the **Internal Security Fund – Borders&Visa**, for the period 2014-2020, EUR 2.34 billion were allocated to the national programmes of the Member States. Up to 2019, Member States have been actually spent EUR 937 million equivalent to an absorption rate of 40 %. As regards the **Internal Security Fund – Police**, for the period 2014-2020, EUR 754 million were allocated to the national programmes of the Member States. Up to 2019, MS have been actually spent EUR 420 million equivalent to an absorption rate of 55.7 %. By 31 March 2020, the Annual Implementation Reports for ISF were submitted by Member States.

Strengthening external border checks and closing existing information gaps, including those necessary to detect identity fraud, the co-legislators adopted in May 2019 **the interoperability package** ⁽¹⁾, which encompasses SIS, Eurodac, VIS as well as the Entry-Exit System and ETIAS. It will allow the front line law enforcement officers, border guards and migration officials to make the best use of existing information systems in a timely manner, thus contributing to improving internal security and border management. With the recent adoption of legislation on new IT systems and their interoperability, the Fund's resources will start being used to support its implementation.

Direct and indirect management

In 2019, **ISF emergency assistance** was made available to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation, resulting from an urgent and exceptional pressure where a large or disproportionate number of third country nationals cross or are expected to cross the external border of one or more Member States or any other duly substantiated situation requiring urgent action at external borders. Under ISF – Borders Emergency Assistance in 2019, EUR 48 million – representing 6 grant agreements – were awarded to Member States (Spain, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, and Belgium) to enhance their border control activities in light of migration pressure. The total amount of emergency assistance under ISF – Borders since 2014 stands at EUR 415.06 million. As concerns emergency assistance under ISF-Police, which supports Member States in addressing urgent and specific security-related incidents or newly emerging threats, which have or may have a significant adverse impact on the security of people in one or more Member States, the overall amount granted since 2014 amounts to EUR 12 million.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2019/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240, (EU) 2018/1726 and (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decisions 2004/512/EC and 2008/633/JHA. Regulation (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration.

The ISF-Borders and Visa 2019 work programme for emergency assistance was adopted on 24 June 2019 for an amount of EUR 12 million. The 2018 annual work programme, which was adopted on 14 December 2018, was revised on 21 October 2019 with a final amount of EUR 54.1 million.

In 2019, **Union actions projects** selected under the 2015 annual work programme were closed, while those selected under the 2016 and 2017 programmes were running. New grant agreements and delegation agreements were concluded for actions under the 2018 annual work programme and their implementation has started in the end of 2019 or in early 2020. Data on the grant agreements concluded in 2019 have been inserted in the output tables per Specific Objective.

The ISF 2019 work programme for Union actions in the area of police cooperation was adopted on 6 June 2019 for a total amount of EUR 43 million. The work programme includes EUR 1 million for emergency assistance. The calls for proposals planned under the work programme were published and beneficiaries of direct award of grants identified under the work programme were invited to submit their grant applications. Actions implemented through procurement are ongoing.

The ISF 2019 work programme for Union actions on borders and visa was adopted on 13 May 2019 for an amount of EUR 4.38 million. It does not foresee grants, but only the contribution to the Mobility Partnership facility, the support to the Schengen evaluation mechanism as well as procurements.

Key achievements

Shared management

Following several reinforcements between 2017-2019, the total allocation to the national programmes under the **Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa** instrument now reaches EUR 2.3 billion, while the allocation for the **Internal Security Fund – Police** equals to EUR 754 million.

With support of DG HOME activities as well as funding, the numbers of irregular border crossings decreased from 149 000 in 2018 to 142 000 in 2019⁽²⁾. A lot of progress was reached in protecting the EU external borders through **building new and strengthening the existing IT systems and technologies**, increasing internal security and facilitating regular border crossings.

Moreover, the financing under the ISF – Borders and Visa allowed to strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard Agency's **technical equipment pool** in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. All these MS are involved in the specific actions for Frontex equipment. The total EU funding awarded for this purpose amounts to EUR 335.8 million.

Another good example is the 'Document and Visa advisors' project is run by the German Bundespolizei (Federal Police) since 2015, with a total of 4 consecutive projects and a total allocated EU contribution of EUR 11.2 million. The project funds the posting of currently 53 Bundespolizei officers in 33 locations in 25 third countries, where they work to prevent travelling into the EU without valid documents, by training and advising personnel of visa offices (German and from other EU-MS or SAC) and airlines employees on the assessment of the authenticity of documents presented by visa applicants or travellers.

In 2019, the Fund (Police part) significantly contributed to **enhancing exchanges of information among national authorities** supporting 76 projects on this subject. Moreover, 7 785 law enforcement officers have received training on cross-border related topics.

A good example of how the Fund enhances exchange of information between police and other law enforcement authorities, is found under the National Programme of **Germany**. Through several activities over a number of years, the Programme supports the 'Police Information and Analysis Network' (PIAV) for EUR 32 million (with 17 beneficiaries). The initiative consists of a number of projects implemented at Federal and Land level to improve police data exchange and information management by connecting all federal and regional police authorities in one system.

In the same vein, the establishment of **national PNR systems** and development of national developing national Passengers Information Units were also supported by the Fund in all Member States with EUR 70 million in top-ups to the national programmes in 2017.

Moreover, ISF Police allowed to support actions implementing the **joint investigation teams (JIT)** and **European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT)** with 31 operational projects in implemented in 2019.

According to Europol Te-Sat report figures, in 2018 the number of **terrorist attacks** fell to 129 (compared to 205 in the previous year) and the number of terrorist related deaths diminished to 13 (compared to 68 in 2017).

⁽²⁾ Source: Frontex (<https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-map/>).

Examples of national programme success stories

Italy

A key achievement to ensure a high level of protection of the external borders and strengthen the cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency was the delivery and registration in the technical equipment pool of the Agency of 4 **border surveillance means** (3 Coastal Patrol Boats and 1 Fixed Wing Aircraft) out of 12 awarded in the previous years in the framework of the Frontex Specific Actions. Another great success was the completion of the EUR 1.4 million ITEPA project for the **establishment of an international training center** at the Cairo Police Academy. In two years, the center provided 6 courses to 310 border police/ immigration officers from 21 African countries of origin and transit of migratory flows in the field of migration management, the investigative sector against illicit migrant smuggling, and border management. A second phase of this project is foreseen given the interest generated among African countries to continue such training activities.

Direct management

Examples of success stories under emergency assistance:

On 10 September 2019, the Commission awarded EUR 6.9 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the framework of the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa (ISF-BV) Emergency Assistance. The awarded Project will contribute to the completion of all necessary construction works for the creation of the new Reception and Identification Centre in **Samos**, with approximately 1,200 places, in close collaboration with the technical departments of the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the European Asylum Support Office agency.

Croatia completed in November 2019 an ISF-B&V EMAS grant of EUR 6.8 million which contributed to support the management of the external border by deploying 370 border police officers, covering the running costs for operational vehicles and purchasing protective items/materials for border guards. Furthermore, the EMAS grant supported the setting up of a monitoring mechanism at the external borders to ensure the respect of the fundamental rights of the migrants at the external borders. The Commission continued and expanded such support in December 2019 by awarding a new ISF-B&V EMAS of € 11.35 million which foresees the increase of the number of border police officers deployed to 500, and the continuation of the support to the monitoring mechanism.

In 2018-2019 the Commission provided considerable emergency assistance to **Italy** to support the activities of the hotspots. Two ISF-B&V EMAS grants in this area were completed in 2019, notably: 1) a grant of € 4.7 million in support of the linguistic and intercultural mediation service provided in Sicily, Sardinia, Puglia, Calabria and Campania, in hotspots and in ports applying the hotspot Standard Operating Procedures. About 100 professional linguistic and intercultural mediators were recruited and supported the operators of Public Security in their relationship with migrants during landings and pre-identification procedures; 2) a grant of EUR 4.4 million for the identification of vulnerable migrants and the age assessment of minors in dubious cases which aimed to recruit about 10 social workers and 20 cultural mediators to support the health team present in the Hotspot, and to establish and train about 10 multidisciplinary teams on the protocol for age assessment and the relevant procedures.

In **Spain**, the emergency funds (EUR 52 million for the years 2018 and 2019) mainly funded actions related to illegal migration. Two new ISF Border projects were selected in 2019, aiming at the strengthening of the Guardia civil to take in charge migrants arriving on the coasts (Southern coast, Canaries Island, Ceuta and Melilla), as well as the set-up of four local new registration centers in the Southern Spain. Under the ISF Police, a software to detect terrorism activities in the internet and social media, as well as automatic number plate equipment have been acquired and used by the police.

Union actions

Examples of ISF funded Union actions can be found in the Snapshot published by the Commission at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/20190909_snapshot-2019-eu-asylum-migration-integration-internal-security-fund_en

During 2019, **31 announced, 3 unannounced Schengen evaluation** visits as well as 4 revisits and 1 thematic evaluation were carried out under the Schengen evaluation mechanism⁽³⁾ to verify the correct application of the Schengen acquis in all relevant policy fields, including management of the external border, common visa policy, return, police cooperation, the Schengen Information System and data protection as well as the absence of border control at the internal borders. The mission expenditure, trainings and equipment necessary for the implementation of the mechanism are supported by the Union actions under the Internal Security Fund-Borders. Following these evaluations, the Commission reported in October 2019 that Croatia had taken the measures needed to ensure that the necessary conditions for the full application of Schengen rules and standards were met. In December 2019, the Schengen evaluation of Slovakia marked the successful completion of the first five-year multiannual evaluation programme (2015-2019) of the Schengen Member States managed by the Commission.

⁽³⁾ OJL 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

To date there are **34 European networks** which are financed via direct grants under Union Actions for ISF-Police, and in some cases, ISF-Borders. The networks carry out activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on accounts of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers and that do not fall within the scope of calls for proposals. The networks support cooperation between authorities across borders and carry out activities such as trainings and simulations, cooperation meetings, while producing together guidance manuals and operational tools. Without EU support, these cross-border activities are unlikely to materialise as they would be wholly dependent on the willingness of individual Member States to pay for the activity at European level, including notably the travel expenses of representatives of other countries involved. For example, in order for the European police cooperation to thrive in a world where crime is transnational, the network activities need to be financed on a regular basis by the EU. The networks also provide useful fora for exchange of good practices, the testing of new methods and tools and exchanges of views with experienced practitioners on the relevance of new policies. They are crucial players and act as mediators between policy-making and project development.

In addition to these established networks, Union actions support transnational projects selected through **calls for proposals**, for example:

In 2019, the second phase of the Civil Society Empowerment programme was launched, in order to continue to support civil society organisations for developing campaigns with counter and alternative narrative to radicalisation. With 8 new grant agreements signed in 2019, there are now 20 projects ongoing.

In 2019, a grant agreement was signed to support EU Member States law enforcement authorities to work with local law enforcement authorities in West and North Africa to enhance the criminal justice response to migrant smuggling through more effective investigations and prosecutions

Examples of success stories under direct management:

The Transnational Action to support victims of Trafficking returning to priority countries (TACT) project worked to create conditions for the safe and sustainable voluntary return and reintegration of victims of trafficking from France, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain to three priority countries of origin: Albania, Morocco and Ukraine. This was made possible by putting in place the necessary mechanisms to help identify victims in need of dedicated support and to refer them to the relevant services. One of these mechanisms, and an important tool developed by the project, is the Transnational Referral Mechanism (TRM), linking stakeholders from two or more countries involved in identifying, referring, helping and monitoring victims by defining clear roles for each stakeholder, along with procedures to follow to ensure that the victims' rights are protected the whole way along their reintegration path. The TRM is supported by other project deliverables, including a Counter-Trafficking Directory targeted at embassy and consulate staff who can act as frontline practitioners and, if they are properly trained, identify victims of trafficking. In total, 8 countries have participated to this project, 1 online platform was created and 1 counter-trafficking directory was created.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest Interim evaluations of the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa 2014-2017 (SWD(2018)340final https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180612_swd-2018-340-commission-staff-working-document_en.pdf and of the Internal Security Fund – Police SWD(2018)341final https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180612_swd-2018-341-commission-staff-working-document_en.pdf) have been presented in the Programme Statements DB2020.

By 31 December 2023, the Member States will provide an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under their national programmes and the Commission will present by 30 June 2024 an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of the legal bases.

At the same time, DG HOME is implementing the Action Plan following the internal audit findings on the monitoring and reporting on the implementation and performance of National Programmes. In particular, DG HOME has strengthened its processes for monitoring the National Programmes and increased its efforts to improve the reliability of performance data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports submitted annually. More attention will be given to the consistency of data reported by the Member States. DG HOME will provide guidance to the Member States with a view to ensure common understanding of the indicators established in the Fund and to establish better links with information provided in the accounts.

Moreover, the European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the strengthening of the management of the ISF emergency assistance and national programmes. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA's recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF.

Forthcoming implementation

Shared management

It is expected that, following the information received in the 2019 ISF Annual Accounts and Annual Implementation Reports, the implementation of the Funds will gain further momentum, notably as regards the absorption of the extra allocations provided for IT systems in late 2018 (EES) and late 2019 (ETIAS, SIS-recast and IT systems in general).

It is also expected that some Member States will receive extra funding through the new Specific Action under ISF-Borders and Visa (for a minimum amount of EUR 63.2 million), to support their efforts in managing the migratory pressure at their borders. It is also anticipated, that actions such as purchase of equipment, which implies heavy procurement procedures (e.g. automated border surveillance systems or equipment to be put at the disposal of Frontex), will be mature enough for the equipment to be delivered and become operational by the end 2022.

Under ISF Police, no supplementary funding is foreseen in 2019 nor 2020.

DG HOME intends to steer the Member States even more to enhance the implementation of the programme, among others through the participation to national monitoring committee meetings, bilateral discussions, monitoring visits, messages at political level, etc.

Direct management

Grant agreements under the ISF 2019 annual work programmes for Union actions will be concluded in 2020 and the implementation of the actions will start.

The ISF 2020 annual work programmes for Union actions will be adopted and, as a continuation of previous years, they will focus on counter-terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime.

Member States facing migratory pressure at their external borders will continue to be supported via the ISF-Borders Emergency Assistance, with a significant budget reinforcement expected in 2020 of EUR 50 million.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the period 2021 – 2027 the Commission proposed to replace the current ISF by the **Border Management and Visa Instrument** (BMVI, ex-ISF border and visa) and the **Internal Security Fund** (ex-ISF-Police). These new proposals aim to address lessons learned from the current period. The interim evaluations indicated the need for more flexibility and simplification. New mechanisms, such as the thematic facility and a midterm review (technical adjustment and performance review), will ensure that the allocation of funding can be adapted to changes in pressure at borders and security threats, and funds can be steered to the Union priorities with highest added value. In addition, the management of the funds will be simplified through joining the Common Provisions Regulation and having coherence with rules applicable to shared management funds.

Under both new programmes the share for the Member States' programmes is approximately 60 % of the total financial envelope, while the remaining 40 % of the overall financial envelope should be managed through the respective thematic facilities, which will periodically provide funding for a number of priorities defined in Commission financing decisions. Actions under the thematic facility would be programmed through annual or multiannual work programmes. The facility will make it possible to address new priorities or take urgent action through the delivery mode that is best suited to a given policy objective.

Under the **BMVI** the priorities could concern:

- further supporting interoperability and large IT systems;
- strengthening national components of the EBCG;
- further preserving the Schengen area;
- training and innovation in the area of the common visa policy.

The **ISF** could cover the following priorities:

- further increasing the information exchanges,
- intensifying cross border joint operations;
- strengthening national capabilities in the area of counter-terrorism and fight against radicalisation.

The programming exercise has started and the Member States have been invited to submit their draft programmes by 30 April 2020. Adoption of programmes and forthcoming implementation of 2021 appropriations will depend on the outcome of the MFF negotiations.

References:

- Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for border management and visa (COM(2018)473 final);
- Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing the Internal Security Fund (COM(2018)472 final).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa and repealing Decision No 574/2007/EC	2014 – 2020	3 764,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,5	2,5	2,0	2,5	16,2
Operational appropriations	127,3(*)	549,4	733,2	732,4	727,2	531,0	498,4	3 899,0
Total	129,5	551,5	735,5	734,9	729,7	533,1	500,9	3 915,1

(*)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	533,079	100,00 %	501,830	99,70 %	546,089	67,14 %	670,402	23,19 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	681,012	87,70 %	648,836	81,48 %	666,652	60,24 %	827,106	20,07 %

(*) 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

Taking into account difficult situation at the borders linked to migration pressure as well as the continuous security challenges, it is important to stress that until the end of 2019, ISF has proven an efficient fund getting closer to its set objectives – ensuring an efficient protection of the EU's external borders and a high level of security in the Union. In particular, the interim evaluation pointed that the Fund has showed to be flexible enough to respond to the changing needs emerged as a consequence of the migration and security crisis. Majority of security threats the EU is facing are cross border by nature that is why the funding provided by the ISF Police instrument is crucial to enhancing the security of the Union as a whole

In terms of overall performance of the Fund, for many of the indicators set in the Regulation, either the milestones have been exceeded or even the targets have been achieved. The implementation of ISF will run until end-2022, and thus 3 years of implementation remain. Up to 2019, ISF has attained an absorption rate of 44 % which can be considered overall satisfactory, given that the Fund is implemented mainly through long-term projects for heavy equipment or development of relevant IT systems and the fact the national programmes were reinforced considerably with funding over period 2017-2019. In 2019, the Member States have submitted EUR 425 million of payments to the Commission, higher than the level of 2018 expenditure (EUR 384 million).

Strengthening the protection of EU's external borders and supporting a common visa policy

In 2019, DG HOME worked to address the root causes of irregular migration and strengthen the protection of EU's external borders. With support of DG HOME activities and funding, the total number of detected irregular border crossings decreased further in 2019 to 142,000, compared to 149,000 in 2018.

As pointed out in the interim evaluation, the **ISF-Border and Visa** is making a crucial contribution to the application of the Schengen acquis. The Commission has considerably invested on the effective control of the external borders through the information systems at EU level (SIS II, VIS and Eurodac), providing to border guards and police officers with relevant information. In addition, the European Border Surveillance System (Eurosur) provides further support to border authorities and helps to strengthen the external borders security. Even though each of these systems created for a specific purpose, all together at EU level, have facilitated the sharing of information among Member States.

In 2019 alone, Member States consulted the Schengen Information System around 6.7 billion times compared to 6.1 billion times in 2018 and 4 billion times in 2016. This reduced the risk that people who pose a security threat, including returning EU nationals, cross borders unnoticed.

As regards IT system, while for SIS and VIS it can be said that MS have been using the Fund's resources to cover their needs in this area, including for operating support, for the latest IT systems such as EES and ETIAS, it is still too soon. All IT systems should become operational towards the end of 2022. As we are still at the initial stages of relevant programmes, it is difficult to

make a clear assessment of the efficiency of the EU funding. Special attention will be paid to the use of funds also in this area, to ensure that all the funding made available through the ISF NP has been duly absorbed by December 2022, end of the programming period.

The Fund is also fostering a better use of resources by increasing the capacity of Member States to undertake border surveillance and by developing consular cooperation between Member States. After a slow start of actions consisting in the purchase of order surveillance equipment subject to heavy procurement procedures, the implementation of the ISF Borders and Visa programme is in full swing, almost reaching its 2020 target for **establishing national border surveillance infrastructure** (26 772 compared to the target of 21 154), while **developing consulates and consular cooperation** approaching 100 % of 2020 targets already in 2019 (1 987 consulate developed up to 2019 compared to the cumulative target of 923).

However, Member States are still not achieving the milestones and are significantly below the targets for training of staff in the area of visa and border management. Up to 2019, 3 629 persons have been trained in the area of visa policy which is far below the target of 11 365 persons. Nevertheless, an increase in the number of persons trained is noted in 2019: 963 persons trained compared to the 780 in 2018. In the area of border management, 15 516 border guards have been trained up to 2019, also below the target of 34 603, with only 2 273 persons trained in 2019 versus 5 019 in 2018). Data at Member State level shows different degrees in the delivery of training to staff on border management topics as compared to the target: some Member States have already attained their targets or are 80 % above the target, while others are yet to report projects for trainings.

It should also be noted that the number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture is largely below the target set in the national programmes (with 62 753 incidents reported up to 2019 as compared to the target of 157 593). This actually represents a positive trend as it matches the situation on the ground with a significant decrease in the irregular border crossings observed since the peak of the migration crisis in 2015.

Up to 2019, Member States have submitted expenditure to the Commission for an amount of EUR 937 million, equivalent to an absorption rate of 40 %. In 2019, they have implemented projects for a value of EUR 32.6 million in the area of visa policy (including operation support) and EUR 280.4 million in the border management (including operating support and the Special Transit Scheme in Lithuania).

Crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism and enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crises

The European Agenda on Security, adopted in 2015, sets out the strategic framework for the period 2015–2020 and aims at the closing of information gaps, building digital and electoral resilience, denying terrorists the means to act and addressing radicalisation. It has become increasingly clear that today's security challenges – whether it is terrorism, organised crime, cyberattacks, disinformation or other evolving cyber-enabled threats – are shared threats.

Driven by the needs of national authorities working on keeping citizens safe, the EU-level support has focused on legislative and operational measures where joint action can have an impact on the security of Member States. The ISF-Police instrument provides the financial means to implement such measures. Where necessary, additional funding was provided to the Member States in order to advance EU policies, i.e. EUR 70 million for the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and EUR 22 million for interoperability of information systems. In order to **strengthen mutual trust and information sharing between national authorities** (for instance for law enforcement) the fund finances 34 of **European networks** in the area of security which allow for regular meetings, exchanges of best practices etc. For example, in 2019, DG HOME took further steps to support the work of the Radicalisation Awareness Network and continued to support the European Strategic Communications Network. The former issued in 2019 fact books on Islamist extremism and far right extremism and a manual on rehabilitation of radicalised and terrorist offenders, all priority topics identified by Member States. In 2019, DG HOME further increased support to and cooperation between cities, in particular by launching the initiative **EU cities against radicalisation**.

In addition, Member States have also continued to organise expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and online consultations organised, with 221 such events organised in 2019, and almost reaching the cumulative target (828 in total since 2014 versus the target of 892).

The Fund also supports **joint investigations teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT)** with 202 projects up to the end of 2019 implemented by the Member States. Moreover, the ISF Police finances the establishment and operation of the **national Passenger Name Record (PNR) systems**, allowing national law enforcement authorities for exchanges of information on suspect air passengers. Overall, EUR 38.5 million was disbursed for 36 multiannual projects in this area, which are still ongoing.

However, Member States are still not achieving the milestones and are significantly below the targets for training of law enforcement officials. Up to 2019, 19 597 persons have been trained on cross-border related issues (in 2019, 7 785 persons trained as compared to the 6 181 in 2018). Data at Member State level shows different degrees in the delivery of training to staff on border management topics as compared to the target: some Member States have already attained their targets or are 80 % above the target, while others are yet to report projects for trainings. It seems that some Member States have set also very high targets.

Up to 2019, Member States have submitted expenditure to the Commission for an amount of EUR 420 million, equivalent to an absorption rate of 55.7 %. In 2019, they have implemented projects for a value of EUR 90.5 million in the area of crime prevention and EUR 17.6 million in the area of assessment and management of risk.

The European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the **strengthening of the management of the ISF emergency assistance and national programmes**. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA’s recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF. This includes also improved performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data in line with the Common Provision Regulation.

In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission services will develop definitions for each indicator set out in AMF Regulation. This will ensure a common understanding of each indicator across all Member States and programmes. Moreover will this not only greatly contribute to improving data quality, it will also enhance data comparability. Member States will be required to develop this performance framework for each of its HOME funds programmes and underpin it by methodological considerations.

The managing authority, in its yearly management declaration and as part of the annual assurance package, will have to confirm the reliability of submitted data relating to indicators and the progress of the programme. The annual performance review will be an occasion for a policy dialogue with the Member States on issues of programme implementation and performance. In particular, the annual performance reports will provide qualitative information on programme implementation going beyond the quantitative data submitted for the indicators. It will complement the bi-monthly transmission of structured data and strengthen the performance review process. In the context of the performance framework, Commission services will hold at least two meetings with Member States during the programming period.

All data required for monitoring progress in programmes implementation including outputs and results will be transmitted electronically. Every two months Member States will transmit structured data on the common indicators to the Commission. Thus, the Commission services will have a much more updated picture of programme performance than in the current period. In addition, the HOME programmes will now also use the open data platform, which had been established in the current programming period for the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will allow stakeholders to access almost real time data on programme implementation. This is an important novelty for the HOME funds, which in the current period do not publish data on the open data platform.

In addition, Member States are required to set up a system of electronic data exchange between beneficiaries and managing authorities, and between different authorities of the management and control system. This requirement builds on the current CPR regulation, which did not cover the HOME funds, and further develops certain aspects of data collection. It is thus a novelty for the HOME funds. Beneficiary and project information, as well as the performance reports will be published on a dedicated website run by the managing authority. This will give greater visibility to achievements and allow better communication.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union

Indicator 1: Number of irregular migrants apprehended at the EU external borders								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
73 042	Actual results							250 000
	283 532	2 105 709	2 616 756	2 821 410	2 970 446	3 112 187		

Comment: A forecast is difficult to make because of the high volatility of the relevant external factors (political situation in the third countries considered as sources of irregular migration) which are very difficult to predict and control. Please note that the number refers to crossings and not to persons as the same persons may have been detected and counted more than once when crossing different external borders.

Source: <https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-map/>.

Indicator 2: Volume of terrorism in the EU expressed by the number of failed, foiled or completed terrorist attacks in the EU								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Attacks: 152	Actual results							120
	201	412	554	759	888			
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Deaths: 7				0			0	0

	Actual results						
	4	119	261	329	342		

Source: Annual EU Terrorism Situation & Trend Report (Te-Sat) produced by Europol

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Supporting a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, provide a high quality of service to visa applicants, ensure equal treatment of third-country nationals and tackle illegal immigration

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Instrument. Broken down in co-locations, common application centres, representations, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	Actual results							146
	14	59	104	177	225	355		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Cumulative number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to the common visa policy with the help of the Instrument

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Staff: 0	Actual results							11 365
	0	418	1 099	1 886	2 666	3 629		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Regional training courses: 0	Actual results							184 273
		173	2 446	5 456	8 334	10 697		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Cumulative number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Instrument. Broken down by ILOs, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
30	Actual results							395
	0	31	234	388	530	611		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Percentage and number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument out of the total number of consulates

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	Actual results							923
	2	36	353	587	1 073	1 987		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in visa policy	18 02 01 01	33	23,5
Projects ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union acquis on visas in response to weaknesses identified at Union level, as shown by results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism	18 02 01 01	15	1,7
Projects supporting the further development of the management of migration flows by consular and other services of the Member States in third countries, including the setting up of consular cooperation mechanisms with a view to facilitating legitimate travel in accordance with Union law or the law of the Member State concerned and preventing illegal immigration into the Union	18 02 01 01	11	4,2
Projects under specific actions for visas policy and consular cooperation	18 02 01 01	2	2,6
Projects under Union and emergency actions for visas policy and consular cooperation	18 02 01 01	2	2,0
Operating support Visas	18 02 01 01	n/a	0
Technical assistance (as part of the national programme, 100 % EU contribution)	18 02 01 01	n/a	5,7
Total		63	39,7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in visa policy	F	33	36	36	30	30	33	33
	P	0	N/A		37	70		
Projects ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union acquis on visas in response to weaknesses identified at Union level, as shown by results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism	F	15	15	16	15	15	15	15
	P	0	N/A		12	15		
Projects supporting the further development of the management of migration flows by consular and other services of the Member States in third countries, including the setting up of consular cooperation mechanisms with a view to facilitating legitimate travel in accordance with Union law or the law of the Member State concerned and preventing illegal immigration into the Union	F	10	10	11	11	11	11	11
	P	0	N/A		8	9		
Projects under specific actions for visas policy and consular cooperation	F	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
	P	0	N/A		2	6		
Projects under Union actions for visas policy and consular cooperation	F	4	6	7	4	5	7	2
	P	3	8	11	0	0		

* First deadline for submission of the Annual Accounts by Member States 15 February 2016, first deadline for submission Annual Implementation Report is 31 March 2016.

Specific Objective 2: Supporting integrated border management to ensure, on one hand, a uniform and high level of control and protection of the external borders, and on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen acquis, while guaranteeing access to international protection for those needing it, in accordance with the obligations contracted by the Member States in the field of human rights

Indicator 1: Number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to border management with the help of the Instrument

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Staff: 0				17 302			34 603	34 603
	Actual results							
	43	2 303	5 414	8 224	13 243	15 516		

2013	Milestones foreseen						2020
Courses: 0				167 162			334 323
	Actual results						334 323
	34	382	10 262	26 522	70 020	109 632	

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument. Broken down by infrastructure, fleet (air, land, sea borders), equipment, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
0				10 577			21 154	21 154
	Actual results							
	347	1 158	7 090	9 806	20 265	26 772		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number of gates funded and number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Instrument out of the total number of border crossings

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Gates: 0				45			0	
	Actual results							
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Crossings out of millions:				2/820			357/255 6	357/2556
	Actual results							
	0/157.8	7.2/349. 9855055	18.8/616 .8	34.6/895 .8	55.5/123 3.7	99.1/167 7.7		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020 (number of gates funded are not reported by Member States as it is not a common indicator).

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR. Broken down by National Coordination Centres, Regional Coordination Centres, Local Coordination Centres, other types of coordination centres

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
19	30			30			30	30
	Actual results							
	30	30	30	30	30	30		

Source: Eurosur Regulation. The 19 MS having external borders to the east and to the south were required by the Eurosur Regulation to set up their NCCs by December 2013. All the NCCs were set up by December 2014.

Indicator 5: Number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture. Broken down by illegal immigration, including incidents relating to a risk to the lives of migrants, cross-border crime, crisis situations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
				78 797			157 593	157 593
	Actual results							
	5 355	9 847	18 488	27 782	41 273	62 753		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects developing the European Border Surveillance system (EUROSUR)	18 02 01 01	2	38,1
Projects supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in the management of the external borders	18 02 01 01	80	40,0
Projects reinforcing integrated border management by testing and introducing new tools, interoperable systems and working methods which aim to enhance information exchange within the Member State or to improve inter-agency cooperation	18 02 01 01	8	8,9
Developing projects with a view to ensuring a uniform and high level of control of the external border in accordance with common Union standards and aiming at increased interoperability of border management systems between Member States	18 02 01 01	30	1,4
Projects supporting actions, after consulting the Frontex Agency, aimed at promoting further harmonisation of border management and in particular technological capabilities, in accordance with common Union standards	18 02 01 01	2	1,4
Projects ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union acquis on border control in response to weaknesses identified at Union level, as shown by results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism	18 02 01 01	2	2,9
Projects building the capacity to face upcoming challenges, including present and future threats and pressures at the external borders, taking into account in particular the analyses carried out by relevant Union agencies	18 02 01 01	2	1,4
Projects under specific actions for border management including the purchase of equipment to be put at disposal of Frontex	18 02 01 01	4	48,1
Projects under Union and emergency actions for border management	18 02 01 01	8	28,5
Operating support for the Special Transit Scheme	18 02 01 01	1	24,7
Operating support Borders	18 02 01 01	n/a	46,2
Technical Assistance (as part of the national programme, 100 % EU contribution)	18 02 01 01	n/a	5,7
Entry/Exit System: grants for integrating national border infrastructures in Member States via National Uniform Interface (NUI)'.	18 02 01 03	0	0
ETIAS: grants for customisation of National Uniform Interface (NUI) in Member States	18 02 01 03	30	20
Total		169	267,3

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects developing the European Border Surveillance system (EUROSUR)	F	8	8	7	5	8	2	2
	P	0	N/A	21	33	63		
Projects supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in visa policy and in the management of the external borders	F	119	110	125	100	96	90	80
	P	0	N/A	34	72	168		
Projects reinforcing integrated border management by testing and introducing new tools, interoperable systems and working methods which aim to enhance information exchange within the Member State or to improve inter-agency cooperation	F	10	11	12	12	12	12	8
	P	0	N/A	6	15	18		
Developing projects with a view to ensuring a uniform and high level of control of the external border in accordance with common Union standards and aiming at increased interoperability of border management systems between Member States	F	75	70	75	70	60	60	30
	P	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Projects supporting actions, after consulting the	F	5	5	5	4	4	4	2

EBCG Agency, aimed at promoting further harmonisation of border management and in particular technological capabilities, in accordance with common Union standards	P	0	N/A	7	15	31		
Projects ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union acquis on border control in response to weaknesses identified at Union level, as shown by results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism	F	5	5	5	4	4	4	2
	P	0	N/A	9	19	31		
Projects building the capacity to face upcoming challenges, including present and future threats and pressures at the external borders, taking into account in particular the analyses carried out by relevant Union agencies	F	5	5	5	4	4	4	2
	P	0	N/A	4	6	4		
Projects under specific actions for border management including the purchase of equipment to be put at disposal of Frontex	F	0	3	7	43	15	8	4
	P	0	N/A	2	7	16		
Projects under Union and emergency actions for border management	F	5	5	9	16	24	1	8
	P	3	9	11	25	13		
Operating support for the Special Transit Scheme	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	0	1	1	1	1		
Entry/Exit System: grants for integrating national border infrastructures in Member States via National Uniform Interface (NUI).	F	0	0	0	30	30	30	0
	P	0	0	0	0	0		
ETIAS: grants for customisation of National Uniform Interface (NUI) in Member States	F	0	0	0	0	30	30	30
	P	0	0	0	0	0		

* First deadline for submission of the Annual Accounts by Member States 15 February 2016, first deadline for submission Annual Implementation Report is 31 March 2016.

Specific Objective 3: Crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of joint investigation teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) operational projects supported by the Instrument, including the participating Member States and authorities. Broken down by Leader (Member State), Partners (Member State), participating authorities, participating EU Agency (Eurojust, Europol), if applicable

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	Actual results							216
	6	6	14	129	171	202		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Cumulative number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-border-related topics with the help of the Instrument, and the duration of their training (person days). Broken down by type of crime (Art. 83 TFEU), and horizontal area of law enforcement

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Officials trained: 0	Actual results							128 140
	283	883	1 542	5 661	11 812	19 597		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Person days: 0	Actual results							198 075

	142	2 605	12 710	36 500	59 440	83 550		
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Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number and financial value of projects in the area of crime prevention. Broken down by type of crime (Art. 83 TFEU)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
Number: 0								378
	Actual results							
	4	33	133	254	415	487		
Milestones foreseen								2020
Financial value: 0								260.80
	Actual results							
	1.62	17.99	62.13	168.13	272.88	325.23		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 4: Number of projects supported by the Instrument, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchange which are related to Europol data systems, repositories or communication tools. Broken down by type of crime (Art. 83 TFEU)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								2020
0								133
	Actual results							
	5	8	20	46	67	76		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020						
		Number	EUR million					
Projects aiming at strengthening Member States' capability to prevent crime and combat cross-border, serious and organised crime.	18 02 01 02	99	33,3					
Projects aiming at coordination, cooperation, mutual understanding and the exchange of information among Member States' national authorities, relevant Union bodies, third-countries and international organisations.	18 02 01 02	63	31					
Projects aiming at training schemes in implementation of European training policies, including through specific Union law enforcement exchange programmes.	18 02 01 02	25	5,3					
Projects aiming at measures and best practices for the protection and support of witnesses and victims of crime, including victims of terrorism.	18 02 01 02	5	3					
Union projects aiming at preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organised crime, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities	18 02 01 02	57	66,8					
Total		249	139,4					
Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects aiming at strengthening Member States' capability to prevent crime and combat cross-border, serious and organised crime.	F	99	107	107	107	107	97	99
	P	0	N/A	93	173	265		
Projects aiming at coordination, cooperation, mutual understanding and the exchange of information among Member States' national authorities, relevant Union bodies, third-countries and international organisations.	F	63	63	68	70	63	63	63
	P	0	N/A	17	63	154		

Projects aiming at training schemes in implementation of European training policies, including through specific Union law enforcement exchange programmes.	F	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
	P	0	N/A	21	59	94		
Projects aiming at measures and best practices for the protection and support of witnesses and victims of crime, including victims of terrorism.	F	5	6	5	4	5	5	5
	P	0	N/A	6	19	22		
Union projects aiming at preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organised crime, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities	F	57	60	60	101	57	50	57
	P	0	3	23	11	54		

Specific Objective 4: Enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crises, and preparing for and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security-related incidents

Indicator 1: Number and tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	0	1	239			478	478
	Actual results							
	0	45	141	236	267	337		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 2: Cumulative number of projects relating to the assessment and management of risks in the field of internal security supported by the Instrument

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0		30	45	54			108	108
	Actual results							
	3	14	42	68	90	109		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Indicator 3: Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and online consultations organised with the help of the Instrument. Broken down by relating to critical infrastructure protection, and relating to crisis and risk management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0		15	446			892	892
	Actual results							
	0	4	54	274	607	828		

Comment: Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.

Availability of Data: Based on latest data submitted by Member States as of 31/03/2020.

Unit of measure: Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects aiming at strengthening Member States' capability to protect critical infrastructure	18 02 01 02	30	9,5
Projects aiming at securing links and effective coordination between existing sector-specific early warning and crisis cooperation actors at Union and national level	18 02 01 02	9	6,2
Projects aiming at strengthening capacity of the Member States and	18 02 01 02	4	4,4

the Union to develop threat and risk assessments			
Union projects aiming at enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crisis	18 02 01 02	14	31,8
Total		57	51,9

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects aiming at strengthening Member States' capability to protect critical infrastructure	F	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	P	0	N/A	5	17	30		
Projects aiming at securing links and effective coordination between existing sector-specific early warning and crisis cooperation actors at Union and national level	F	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	P	0	N/A	9	16	19		
Projects aiming at strengthening the capacity of the Member States and the Union to develop threat and risk assessments	F	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	P	0	N/A	5	13	8		
Union projects aiming at enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crisis	F	14	14	14	25	14	8	14
	P	0	0	9	12	37		

4. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

By supporting the fight against crime and terrorism, the ISF contributes to fighting and preventing organised crime and tackling radicalisation terrorist ideas and beliefs, while at the same time guaranteeing fundamental rights and values. As such it supports, the development of modern police and law enforcement authorities working together to contribute towards a more peaceful and inclusive society.

‘Change of viewpoint’ project in DE aims to introduce lasting measures for de-radicalisation, the prevention of radicalisation, and the protection of the citizen against politically motivated crime, with the emphasis on work in and with the social media. The project is intended to enable members of the public more easily to recognise extreme right-wing propaganda, to offer alternative sources of information, to generate a better exchange of information by means of networking between public authorities and players in civil society, and to step up deradicalisation measures in social networks.

The FI project ‘TOIVO’ ensures the performance of the shared analysis systems of the Police, Customs and the Border Guard, and raising its capacity to deal with large volumes of data processed in connection with cybercrime in particular.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship**Justice Programme****Lead DG: JUST**

Associated DGs: HOME

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

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, for instance on insolvency and in the field of family law
- 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).

EU added value of the programme

The Justice programme promotes judicial cooperation between Member States' authorities and contributes to the effective and coherent application and enforcement of EU law in the areas of civil law and criminal law, civil law and criminal procedural law, the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and the rights of victims of crime.

The activities funded by the Programme result in better implementation of EU justice instruments (e.g. European Investigation Order, European Arrest warrant and surrender procedures, European Protection Order, European Account Preservation Order, family law) and faster proceedings through cooperation, dialogue, sharing of experience, exchange of information, training activities and harmonisation of practices. Some activities support the monitoring of the implementation of existing EU legislation, prepare or accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the areas covered by the programme.

Financial intervention at EU level is essential to ensure cross-border cooperation in judicial matters and develop a European area of justice. Judicial training contributes decisively to participants' awareness of belonging to common judicial area while sharing a common judicial culture.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management (grants and procurement).

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

All calls for proposals and tenders procedures under the 2014-2019 work programmes ⁽¹⁾ are finalised. The implementation of related projects and contracts is ongoing. Calls for proposals under the 2020 work programme (adopted timely on 5 November 2019 ⁽²⁾) were published on 16 December 2019 and were opened on 15-21 January 2020.

Key achievements***Specific objective 1: Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters***

The Justice Programme finances the European Judicial Network (EJN) in civil and commercial matters, which strengthens cooperation between national judicial authorities. By improving the practical application and implementation of EU civil justice instruments ⁽³⁾, EJN contributes to building bridges between the justice systems of the Member States and thereby creates mutual trust ⁽⁴⁾. In civil justice, the family law instruments, the insolvency regulation, the European Account Preservation Order, the European Small Claims procedure and mediation in civil and commercial matters have been promoted through programme funding

⁽¹⁾ C(2014) 2556 final, C(2015) 1997 final, C(2016) 1677 final, C(2017) 1544 final, C(2018) 8520 final and C(2018) 7926 final

⁽²⁾ C(2019) 7825 final

⁽³⁾ A [study](#) feeding into the 2016 Commission Report on the activities of EJN-civil, found that 96 % of professionals felt that EJN was successful in facilitating judicial cooperation between judicial authorities. Also, to-date EJN-civil has contributed to the European e-Justice Portal with 10 695 individual pages of practical information on national laws of the Member States relevant to the civil and commercial law acquis through 22 public factsheets, as well as with 16 guides on EU law. During the study, 70 % of interviewees indicated that the practitioners' guides correspond to their needs and 60 % perceived their needs are met with the factsheets.

⁽⁴⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the Activities of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1458206470776&uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0129>

since 2014. That has contributed to raising awareness among the legal practitioners and the general public so as to enable their correct application.

Furthermore, the funding has been used to support the application of many EU legal instruments in judicial cooperation in criminal matters, such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), which with over 10 000 cases per year is the most successful EU instrument in criminal matters. The Electronic Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS), a decentralised IT system operated by the central authorities of the EU Member States has registered an increase in the number of exchanges of information. In the period January-October 2019, the number of exchanges of information in ECRIS was 3 525 000 (3 700 000 expected by the end of 2019) and exceeded its 2020 target of 3 500 000.

Further to the Council Conclusions from 9 June 2016 on improving criminal justice in cyberspace, IT development activities are ongoing towards the establishment of a common e-Evidence Digital Exchange system, enabling secure electronic communication between the competent national authorities to obtain evidence in criminal matters. This system, is a first step to digitalise judicial cooperation procedures in criminal matters and uses e-Codex as a secure transmission channel, a system that was developed by several Member States through a grant from the Justice Programme. The e-Evidence Digital Exchange System will become operational in 2020 with additional improvements and developments planned in a 2021-2027 perspective.

Projects were funded via the Justice Programme to enhance the use of alternatives to imprisonment both in the pre-trial and post-trial stage and to improve detention conditions in the Member States. Funding has also focused on projects relating to the judicial responses to terrorism, notably on reinforcing the prevention of radicalisation, especially in prisons. Improving prison conditions has become a political priority also at EU level because they affect the efficient operation of EU mutual recognition instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), and because of the danger of radicalisation in prisons. The Justice Programme has financed also the cooperation with the Council of Europe to set up a network of prison monitoring bodies and the SPACE report, an annual report on prison statistics, providing clear insights into the detention situations in the different Member States, which have a direct impact on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Specific objective 2: Judicial training

Record participation numbers were reached again, thanks to the financial support to networks and projects. More than 1 million legal practitioners were trained on EU law between 2011 and 2018 ⁽⁵⁾, including a record number of more than 190 000 in 2018 alone, partly with EU funds, thus surpassing the goal set by the 2011 European judicial training strategy two years ahead of the deadline. In 2018, more than 18 353 legal practitioners were trained through the Justice Programme's financial support to cross-border training activities and to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). The European Judicial Training Network trained a record number of 6 567 judges and prosecutors, judicial trainers and trainees from all EU Member States. The training activities have been organised in an increasingly efficient manner – its 'cost-to-serve' ratio (i.e., the price per person for one training day offered in Europe) decreased every year from 630 EUR in 2007 to 307 EUR in 2018 thanks to improvements in its administrative and financial management. In 2019, the Justice Programme funded the creation of an awareness raising package on the European Public Prosecutor's Office, for the information of the legal practitioners and for re-use by their training providers ⁽⁶⁾. The Justice Programme also funded the creation by the EJTN of judicial training material ⁽⁷⁾ and of a publication by practitioners and academics on the rule of law ⁽⁸⁾.

Specific objective 3: Access to justice

The Justice Programme has contributed to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime, e.g. Council Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims, Directive 2011/99/EU in the European Protection Order, Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and Regulation (EU) 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters. Via the 2014-2019 annual work programmes, 13.2 million euro were awarded to 46 projects aiming at, for example, capacity-building for professionals, multi-disciplinary cooperation, exchanges of good practices, dissemination and awareness-raising. Almost all of these projects involve cross-border cooperation. DG Justice and Consumer has also signed Framework Partnership and awarded operating grants to umbrella organisations that contribute to the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive at European level, e.g. Victim Support Europe, the European Forum for Restorative Justice and more recently the Association of the European Network on Victims' Rights which gathers national experts from Members States.

Similarly, the Justice Programme has supported the development and implementation of the measures related to the 2009 Roadmap on strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings (Directives on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, on the right to information in criminal proceedings, on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings, on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings, on procedural safeguards of children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings). Via the 2014-2019 annual work programmes, 12.1 million

⁽⁵⁾ 2019 DG Justice Report on European judicial training: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2019_judicial_training_report_final_web_pdf

⁽⁶⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/eppo-infographic-en_en; https://ec.europa.eu/info/eppo-factsheets_en; https://ec.europa.eu/info/eppo-brochures-0_en

⁽⁷⁾ 'Training Guide on the Rule of Law – for Judges and Prosecutors': <http://www.ejtn.eu/News/Rule-of-Law-in-Europe-Perspectives-from-Practitioners-and-Academics/>

⁽⁸⁾ 'Rule of Law in Europe – Perspectives from Practitioners and Academics': <http://www.ejtn.eu/News/Rule-of-Law-in-Europe-Perspectives-from-Practitioners-and-Academics/>

euro were awarded to 38 projects aiming at capacity-building for professionals, mutual learning, exchanges of good practices, data collection, dissemination and awareness-raising, etc. Almost all of these projects involve cross-border cooperation.

DG Justice and Consumer has also signed Framework Partnership Agreements and awarded operating grants to judicial networks active at European level, e.g. European Network of Councils for the Judiciary, the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial courts of the European Union, the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions. These networks are essential to promote the EU policy on rule of law and on justice reforms and to collect data on structural judicial independence, which is a precondition for effective access to justice. The data collected by the networks have been used in every EU Justice Scoreboard – an annual information tool with comparable data on the independence, quality and efficiency of national justice systems – since 2014.

The Justice Programme has also financed the cooperation between the European Commission and the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). CEPEJ collects data on the functioning of the justice systems of its members according to its well-established and recognised methodology. This data has enabled the European Commission to successfully expand the EU Justice Scoreboard which is an information tool that helps the EU achieve more effective justice.

The Justice Programme finances the maintenance and extension of the European e-Justice Portal⁽⁹⁾, a joint initiative between the Commission and the Council of the EU, which provides a host of multilingual informational content, as well as a number of electronic services, such as interconnections of national registers. Over time, the e-Justice Portal has evolved to offer increased and wider content, also incorporating results and tools developed under other projects funded via the Justice Programme, to become a one-stop shop for citizens, businesses, legal professionals and the judiciary. Since 2016, the Portal has been enhanced with a large-scale search engine for European and national case law (the ECLI Search Engine) and now provides a search functionality allowing decentralised look-ups in Member States' business and commercial registers. In 2019, the number of hits by users – more than 4 million – showed close to a ten-fold increase compared to the 2012 baseline.

Specific objective 4: Drugs initiatives

Illicit drugs are a complex social and health problem that affects millions of people in the EU and globally. More drugs being available in Europe year-by-year, overdose deaths increasing, new marketplaces becoming available, and Europe has a growing role in synthetic drug production. The current EU Drugs Strategy, EU Action Plan on Drugs and corresponding EU financial instruments set out a balanced, integrated and evidence-based approach to drugs, which joins law enforcement and public health considerations.

The key focus within the drugs-related objective continues to be on expanding the knowledge base on the phenomenon of New Psychoactive Substances, and in particular on identification methods and protocols, enhancing cross-border cooperation within the EU in this area and exploring the area of epidemiology of use of New Psychoactive Substances. In addition, an emphasis was put on strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to contribute to the implementation of the EU Drug Strategy and its current Action Plan.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 which started in 2017 and was completed in 2018⁽¹⁰⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statement 2020. The ex-post evaluation of the programme assessing the long-term impact and the sustainability of the effects of the Programme will be completed in 2021.

The evaluation of the 2011-2020 European judicial training strategy was adopted in 2019⁽¹¹⁾. It shows that the strategy has contributed to increasing knowledge on EU law while reinforcing mutual trust between legal practitioners. Its main objective, that half of all EU legal practitioners should attend training on EU law between 2011 and 2020, was already reached in 2017. The evaluation shows that the strategy led to an almost doubling of EU funds available for training legal practitioners and significant improvements in the capacity of networks and training providers. In terms of stakeholders, EJTN is the main platform and promoter for the training and exchange of knowledge of the European judiciary. The success of the strategy is also due to streamlined efforts of the Network. The evaluation results confirm the need to better reach some categories of justice professionals (court staff, lawyers, bailiffs) and further focus on topics such as the rule of law, fundamental rights, judgecraft and legal terminology. The need for new objectives (for e.g. qualitative ones) was noted. The indispensable character of the EU intervention and its clear benefits were largely acknowledged; in particular the increase in cross-border training activities and judicial exchanges could not have been achieved without an EU intervention.

Concerning the *Drugs initiatives* objective, an evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy was launched in 2018. The purpose of the evaluation is to give a state of play of the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy and its Action Plan and analyse the functioning of the strategy, as well as to show the impact of the implemented actions against the 5 objectives of the Strategy:

⁽⁹⁾ <https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do?plang=en&action=home>

⁽¹⁰⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 COM(2018) 507 final).

⁽¹¹⁾ Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the European judicial training strategy: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/5_en_document_travail_service_part1_v2.pdf

- To contribute to a measurable reduction of the demand for drugs, of drug dependence and of drug-related health and social risks and harms;
- To contribute to a disruption of the illicit drugs market and a measurable reduction of the availability of illicit drugs;
- To encourage coordination through active discourse and analysis of developments and challenges in the field of drugs at EU and international level;
- To further strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and third countries and international organisations on drug issues;
- To contribute to a better dissemination of monitoring, research and evaluation results and a better understanding of all aspects of the drugs phenomenon and of the impact of interventions in order to provide sound and comprehensive evidence-base for policies and actions.

Forthcoming implementation

The evaluation of calls for proposals and award of grants planned under the Justice Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2020 will be finalised by the end of 2020.

The AWP 2020 was adopted on 5 November 2019. It provides for:

- 6 calls for proposals for action grants;
- 1 operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base – the European Judicial Training Network;
- 13 operating grants for framework partners in the area of judicial cooperation and access to justice;
- Procurement activities, including managing the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters, a study for the preparation of the EU Justice Scoreboard, studies supporting the implementation of the Council e-Justice Action Plan 2019-2023 and the digitalisation of justice, IT development activities (e.g. e-Justice and e-Evidence) and others.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021-2027, the Commission proposed a new Justice Programme which should continue to support the first three specific objectives from the period 2014-2020. It will be important to continue funding projects from civil society and public authorities through action grants, funding key networks and stakeholders through operating grants and to allow the Commission to organise expert meetings and finance studies to accompany the developments in the area of criminal justice. Sufficient budget at least at the same level as for the current MFF will need to be provided for that purpose. It should continue to give the Commission sufficient flexibility to react to new political priorities. In that respect, greater flexibility to allocate funding between specific objectives would be an improvement. For 2021 the level of funding planned is similar to that of 2020. The preparations for the adoption of the Annual Work Programme (AWP) 2021 will follow the same schedule as that for AWP 2020 in view of adopting it at the latest in November 2020.

Training of justice professionals on EU law will continue to be high on the agenda, as a tool to ensure the correct application of present and future EU law, mutual trust in cross-border judicial proceedings and a common European judicial culture. EU-level judicial training will also be an instrument to strengthen the compliance with the fundamental principles of justice systems, such as independence, transparency and efficiency. The Council of the EU also agreed on the importance of strengthening and developing judicial training to ensure the effectiveness of Justice and reinforce mutual trust during its informal meeting in January 2020 under the Croatian presidency.

On e-Justice, in 2021-2027, our work will follow the Commission policy priorities, in-line with the Mission letter to Commissioner Reynders to ‘look at how to make the most of new digital technologies to improve the efficiency and functioning of our justice systems’. The focus will be in the following key areas (activities will take the form of procurement, studies and grants, as relevant):

- Supporting the implementation of the Council e-Justice Action Plan 2019-2023, and the subsequent period (2024-2028);
- Improving the information content on the e-Justice Portal;
- Digitalisation of EU cross-border judicial procedures (making them ‘digital by default’);
- Building further interconnections of national databases and registers;
- Supporting the development of ‘Legal Tech’ initiatives.

To bring further synergies and clarity in the area of drugs policy, in the programming period 2021-2027 the drugs-related objectives currently covered by the Justice Programme will be addressed mainly by the Internal Security Fund. There will also be synergies with the health strand of the European Social Fund+, in particular on public health aspects of drugs policy such as research on the epidemiology aspects of the use and abuse of drugs, health services to patients in the area of drugs, harm reduction and prevention of drugs related deaths.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Justice Programme for the period 2014 to 2020	2014 – 2020	377,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	0,9	1,0	7,9
Operational appropriations	45,8	47,2	50,2	52,3	45,9	43,7	45,6	330,8
Total	47,0	48,4	51,4	53,5	47,1	44,6	46,6	338,7

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	44,590	99,98 %	46,671	98,19 %	46,553	8,03 %	42,640	30,60 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	45,352	99,20 %	48,220	96,75 %	46,939	8,40 %	43,548	31,22 %

(*) 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 outputs of the Justice Programme are closely linked to the Commission activity on preparing, supporting and ensuring the correct implementation of an important number of EU legal instruments in civil and criminal law, improving their enforcement and remedy capacities in Member States, and ensuring an adequate cross border and EU level cooperation.

The Justice Programme contribute to the development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust, by supporting judicial cooperation, judicial training.

The Justice Programme has supported conformity check studies for EU legislation transposed in the EU Member States. It has equally successfully supported judicial networks and judicial training. Proper application of EU law is in fact a key element to allow EU citizens and business to benefit from EU law. This is achieved through both preventive actions (workshops, expert meetings, stakeholder dialogue, technical guidelines for national authorities and training of legal practitioners financed through the Programme) and infringement procedures.

The activities funded by the Programme resulted in better implementation of EU justice instruments (e.g. European Investigation Order, European Arrest warrant and surrender procedures, European Protection Order, European Account Preservation Order, family law) and faster proceedings through cooperation, dialogue, sharing of experience, exchange of information, training activities and harmonisation of practices. Analytical activities also helped monitor the correct implementation of existing EU legislation, prepare or accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the areas covered by the programme.

The actions of the programme as far as the *Specific Objective 1: Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters* is concerned are achieving their goals:

- The Programme has helped to improve the implementation and functioning of existing legislative cooperation instruments. This applies both to older instruments where the Programme allowed to identify shortcomings or problems in implementation and application, and more recent ones, where it allowed to equip practitioners with better knowledge on how to apply them. Through procurement actions, regular meetings gathering practitioners from Member States could be organised, and compliance studies could be financed. Action grants to cross-border projects and operating grants to key European networks and stakeholders have also contributed to making Member States work together better and improved mutual trust. In general, the financial tools offered by the Programme can be seen as a useful complement to the Commission's infringement powers. Moreover, the Justice Programme has also helped, through the identification of gaps and problems in the existing legal framework, through action grants, but also studies and expert meetings, to prepare new legislation proposed by the Commission (e.g. Regulation on mutual confiscation of freezing and confiscation orders, e-evidence package). It has demonstrated the necessary flexibility to allow the Commission to take action to react to events like terrorist attacks, or to fund activities on radicalisation in prisons, often in response to calls from Council or European Parliament. The Programme has also allowed to strengthen cooperation with international organisations such as the Council of Europe, e.g. on prison monitoring.

- The e-Evidence Digital Exchange System which enables secure electronic communication between the competent national authorities to obtain evidence in criminal matters, will become operational in the course of 2020 digitalising the European Investigation Order and Mutual Legal Assistance. The system will significantly facilitate and expedite cross-border cooperation in criminal matters. Initially, the system was supposed to become functional by the end of 2019, however, Member States needed additional time to test the system and to make all the necessary arrangements at administrative level.
- The programme has supported the development of ICT tools with the purpose of enhancing access to information; under ECRIS, the Electronic Criminal Records Information System, a decentralised IT system operated by the central authorities of the EU Member States, extended under the Justice Programme, in 2019 the increase in the number of exchanges of information was almost tenfold compared to the 2012 baseline.
- The Programme has contributed to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the Member States, e.g. the Victim's Rights Directive (establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime) and the development and implementation of the measures related to the 2009 Roadmap on strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings. The programme has financed activities aiming at capacity-building of professionals, multi-disciplinary cooperation, exchanges of good practices, dissemination and awareness-raising, etc.
- The Programme has also contributed to the effective, comprehensive and consistent implementation of Union law policies and in particular it has funded projects in the area of fight against radicalisation in prisons. Improving prison conditions has become a political priority at EU level because they affect the efficient operation of EU mutual recognition instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), and because of the risk of radicalisation in prisons.

The Justice Programme has overall performed very well in achieving its goals as far as the *Specific Objective 2: Judicial training* is concerned. Training is an important instrument of the Programme with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture and effective access to justice in Europe. Training activities ranged from traditional courses and seminars, case studies and practice-oriented activities, to videoconferences and training based on e-learning resources. Other activities included conferences, compilation of guidelines and training methodologies, organisation of staff exchanges, public-private partnerships for innovation and support for main actors (key European networks in the area of judicial training). Under the 2014-2019 period, the Justice Programme gave a real boost to the support of cross-border judicial training at EU level. The funds dedicated to this specific objective represented an increase of 80 % in comparison with the previous programming period under the then Civil and Criminal Justice Programmes. This enabled the number of legal practitioners participating in supported cross-border training activities to increase exponentially. The overall number of participants in training projects supported by the Justice Programme (including those by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)) increased from 11 724 in 2014 to 18 358 in 2018. Under the EJTN's annual training programmes (also supported via the Justice Programme), the number of participants increased from 4 256 in 2014 to 6 567 in 2018, while the performance or 'cost-to-serve' ratio (i.e., the price per person for one training day offered in Europe) decreased from EUR 332 in 2014 to EUR 307 in 2018.

The actions of the programme as far as the *Specific Objective 3: Access to justice* is concerned are achieving their goals to facilitate access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence.

- The Programme has helped to improve the implementation and functioning of existing instruments on procedural rights and victims' rights. This applies both to older instruments, where the Programme allowed to identify shortcomings or problems in implementation and application, and more recent ones, where it allowed to equip practitioners and national authorities with better knowledge on how to apply them. Through procurement actions, regular meetings gathering practitioners from Member States could be organised, and compliance studies could be financed. Action grants to cross-border projects and operating grants to key European networks and stakeholders have also contributed to making Member States work together better and improved mutual trust. The financial tools offered by the Programme can be seen as a useful complement to the Commission's infringement powers. Moreover, the Justice Programme has also helped, through the identification of gaps and problems in the existing legal framework, through action grants, but also studies and expert meetings, to prepare new legislative initiatives.
- e-Justice related actions have contributed in a tangible way towards achieving the goals of this Specific Objective. In particular:
 - The European e-Justice Portal, a one-stop shop for justice matters, contributes significantly to improving and facilitating the access to justice for citizens, businesses, national authorities, legal practitioners and the judiciary. Over the years, it has grown to more than 150 topics in a wide variety of areas. The Portal gives access to information on a number of EU cross-border proceedings, as well as national information such as sources of case law, information on judicial systems in the EU, rights of victims and defendants, training material and many others. Thanks to the continuous enhancements to the Portal, it now sees a gradual and steady increase in terms of annual visits (over 4 million hits were registered in 2019). Good examples of successful projects are the Find a lawyer and Find a notary search tools, the interconnection of the business and insolvency registers, the search engine for European and national case law (the ECLI Search Engine), etc. In the period 2014-2019, an important activity has been the modernisation of the interface of the e-Justice Portal, including new functionalities and online tools.
 - The e-Justice Action Grants supported delivering on the priorities in this domain, namely by supporting the implementation of the e-Justice Action Plans for the period 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

- Relevant studies were conducted under the Justice Programme, aiming to support the implementation of the e-Justice Action Plans. The latest study focuses on the use of innovative technologies ('Legal Tech') in the justice field.
- In 2016, pursuant to the Council Conclusions from 9 June 2016 on the European Judicial Cybercrime, IT development activities have started towards the establishment of a common e-Evidence Digital Exchange system, enabling efficient and cheap electronic communication between the competent national authorities in the area of criminal procedural law. Work on this system took place in 2017-2019 while it is planned for the system to be operational in 2020.

The actions of the programme as far as the *Specific Objective 4: Drugs initiatives* is concerned are achieving their goals. Drugs combat is typically a cross-border and Union-wide challenge that the Programme aims to address. Programme activities support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects, in so far as they are not covered by the Internal security fund for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management or by the Health for Growth Programme. In parallel to the legislative work, the key focus within the drugs-related objective was on expanding the knowledge base on the phenomenon of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), and in particular on identification methods and protocols, enhancing cross-border cooperation within the EU in this area and exploring the area of epidemiology of use of New Psychoactive Substances. In addition, an emphasis was put on strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to contribute to the implementation of the EU Drug Strategy 2013-2020 and its current Action Plan.

The two indicators which are used to measure effects of the Programme related to this specific objective demonstrate stability in the impact of the programme's actions in this field however there are deviations compared to the targets set at the beginning of the programming period. This is due to programme related factors but can be also explained by external factors/context:

- The first indicator concerns the number of new psychoactive substances assessed (including through testing, if necessary) to enable the EU or the Member States to take appropriate action to protect consumers, depending on the type and level of risk that they may pose when consumed by humans. The indicator is based on the actual number of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) detected and notified to the European Union Early Warning System Network. The data is provided by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Changes of this indicator as compared with previous years should be interpreted with caution – ideally we would prefer to see zero NPS reported, as ideally, there would be no illicit NPS on the market whatsoever. On the other hand, many of the newly reported substances – while fewer in number – are more dangerous, cause addiction more rapidly, and present more serious environmental harms. When we defined the milestones at the beginning of the programming period, the situation on what concerns the NPS was very different from what we see today. The number of detected NPS was much higher – of around 100 per year, and we were at the beginning of setting regulatory and law enforcement response to this emerging issue. Now, we see a lower number of detected substances overall, which explains the difference from the milestone and target; figures continued to decline in 2014-2019, with 53 newly reported substances in 2019. As the detection as well as legal and law enforcement response to the challenge improved substantially since 2014, we see a corresponding change on the illicit market for NPS. This explains the difference from the milestones and final targets on this indicator.
- The second indicator concerns the percentage of problem opioid users that are in drug treatment (substitution treatment (OST) and other treatment) across the EU (estimates from 9 countries are available and rates vary from 19 % to 88 %). The proportion provides only partial information as such, as it is based on the overall figure of problem opioid users. The increase or decrease of this indicator should be interpreted based on a more detailed narrative: there were 1.3 million of high-risk opioid users, of which 654 000 received treatment, according to the latest available information – based on the latest available data provided by the European Drug Report 2019. The number of opioid users who received substitution treatment was 628 000 in 2018, 630 000 in 2017, 644 000 in 2016, 700 000 in 2015 and 700 000 in 2014 while the total number of problem/high risk opioid users was around 1.3 million across the reporting period. As compared to 2018, the number of opioid users who received treatment in 2019 increased by about 26 000 (source: http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/11364/20191724_TDAT19001ENN_PDF.pdf). When we defined this indicator the situation on what concerns the illicit opioids was different from what we see today. Europe has experienced different waves of heroin addiction, and in many Member States we now observe an ageing, stable group of problematic opioid drug users. On what concerns the availability of substitution treatment, one has to consider emerging threats of other illicit substances, such as cocaine and NPS, which absorbed much of limited public resources allocated to counter the challenge of illicit drugs; therefore, limiting resources available to substitution treatments for problematic opioid users.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust, in particular by promoting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of legal professionals receiving training (not only through the Programme) on EU law or law of another Member State, including Civil Justice, Criminal Justice and Fundamental Rights								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

239 000			420 000	490 000			800 000	800 000
	Actual results							
	371 000	494 753	638 000	820 199	1 023 919			

Comment: Commission Communication 'Building trust in EU-wide justice, a new dimension to European judicial training', COM(2011) 551 final. 2018 DG Justice Report on European judicial training: <https://e-justice.europa.eu/fileDownload.do?id=515e1523-3df3-4a23-890e-bb29db3d9a41>

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Performance

With regard to Indicator 1 'average time of the surrender procedure (time between the arrest and the decision on the surrender of the person sought) under the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) in cases where the person consents to the surrender', the result for 2018 of 16,4 days was above the milestone of 10 days for 2018 (also the target for 2020). According to Article 17(2) of the Framework Decision on the EAW, in cases where the requested person consents to his surrender, the final decision on the execution of the EAW should be taken within a period of 10 days after consent has been given (this is why we have set the 2020 target to 10 days). This indicator is calculated on the basis of statistics we receive from the Member States, however, there is no legal obligation for them to provide this data and, consequently, we do not have the full picture (22 Member States provided replies). In 2018, the surrender procedure lasted on average 16,41 days after the arrest (14,99 days in 2017). The highest averages reported in some Member States were higher than in 2017. In 2018, the highest was 43 days for Denmark (a few cases took a very long time to process which considerably increased the average) and 38 days for Slovakia. However, on the low side, the average was still 1 day in Malta (as in 2017), 3,5 days in Luxemburg and 4 in Hungary (against respectively 1 and 2 days in 2017). Delays in some Member States might be explained by additional requests for information, as a result of case law of the CJEU, in particular after the *Aranyosi* judgment of 2016 on detention conditions, as well as the *LM* judgment on independence of the judiciary in 2018.

The 'Indicator 2: number of exchanges of information in the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)' actual results outperformed compared to the set milestones demonstrating an improvement in the impact of the programme's actions in this field.

Indicator 1: Average time of the surrender procedure (time between the arrest and the decision on the surrender of the person sought) under the European Arrest Warrant in cases where the person consents to the surrender

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2005-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
14-20					14		10	10
	Actual results							
	19	14	16	15	16			

Indicator 2: Number of exchanges of information in the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
300 000				2 400 000	2 750 000	3 125 000	3 500 000	3 500 000
	Actual results							
	1 250 000	1 811 546	1 978 104	2 571 991	2 963 789	3 700 000		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc)	33 03 02	19	3.546
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 03 02	25	6.650
Support to key actors	33 03 02	6	1.465
Total			11.661

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	9	9	8	11	13	13	19
	P	3		8	11	16	10	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	40	42	44	47	30	30	25
	P	30	43	24	40	36	27	
Support to key actors	F	7	8	8	6	6	6	6
	P	9	6	7	6	6	6	

Specific Objective 2: to support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

Performance

The ‘Indicator 1: number and percentage of members of the judiciary and judicial staff that participated in training activities, staff exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars funded by the Programme’ actual results outperformed compared to the set milestones demonstrating an improvement in the impact of the programme’s actions in this field.

Indicator 1: The number and percentage of members of the judiciary and judicial staff that participated in training activities, staff exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars funded by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number: 0				14 155			16 000	16 000
	Actual results							
	11 724	16 123	13 930	16 439	18 358			
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage: 0.00 %								
	Actual results							
	0.82 %	0.99 %	0.86 %	1.02 %	1.14 %			

Methodology: Data collected from the grants applications and contracts

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Training activities	33 03 01	18	5.350
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 03 01	4	320
Support to key actors	33 03 01	1	11.000
Total			17.570

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Training activities	F	40	42	44	47	23	50	18
	P	38	30	27	23	34	14	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	9	9	8	7	2	2	4
	P	3	2	5	2	1	2	
Support to key actors	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Specific Objective 3: to facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

Performance

The ‘Indicator 1: number of hits on the e-justice portal’ actual results outperformed compared to the set milestones demonstrating an improvement in the impact of the programme’s actions in this field. The number of hits on the e-Justice Portal (Indicator 1) has been increasing steadily over the years. The only divergence was registered in 2018, due to a change in the corporate system for

gathering statistics. The new system was introduced in 2017 and registers hits based on a different algorithm, which resulted in a discrepancy of 20-30 %.

The ‘Indicator 2: number of Victim Support Organisations with national coverage’ actual results match the set milestones demonstrating an achievement of the programme’s actions in this field.

Indicator 1: Number of hits on the e-justice portal								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
441 000	992 250	1 488 375	2 232 563	2 679 075	3 214 890	3 857 868	4 629 442	4 629 442
	Actual results							
	1 136 849	1 751 180	1 884 600	2 690 574	2 962 558	4 343 547		

Narrative: Target: (+ 20 % per year)

Comment: As of 2017, the data are obtained from a new tool for website statistics tracking, with a different calculation method. The targets for period 2014-2016 were adjusted to the new calculation method. The table below provides data according to different calculation methods.

Indicator 2: Number of Victim Support Organisations with national coverage (implementation of Directive 2012/29/EU)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
10				27			27	27
	Actual results							
	20	22	22	27	27	27		

Comment: The indicators should be developed by the VSO and/or Member States and should include inter alia an appropriate geographical coverage of the country and a necessary training of the staff. The Victims’ Rights Directive is not applicable to Denmark.

Source: Fundamental Rights Agency report on Victims of crime in the EU: the extent and nature of support for victims.

Unit of measure: VSO – at least one VSO in each Member States fulfilling the quality standards/indicators

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 03 01	10	5.093
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 03 01	25	5.800
Support to key actors	33 03 01	7	2.480
Total			13.373

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	9	9	5	5	7	10	10
	P	19	11	3	5	10	13	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	38	41	44	47	35	25	25
	P	34	37	25	26	24	25	
Support to key actors	F	7	3	7	7	7	7	7
	P	9	7	7	7	7	7	

Specific Objective 4: to support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects closely linked to the general objective of the Programme, insofar as they are not covered by the Internal Security Fund or by the Health for Growth Programme

Performance

The ‘Indicator 1: number of new psychoactive substances assessed’ actual results show that the set milestones were not achieved. This is due to various programme and external/context factors explained in Section 3 Programme performance section above.

The ‘Indicator 2: Percentage of problem opioid users that are in drug treatment’ actual results show that the set milestones were not achieved. This is due to various programme and external/context factors explained in Section 3 Programme performance section above.

Indicator 1: Number of new psychoactive substances assessed (including through testing, if necessary) to enable the EU or the Member States to take appropriate action to protect consumers, depending on the type and level of risk that they may pose when consumed by humans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
68				86			95	95
	Actual results							
	101	100	66	52	55	53		

Comment: The indicator is based on the actual number of New Psychoactive Substances detected and notified to the European Union Early Warning System Network. The data is provided by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), an EU Agency based in Lisbon. Changes of this indicator as compared with previous years should be interpreted with caution – ideally we would prefer to see zero NPS substances reported, as ideally, there would be no illicit NPS on the market whatsoever. On the other hand, many of the newly reported substances – while fewer in number – are more dangerous, cause addiction more rapidly, and present more serious environmental harms.

Indicator 2: Percentage of problem opioid users that are in drug treatment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
50 %				55 %			60 %	60 %
	Actual results							
	50 %	50 %	50 %	50 %	48 %	50 %		

Comment: The estimated percentage of problem opioid users in substitution treatment (OST) across the EU. With regard to the percentage of problem opioid users in any type of drug treatment (OST and other drug treatment), estimates from 9 countries are available and rates vary from 19 % to 88 %. The indicator reflects the proportion of problematic opioid users that are in drug treatment. The proportion provides only partial information as such, as it is based on the overall figure of problem opioid users. The increase or decrease of this indicator should be interpreted based on a more detailed narrative: there were 1.3 million of high-risk opioid users, of which 654 000 received treatment, according to the latest available information (based on the latest available data provided by the European Drug Report 2019). According to EMCDDA reports the number of opioid users who received substitution treatment: 628 000 in 2018, 630 000 in 2017, 644 000 in 2016, 700 000 in 2015 and 700 000 in 2014 while the total number of problem/high risk opioid users was around 1.3 million across the reporting period. As compared to previous year, the number of opioid users who received treatment increased by about 26 000.

Source: http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/11364/20191724_TDAT19001ENN_PDF.pdf

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc)	18 06 01	1	0.5
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	18 06 01	11	2.499
Total			2.999

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc)	F	2	2	3	1	2	1	1
	P	5	2	0	1	1		
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	8	8	8	12	7	11	11
	P	5	6	0	14	7		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Gender mainstreaming

In all calls for proposals under the Justice Programme the projects shall seek to promote equality between women and men. This is required by the Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) 1382/2013 establishing a Justice Programme 2014-2020. When planning the project, the applicants should demonstrate in their proposal how this will be respected at implementation stage (gender

mainstreaming aspects are considered while assessing the quality of the proposed action). Beneficiaries are required to detail in their final activity report the steps and achievements they made towards meeting this requirement.

Moreover, during proposal evaluation, the pool of evaluators is required to have a reasonable gender balance. Briefing material provided to the evaluators specifies that:

- *Gender mainstreaming* means integrating a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a project as appropriate. A project must not silence, stereotype, stigmatise, lay the blame or discriminate against men or women. On the contrary, measures should be pro-active and contribute to the equal empowerment of both genders, and ensure that they achieve their full potential, enjoy the same rights and opportunities. Gender mainstreaming goes beyond counting the number of women and men in a room. Rather, gender mainstreaming addresses the gender inequalities that are at the core of a project, policy or process, leading to more gender-sensitive actions.
- The project shall endeavour to build capacity within the project team and among stakeholders to ensure the continued integration of a gender perspective within the area of intervention after the project ends. In the delivery of project activities gender mainstreaming shall be ensured by:
 - Collecting sex disaggregated data to track gender equality results and assess gender impacts.
 - Monitoring access, participation, and benefits among women and men and incorporate remedial action that redresses any gender inequalities in project implementation.
 - Regularly reporting on how gender is mainstreamed and ensure that evaluations integrate gender-specific evaluation questions.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme

Lead DG: JUST

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme aims to contribute to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons, as enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the international human rights conventions, are promoted and effectively implemented. Its specific objectives include promoting non-discrimination, rights of persons with disabilities, equality between women and men, the rights of the child, as well as the rights deriving from Union citizenship. Furthermore, it aims to combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance, prevent violence against children, young people, women and other groups at risk (Daphne strand), and to ensure the highest level of data protection as well as consumer rights.

With a budget of EUR 62 million in 2018, the REC Programme financed actions developed by public authorities, universities, non-governmental organisations and other organisations that support the Commission's policies in fundamental rights. The actions consist of: mutual learning and exchange of good practises; awareness-raising and media campaigns; training activities; analytical activities, such as studies, researches, surveys and evaluations.

EU added value of the programme

The EU actions funded by the REC Programme have contributed to bring tangible benefits to EU citizens. Hereafter some concrete examples. In many areas, such as consumer law, equality and non-discrimination or citizenship, data protection, individuals are protected by European legislation, but are not sufficiently aware about their rights: awareness-raising actions at EU-level are necessary to fill this national gap.

Due to EU funding, the political debate on gender equality has improved and several countries took measures to implement new legislation to increase the number of women in decision-making positions or to reduce the gender pay gap.

The EU level intervention has been particularly relevant also to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance as well as to promote the exercise of rights deriving from the EU citizenship in view of the lack of significant investment in those fields at national levels.

According to the majority of beneficiaries, in the absence of the Programme funds, similar activities would not have taken place or not be possible with the same coverage in terms of beneficiaries and target groups, due to lack of available resources at Member State level. This is particularly relevant for the training actions in the field of prevention of all forms of violence and in the field of data protection. Similarly, EU funding for EU level organisations is particularly vital as national funding for a transnational network would be even more difficult to obtain.

Moreover, projects financed by the Programme, according to surveyed stakeholders, seem to have higher quality and to be more innovative than those funded at the national level. In particular, these projects, by allowing innovative approaches to be experimented with, can be used to show national governments the benefits of the activities undertaken. For example, trainings at schools in the field of bullying would not apply innovative methods, such as those involving both perpetrators and victims.

The funding of the European Disability Card, which aims at promoting the enjoyment of equal rights of disable people across all the EU, MS is another example of concrete EU added value.

Finally, the demand for Programme funding has continued to be high throughout the implementation of the Programme. All these findings suggest that there is sustained demand for EU-level action in the fields covered by the Programme ⁽¹⁾.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers is the lead DG for the Programme implementation, with Programme and Financial management unit in charge. The Programme is implemented through direct management. Funds are deployed via grants (around 80 %) and procurement (around 20 %) contracts. Procurement is the acquisition of a service by the Commission from an economic operator, which is selected following a call for tenders' procedure. Grants are financial contributions by the Commission in order to finance: an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective (action grants); the functioning of a body which has an objective forming part of, and supporting, a Union policy (operating grants). The award of a grant follows, in general, a call for proposals' procedure.

⁽¹⁾ [Report COM/2018/508](#) on the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The REC Programme is being implemented as envisaged in the Annual Work Programmes (AWPs). The AWP 2019 was adopted on 29 November 2018 ⁽²⁾. The AWP 2018 ⁽³⁾ and 2017 ⁽⁴⁾ were adopted on 20 December 2017 and 1 March 2017 respectively. The adoption of the AWPs in year N-1 sets the ground for a timely implementation of EU policies in the areas of rights, equality and citizenship.

Concerning the AWP 2019, for the first time, the selection procedure of all calls for proposals was finalised in the same year 2019. All operating grants were signed before the end of the year as well as half of the action grants selected under the calls for proposals. The signature of remaining action grants is planned for the first half of 2020, aiming to commit all available funding by that time. The consumption rate improved along years, reaching 99 % for the AWP 2018 and 98 % for the AWP 2017.

Key achievements

Specific Objective 1: to promote the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds, provided for in Article 21 of the Charter

The Programme supports actions to promote non-discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation, funding transnational activities and civil society organisations. It contributed to raising awareness and acceptance of LGBTI people across the EU by funding EU-wide awareness raising activities as part of the Commission's List of actions to advance LGBTI equality (#EU4LGBTI).

The Programme finances more than 30 projects every year to combat discrimination and promote equality. For instance, 'TOY for Inclusion', a project implemented in 2017-2018, has been successful in fostering social inclusion for Roma children and families, enhancing social cohesion and improving Roma children's experience of transition to primary school. Eight community-based early childhood education and care play hub were opened, building relationships between Roma and non-Roma young children and their families, where interaction is supported in safe play spaces across all generations. About 3.200 children took part in the play hub activities, out of which around 35 % were of Roma origin, and about 80 workshops and info sessions were held adults, including parenting support, intergenerational activities, handcraft and toy-making.

Specific objective 2: to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance

In recent years, the Programme has helped advancing the Commission's work on preventing and combating racism and xenophobia. It has served to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to criminalise hate speech and hate crime effectively on the ground, as well as to support victims. It supported more than 100 projects since 2014, such as 'Facing all the facts', developing online training modules targeted at public authorities, 'Good Practice Plus', developing a toolkit to law enforcement and prosecutors in the partner countries, and 'EStAR', establishing a network of EU experts on victims' support.

Online hate speech has been on the rise in the last years due to the increased use of social media: this has a direct impact on the raise of racism and intolerance: therefore, the programme was also used in 2019 to enhance the effective implementation of the Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, as well as to enhance the understanding of the phenomenon and to foster positive narratives through education, campaigns and awareness raising activities. Projects such as 'INACH' and 'SCAN' contributed actively to the Commission-led regular monitoring exercises on the implementation of the Code of conduct.

Specific objective 3: to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

The programme supports the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, helps people with disabilities to travel more easily between EU countries (European Disability Card), raises awareness through organisation of disability events and trains judges and prosecutors on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For instance, the Programme funded the awareness raising campaign on Discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race and ethnic origins, religion and beliefs, age and disabilities (#EuvsDiscrimination).

The Programme provides every year 7 operating grants to major EU-level networks of disability organisations, such as the European Disability Forum and those organised by impairment groups, blind, deaf, etc. These networks implement a wide range of activities, from awareness raising campaigns to building capacity to fight discrimination, supporting the development of equality policies or disability indicators for data collection.

Through the organisation of the Access City Award, the Programme recognises leading European cities in terms of accessibility, promoting cities that contribute to improve accessibility following a 'design-for all' approach, so that everybody regardless of mobility or ability that could be related to age has equal access to all the resources and venues cities have to offer.

Specific objective 4: To promote equality between women and men and to advance gender mainstreaming

⁽²⁾ [C\(2018\) 7916](#)

⁽³⁾ [C\(2017\) 8518](#)

⁽⁴⁾ [C\(2017\) 7154](#) modifying [C\(2017\) 1316](#)

Closing gender gaps and eliminating discrimination and inequalities are key to the promotion of gender equality. Therefore, in 2017 and 2019, the Programme provided targeted support to Member States with more than 20 projects in order to foster the implementation of EU policies, as the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers. For instance, the project ‘WELP – Women’s Empowerment in Leadership Positions’ promotes gender balance on corporate boards and high-level executive positions by empowering senior women at all levels, through activities to improve their skills/knowledge. The project tracks the representation of women on the boards of the Euro 600 Index through the publication of an Index analysing and measuring progress (or not) in these companies.

Specific Objective 5: to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence

Preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, young people and children – the most funded specific objective (known by the stakeholders as ‘Daphne’) has been a success for twenty years now, both in terms of its popularity and effectiveness of the funded actions. The protection and support standards for victims have improved. This is observed indirectly through the higher reporting of violence in the Member States, the lower acceptance of violence in the society and better victims’ services in place.

The Programme supported projects to fight gender-based violence through an annual call for proposals, where more than 30 grants are awarded every year. For example, the ‘We Go II Building Economic Independence: the way out of Intimate Partner Violence’ project aims to support the economic empowerment of women survivors of intimate partner violence by strengthening the local and national support systems, exchanging European good practices and establishing cooperation networks between private and public stakeholders.

Specific objective 6: to promote and protect the rights of the child

The Programme strongly promoted the rights of the child as well as the prevention of and responses to violence against children. Actions in the area of the rights of the child have supported the promotion of child-friendly justice and, in particular, the protection of children when vulnerable through capacity building for integrated child protection systems. For instance, the project ‘Promise II’ contributed to adopting Barnahus standards in providing support to child victims and witnesses of violence in many EU Member States.

Thanks to its flexibility, the Programme could also adapt to the respond to the challenging migration situation. In this context, protection of rights of unaccompanied and separated children in migration is being promoted via various projects funded by the Programme focusing on capacity building for professionals working directly with children (e.g. lawyers) and through the project ‘Touchstone’ which aims at establishing the European Guardianship Network. Additionally, a database of promising practices on the protection of children in migration was developed. These targeted actions improving the situation of children in migration follow the policies agreed in the 2017 Commission Communication and in the Council Conclusions on the protection of children during all phases of migration (identification, reception, implementation of procedural safeguards and durable solutions).

Specific objective 7: to contribute to ensuring the highest level of protection of privacy and personal data

Following the entry into application of the General Data Protection Regulation and the data protection Law Enforcement Directive, the Programme supported the implementation in Member States of these new legislations. To this end, two calls for proposals were launched in 2017 and 2019 and 15 projects have been financed, for awareness-raising activities on the legislations by Data Protection Authorities, websites and social media campaigns, regional trainings/seminars, or the setting up of hotlines.

The outcome of these 15 projects may be summarised as follows:

- General communication campaigns in local languages, via traditional media, social media, podcasts, local seminars in capitals and smaller towns, and publication on websites and of brochures and videos (in nine countries).
- Targeted training sessions in 14 countries, for 1200+ lawyers, 150+ Data Protection Officers, 450+ local public authorities’ representatives.
- Support to SMEs via expert advice (provided through email or telephone hotlines in Hungary, Slovenia and Iceland) and regional training seminars (50+ seminars, in seven countries, in capitals and smaller towns).

The latest GDPR promotional campaign, running since the start of 2019, resulted into 1.7 million visits to the GDPR Portal, representing 5.6 % of all visits to Commission websites.

Specific objective 8: to promote and enhance the exercise of rights deriving from citizenship of the Union

To promote and enhance the exercise of rights deriving from citizenship of the Union, the Programme supported 11 projects in the years 2017-2019. In 2019, the Programme funded the Network of Academics, which provides advice on related policies of EU citizenship, their implementation in EU Member States and third countries of relevance. The Programme also finances the Citizenship reports that regularly highlights on the progress towards effective EU citizenship and identifies future priorities in the area of EU citizenship rights.

Specific objective 9: to enable individuals in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market to enforce their rights deriving from Union law, having regard to the projects funded under the Consumer Programme.

The Programme provided financial support to the expert group on liability and new technologies formation, composed by academic experts. Following the adoption of the Communication on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Europe in 2018, the group held ten meetings in 2018-2019 to assist the Commission and published the report 'Liability for AI and other emerging digital technologies'. This work will inform the next steps of the Commission, including the Commission Report on the safety and liability implications of AI, Internet of Things and robotics, which will accompany the AI White Paper planned for early 2020. The Programme funded a second group of governmental experts on digital contracts directives in 2019. The group will assist the Commission in the coordination and support of the preparatory work by Member States in view of the transposition of the digital content directive and sales of goods directive in national law by July 2021.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation (interim evaluation) ⁽⁵⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statements 2020. The implementation of the Programme in 2019 confirmed these findings, whereby the intervention of the programme is relevant in contributing to the promotion of relevant EU values, such as non-discrimination and gender equality.

The work on the final/ex-post evaluation of the Programme, assessing the results and its long-term impact, will begin in October 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

The Annual Work Programme for 2020 was adopted on 5 November 2019 ⁽⁶⁾. With a budget of EUR 67 million in 2020, the REC Programme aims to finance actions that support the Commission's policies in justice and fundamental rights. The actions shall consist of: mutual learning and exchange of good practises; awareness-raising and media campaigns; training activities; analytical activities, such as studies, researches, surveys and evaluations.

Organisations such as public authorities, non-governmental organisations, universities, are invited to present projects' proposals in order to receive EU financial support. Considering both action grants and operating grants, the work programme aims to support 140 projects for a total value of EUR 51 million. Additional EUR 15 million are committed for procurement activities. Hereby the list of calls for proposals envisaged:

- capacity-building in the area of rights of the child
- improve the awareness on EU citizenship rights and inclusion of mobile EU citizens and to support coordination among national authorities competent in electoral
- prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women
- promote the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination
- limited/restricted to National Roma Platforms
- to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance and to monitor, prevent and counter hate speech online
- limited/restricted to national Data Protection Authorities on reaching out to stakeholders on the data protection legislation
- closing gender gaps over the life-course

For the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the Rights & Values Programme is the Commission's proposals for the successor of the REC Programme, presented in May 2018. It merges two current funding Programmes, the REC and the Europe for Citizens Programme. The Commission envisages EUR 642 million for the period 2021-2027. The general objective of the Programme is to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies. The focus are: (a) to promote equality and rights (Equality and rights strand); (b) to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union (Citizens' engagement and participation strand); (c) to fight violence (Daphne strand).

The European Parliament and the Council reached a partial agreement on the programme, now re-named Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values. A new focus has been included: to strengthen the promotion of Union values and the respect of the rule of law (EU values strand). Further to the European Parliament request, the programme will also have a stronger emphasis on the support to civil society organisations including at local level. The budgetary aspects and some related horizontal provisions of all the future Multiannual Financial Framework programmes are subject to an overall agreement.

⁽⁵⁾ [Report COM/2018/508](#) on the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020

⁽⁶⁾ [C\(2019\) 7824](#)

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014-2020	2014 – 2020	439,5

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,0	1,1	7,6
Operational appropriations	54,2	56,3	58,9	62,5	62,3	64,8	68,6	427,4
Total	55,3	57,4	60,0	63,6	63,4	65,7	69,7	435,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	65,721	99,89 %	61,847	99,29 %	69,658	3,23 %	70,143	36,77 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	67,027	99,22 %	63,364	98,49 %	70,418	3,45 %	71,314	37,01 %

(*) 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 Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme provided around EUR 430 million in support of actions promoting justice and fundamental rights. These actions included trainings, seminars and mutual learning events, researches and studies, awareness rising and media campaigns to the ultimate benefit of EU citizens.

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme contributes to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons are promoted, protected and effectively implemented.

The Programme allowed for the implementation of policies that address core needs in people's lives. It co-financed, since 2014, more than 700 projects, to promote non-discrimination, the rights of the child, EU citizenship rights and data protection, as well as to fight gender-based violence and intolerance. These projects supported trainings as crucial instruments to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation is prohibited whenever possible in the same way it is on grounds of sex and race or ethnic origin. The average contribution for a single project was around EUR 350.000, usually representing 80 % of the total cost of the action. Belgium, Italy, Greece, Germany and Spain are the top participating country in the Programme.

In the last three years, more than 800 organisations across Europe received financial support from the Programme. Funding was distributed across different beneficiaries as 70 % of the budget of the calls for proposals was granted to a one time participation of an organisation. They are mostly civil society organisations and public authorities. Via trainings and the share of best practises, projects contributed to better implementation of existing EU legislation in the Member States, as, for instance, to support victims of hate crime and hate speech incidents as well as to prevent and counter online hate speech. Through analytical studies and education and awareness raising activities, projects fostered the implementation of the Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online agreed between the Commission and online platforms, as well as to enhance the understanding of the phenomenon and to develop effective positive narratives.

Calls for proposals were in general highly successful, as most receive a high number of applications that also guarantee a selection of good quality projects, for a full consumption of the budget available. In particular, three calls for proposals were outperforming, both in terms of quantity and quality: for actions to combat violence against women and children, to fight racism and to promote non-discrimination. Only 10-20 % of the applications received were then awarded a grant, for projects scoring very high in the evaluation process.

The Programme has been relevant in contributing to the promotion of EU values, as confirmed by the interim evaluation on the implementation of the Programme. More than 80 % of beneficiaries indicated that funding received is effective to a high extent, as the intervention strategy of the Programme was and is still important to address the needs of public authorities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. In this context, for instance, the Programme continues to support the legislative and policy process for the EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, and to

support the Commission’s proposal for the women on board Directive, funding trainings and awareness rising activities to increase gender balance in economic decision-making positions at all levels.

The Programme also supported 23 EU level network organisations that contributed to the promotion of justice and fundamental rights across Europe. As umbrella networks, each representing between 20 and 600 grass-roots based organisations, they developed targeted communication campaigns, organized trainings and seminars, mobilizing activists to raise awareness on EU citizenship rights, to fight gender-based violence and strengthen data protection. For instance, networks were crucial in scaling-up the Programme funded awareness-raising campaign #SayNoStopVAW.

The relatively low amount of budget as compared to the challenges ahead and the request from the ground, remain a major challenge.

The main challenge for the last year of implementation of Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme will be to ensure the transition and visibility into the new Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027), exploring and exploiting the synergies with the Europe for Citizens Programme.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to contribute, to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons as enshrined in the Treaty on European Union, in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the international human rights conventions to which the Union has acceded, are promoted, protected and effectively implemented.

Indicator 1: progress towards equal participation in the labour market								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Female employment rate 20-64 age group: 62.4 %				68.0 %			71.0 %	71.0 %
	Actual results							
	63.5 %	64.3 %	65.3 %	66.4 %	67.6 %	67.4 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Employment rate of people with disabilities: 48.5 %				50.0 %			55.0 %	55.0 %
	Actual results							
	48.7 %	47.4 %	48.1 %	50.6 %				
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Gender pay gap: 16.8 %				15.0 %			14.0 %	14.0 %
	Actual results							
	16.7 %	16.3 %	16.2 %	16.0 %				
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of women among non-executive directors on boards of listed companies: 16.2 %				30.0 %			40.0 %	40.0 %
	Actual results							
	20.2 %	22.7 %	26.1 %	27.9 %	29.3 %	31.4 %		

Narrative: Target: Female employment rate 20-64 age group: 75 % (for both women and men), Europe 2020 headline target; 71 % for women
 Availability of Data: Data will be available later in 2019.

Indicator 2: percentage of Europeans who consider themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
32 %				54 %			51 %	51 %
	Actual results							
		42 %		54 %	55 %			

Comment: Data from Flash Eurobarometers (2015) and are not included in the Standard Eurobarometer.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to promote the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter

Performance

The Programme supported more than 170 projects to promote non-discrimination across Europe. The number of grants awarded steadily increased over time, from 18 in 2014 to 37 in 2019.

The call for proposals for promoting non-discrimination is among the three most successful calls in the entire Programme, with five times more applications than the number of grants awarded. The projects raised awareness about the right to non-discrimination and equality and supported persons discriminated on the ground of sex, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and/or sexual orientation. Every year, the Programme financed five EU-level network organisations including the European Network of Equality Bodies, in order to strengthen the implementation of Union anti-discrimination law, providing trainings to experts, sharing best practise among members, publishing reports and developing policy recommendations. Overall, the Programme invested around EUR 90 million in actions to contribute to the fight against discrimination.

Indicator 1: share of persons aware of their rights if they fall victims of discrimination								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
37 %	Actual results							70 %
		45 %		55 %			70 %	

Comment: These data comes from Flash Eurobarometers (done in 2015) and are not included in the Standard Eurobarometer.

Indicator 2: the number of Member States that set up structural coordination mechanisms with all stakeholders, including Roma, on the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	Actual results							26
	13	17	21	21	22	22	26	

Comment: Target is actually 27 EU Member States as Malta has no Roma population, 26 following Brexit.

Indicator 3: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0	Actual results							130
	286	210	120	99	104	132	123	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0	Actual results							30
	18	32	28	32	37	40	29	

Indicator 4: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0	Actual results							31 000 000
	85 215 025	58 136 622	29 995 504	27 703 368	22 470 239	29 724 961	30 682 000	

2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Granted: 0					4 600 000	7 000 000	5 000 000
	Actual results						5 000 000
	7 163 532	7 562 114	4 492 601	7 978 000	8 540 885	8 941 632	

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 02	4	815 000
2. Training activities	33 02 02	1	550 000
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 02	30	9 100 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 02	6	3 535 000
Total		41	14 000 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	3	3	2	1	1	4	4
	P	7	5	1	1	4	4	
2. Training activities	F	1	1	1	6	3	2	1
	P	0	5	0	5	1	2	
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	28	33	30	30	30	30	30
	P	12	32	28	30	34	34	
4. Support to key actors	F	10	8	8	7	7	7	6
	P	7	6	6	6	6	6	

Specific Objective 2: to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance

Performance

Overall, the Programme invested more than EUR 50 million and around 100 projects in actions to combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance since 2014. Specific forms of intolerance were addressed as Antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred, antigypsism, Afrophobia and anti-Black racism, hate crime against persons with disabilities, homophobia and transphobia and encouraging better understanding between communities through interreligious and cross-community activities. The Programme also enhanced the development of comprehensive support for hate crime victims and enhance the recording and collection of data.

The Programme supported the implementation of EU policies in Member States, as the application of the Council Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, with 15 projects awarded to public authorities. To respond to the proliferation of hate speech online, 9 projects were funded since 2017. The increase of antisemitism and anti-Muslim incidents led also to increase the support to these communities, funding overall 10 projects in 2019 on these forms of hatred and intolerance.

Indicator 1: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Applications: 0					223	240	250	250
	Actual results							
	85	134	70	199	240	159		
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Grants: 0					20	25	32	32
	Actual results							
	9	10	14	24	21	25		

Comment: Selection procedure of proposals is still ongoing.

Indicator 2: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Requested: 0						89 600 000	90 000 000	95 000 000	95 000 000
	Actual results								
	51 222 230	70 368 496	83 608 330	83 597 212	88 420 000	63 761 705			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Granted: 0						7 000 000	7 000 000	7 700 000	7 700 000
	Actual results								
	5 203 107	5 347 131	4 898 998	6 860 000	9 025 487	8 347 156			

Comment: Selection procedure of proposals is still ongoing.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 02	1	180 000
2. Training activities	33 02 02	1	470 000
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 02	22	8 000 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 02	3	1 350 000
Total		27	10 000 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
	P	5	5	0	0	2	2	
Training activities	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	P	0	0	2	0	2	1	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	6	8	17	25	23	20	22
	P	4	11	14	21	19	22	
Support to key actors	F	3	3	0	1	3	3	3
	P	1	0	0	3	3	3	

Specific Objective 3: to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

Performance

The Programme contributed to help people with disabilities to travel more easily between EU countries, thanks to the implementation, in eight Member States, of a pilot project on the European Disability Card. The aim of the project was to put in place a system of voluntary mutual recognition between participating Member States of a EU card providing access to benefits and services in all or some of these areas: culture, leisure, sports and transport. The system became operational in and among these countries in 2017-2018. The Commission is now evaluating the project in order to assess its impact and usefulness and determine possible new steps.

In the framework of the EU implementation the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Programme funded: (i) trainings for legal and policy practitioners to raise their awareness and expertise on EU law related to disability and the UNCRPD; (ii) a European network of academic experts in the field of disability, gathering data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities in the EU and developing indicators as well as compiling disability policies in Member States and the EU.

Indicator 1: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Applications: 0						7	12	0	
	Actual results								

	16	8	8	10		7		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0							0	
	Actual results							
	16	8	8	7	7	7		

Indicator 2: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0					2 800 000	4 220 000	0	
	Actual results							
	4 410 090	2 549 023	3 000 000	3 500 000	2 801 000	2 782 672		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0							0	
	Actual results							
	3 785 080	2 549 087	2 680 185	2 697 879	2 855 973	2 781 237		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 02	1	600 000
2. Training activities	33 02 02	1	1 070 000
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 02	9	1 900 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 02	10	3 450 000
Total		21	7 020 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	1	1	2	5	5	5	1
	P	2	2	5	5	7	6	
Training activities	F	1	1	1	6	6	6	1
	P	0	0	6	6	6	6	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination statistics	F	18	5	6	14	3	3	9
	P	13	5	3	3	4	3	
Support to key actors	F	6	8	8	8	7	7	10
	P	8	8	8	7	7	7	

Specific Objective 4: to promote equality between women and men and to advance gender mainstreaming

Performance

The Programme financed more than 50 projects since 2014 with awareness raising initiatives, workshops and trainings, in order to promote equality between women and men and the advancement of gender mainstreaming. More recently, it supported the implementation of the Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019 to increase gender balance in decision-making positions at all levels and women's economic independence, as well as the implementation of EU policies in Member States. For this reason, calls for proposals were restricted, every other year, only to public authorities. For instance, following the adoption of the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers, the Programme co-funded national governments' initiatives that aimed to increase the participation of women in the labour market and the take-up of family-related leave and flexible working arrangements. Overall, the Programme deployed EUR 50 million for actions with a specific objective to promote gender equality.

Along the years, the Programme financed the largest European umbrella network of women’s associations, the European Women’s Lobby. Through advocacy, networking, campaigning and capacity building activities, the network has shown its capacity to work collectively on the EU agenda at national and EU level, mobilizing civil society and disseminating information, whilst increasing the policy-makers’ capacity of defining policies that fill the needs of women in all their diversity.

Indicator 1: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0	Actual results							18
	19	123		14	49	11		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0	Actual results							13
	11	10		13	12	10		

Comment: In 2014 and 2017 and 2019 restricted call for proposals for national authorities; in 2015, 2018 and 2020 open call for proposals. There was no call for proposals for action grants in 2016.

Indicator 2: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0	Actual results							8 000 000
	6 970 769	56 674 772		6 423 195	18 226 000	4 437 994		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0	Actual results							4 000 000
	3 885 203	4 379 579		5 443 000	4 502 056	3 852 329		

Comment: In 2014 and 2017 and 2019 restricted call for proposals for national authorities; in 2015, 2018 and 2020 open call for proposals. There was no call for proposals for action grants in 2016.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 02	2	700 000
2. Training activities	33 02 02	1	550 000
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 02	16	5 233 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 02	2	1 250 000
Total		21	7 733 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	9	3	0	2	2	2	
Training activities	F	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	P	0	4	0	0	1	1	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination statistics, etc.)	F	19	21	23	25	21	12	16
	P	11	4	0	15	12	8	
Support to key actors	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	1	2	2	1	2	2	

Specific Objective 5: to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence

Performance

The Programme co-funded more than 200 projects since 2014 with the aim of combating violence against women, children and other group at risks. These actions increased the capacity of relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence, strengthened support and protection systems, and increased detection of early signs of violence and reporting to the police and relevant services. Evidence from these projects shows that multidisciplinary, gender-sensitive and child-centred methods and tools are crucial to long-term impact and innovative new practices.

Overall, around EUR 110 million were deployed in actions to fight gender-based violence. In this context, the European Commission has been investing into capacity building of European networks, such as Women Against Violence Europe, a network of over 140 members, to support the development and implementation of EU policies. Through communication campaigns, the networks contributed to raise awareness of inequalities, gender stereotypes in the media, the gender pay gap or on sensitive issues around trafficking and prostitution. The organisations contributed to capacity building of support services, judicial bodies and other practitioners to address violence against women through training activities and studies.

Indicator 1: percentage of people that consider that domestic violence against women is unacceptable								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
84 %	Actual results							100 %
			84 %	90 %			100 %	
			96 %		1			

Source: Special Eurobarometer 449 (2016).

Indicator 2: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0	Actual results							300
					278	200	300	
	391	379	174	177	213	175		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0	Actual results							33
					31	30	33	
	31	52	19	39	43	40		

Indicator 3: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0	Actual results							12 000 000
					99 750 000	90 000 000	12 000 000	
	115 828 887	141 024 339	62 366 927	65 755 864	877 041 000	68 270 673		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0	Actual results							14 000 000
					13 300 000	16 000 000	14 000 000	
	11 407 709	11 663 047	8 268 519	16 829 000	17 614 925	17 081 784		

Comment: The selection procedure is still ongoing.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 01	4	4 125 000
2. Training activities	33 02 01	0	0
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 01	30	12 435 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 01	4	1 300 000
Total		38	17 860 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	0	0	1	2	2	2	4
	P	0	2	0	2	2	1	
Training activities	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P	13	21	0	0	0	0	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination statistics, etc.)	F	40	44	45	29	32	36	30
	P	11	29	19	39	39	36	
Support to key actors	F	8	4	4	9	7	4	4
	P	7	4	4	7	4	4	

Specific Objective 6: to promote and protect the rights of the child

Performance

Overall, the Programme funded more than 60 projects on capacity building in the area of the rights of the child, contributing to establish a child-friendly justice or aiming at children empowerment and their participation. Several projects targeted lawyers working directly with children and provided training on child sensitive interview techniques. Other projects addressed the needs of children directly and prepared them for the court proceedings or for leaving care arrangements and transition into adulthood. Operating grants supported networks and umbrella organisations working on specific areas in their work (e.g. the network of ombudspersons for children, children of prisoners, missing children, victims of female genital mutilation).

The Programme finances every year the Forum on the Rights of the Child, a platform for dialogue with stakeholders on various areas to enhance cooperation and coordination between stakeholders, and improve the implementation of existing standards. In 2019, the Forum focused on: the protection of children in migration, child rights in the world of new technologies and child participation in the EU political and democratic life.

Indicator 1: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0								45
	Actual results							
	73	41	16	42	31	19		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0								12
	Actual results							
	15	11	8	13	6	13		

Indicator 2: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0								16 000 000
	Actual results							
					15 600 000	10 000 000	16 000 000	

	27 725 533	14 621 487	6 833 384	15 029 812	9 941 000	5 831 329		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0					4 000 000	4 000 000	4 200 000	4 200 000
	Actual results							
	4 213 515	3 461 829	3 420 985	4 216 000	1 540 000	3 623 149		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 01	0	0
2. Training activities	33 02 01	0	0
3. Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 01	12	3 750 000
4. Support to key actors	33 02 01	3	550 000
Total		15	4 300 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Training activities	F	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
	P	10	8	0	0	0	1	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination statistics, etc.)	F	10	12	15	17	16	16	12
	P	1	1	8	13	8	10	
Support to key actors	F	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	5	3	3	3	3	3	

Specific Objective 7: to contribute to ensuring the highest level of protection of privacy and personal data

Performance

The Programme contributed to guarantee the highest level of protection of privacy and personal data via ensuring consistency in the application of the General Data Protection Regulation and of the Law Enforcement Directive in the Member States. It financed 21 projects for awareness raising activities and trainings for data protection authorities, public administrations, legal professions and to data protection officers. These projects included targeted training sessions in 14 countries, for 1200+ lawyers, 150+ Data Protection Officers, 450+ local public authorities' representatives.

It also supported policy and legal work by financing expert groups of Member States representatives and other stakeholders, including businesses, civil society, practitioners and academics, meeting twice a year before and after the entry into application of the new legislations. These groups allows notably for a structured dialogue on potential challenges resulting from the application of the General Data Protection Regulation, on how to achieve an appropriate level of awareness-raising amongst stakeholders and by providing feedback on their experience on the application

Indicator 1: number of complaints received by data protection authorities from individuals relating to data protection								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
68 569				55 000			60 000	60 000
	Actual results							
					60 000			

Comment: This indicator cannot really be used, as data protection authorities in Member States have different methods of recording the number of complaints received from individuals, to the extent that e.g. Denmark was reporting 6 000 and Romania 25. For this reason, since the entry into force of GDPR in 2018, a more relevant indicator would be the number of cross-border cases recorded in the Internal Market Information System case register (the IMI was developed by the Commission as the IT platform to support cooperation and consistency procedures under the GDPR). In 2018, from 25 May to December: 205; in 2019: 807.

Indicator 2: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0	Actual results							
	0	0	15	12		6		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0	Actual results							
	0	0	6	9		6		

Comment: First call for proposals to support training activities on the data protection reform was launched in 2016. In 2016 and 2017 twice as much funding was available than in 2019 and 2020, in view of the entering into force of the GDPR. There was no call for proposals for action grants in 2018.

Indicator 3: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0	Actual results							
	0		4 825 181	2 597 737		1 661 818		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0	Actual results							
	0	0	1 718 191	1 949 379		1 027 939		

Comment: First call for proposals to support training activities on the data protection reform was launched in 2016. In 2016 and 2017 twice as much funding was available than in 2019 and 2020, in view of the entering into force of the GDPR. There was no call for proposals for action grants in 2018.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 01	3	420 000
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 01	6	1 380 000
Total		9	1 800 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	3	0	0	2	1	3	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	3	3	3	13	8	8	6
	P	3	2	6	9	3	6	

Specific Objective 8: to promote and enhance the exercise of rights deriving from citizenship of the Union

Performance

The Programme funded 22 projects that contributed to the successful inclusion and political participation of mobile EU citizens in the civic and political life, as an important dimension of EU citizenship. As part of the European Parliament elections, the Programme supported Member States in establishing and organising meetings of a European cooperation network on elections. This network brings together representatives of Member States' authorities responsible for electoral matters, and enables practical exchanges on issues relevant to free and fair elections, including data protection, cyber-security, transparency and awareness

raising. The network will continue to address potential risks and identify solutions, and contribute to building more resilient electoral and democratic systems across the EU.

Indicator 1: awareness of the Citizenship of the Union and of the rights attached to it:								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Share of the population that knows the meaning of Citizenship of the Union: 46 %				50 %			53 %	53 %
	Actual results							
		52 %						
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Share of the population considering themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union: 36 %				45 %			51 %	51 %
	Actual results							
		42 %		54 %				

Availability of Data: Data will be available via the Standard Eurobarometer 2019.

Indicator 2: awareness of the right to vote and to stand as candidate in European election in the Member State of residence, without having the nationality of that Member State

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
72 %				76 %			80 %	80 %
	Actual results							
		67 %						

Indicator 3: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Applications: 0					31	20	30	30
	Actual results							
	84	0	25	14	18	9		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Grants: 0					6	5	5	5
	Actual results							
	6	0	5	3	4	4		

Indicator 4: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Requested: 0					7 950 000.00	10 000 000.00	7 500 000.00	7 500 000.00
	Actual results							
	20 724 779.00	0.00	639 136.02	3 973 157.00	12 478 000.00	2 036 796.00		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Granted: 0					1 500 000.0	1 500 000.0	1 300 000.0	1 300 000.0
	Actual results							
	1 464 069.0	0.0	1 214 925.7	1 200 000.0	1 534 000.0	824 590.0		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 01	4	910 000
Training activities	33 02 01	0	0
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 01	6	2 090 000
Total		10	3 000 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	2	2	0	2	3	4	4
	P	3	2	0	2	4	4	
Training activities	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	7	7	10	5	8	10	6
	P	6	4	5	4	5	4	

Specific Objective 9: to enable individuals in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market to enforce their rights deriving from Union law, having regard to the projects funded under the Consumer Programme

Performance

The Programme supported various expert groups, as the one on liability and new technologies, providing the Commission with expertise on consumer related issues. These expert groups also guided Member States in the transpositions in national law of EU policies and legislations, such as the digital content directive and sales of goods directive.

The Programme contributed along years to raise awareness of EU consumer law, make compliance easier and enhance enforcement, by financing the online Consumer Law database (part of the e-Justice Portal). The tool concretely helps lawyers, judges as well as businesses and consumers, to quickly check rights and obligations arising from consumer law, as it includes, for instance, past legal rulings from EU countries and the European Court of Justice and relevant national administrative practice.

Indicator 1: the perception of consumers of being protected								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
64 %				73 %			75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	70 %		76 %		72 %			

Comment: The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016.

Indicator 2: consumer and retailer awareness of rights and obligations:								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of consumers who are aware of their right to keep the unordered product sent to them together with an invoice: 36 %	32 %			37 %			39 %	39 %
	Actual results							
	34 %		34 %		35 %			
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of retailers in the EU who know that including invoices with marketing material (for unordered products) is prohibited: < 51 %	55 %			56 %			60 %	60 %
	Actual results							
	54 %		56 %		58 %			

Comment: The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016.

Indicator 3: level of consumer confidence in cross-border online shopping, as measured by the percentage of consumers who feel confident purchasing via internet from retailers/service providers from another country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
34 %				45 %			50 %	50 %
	Actual results							
	37 %		58 %		48 %			

Comment: The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016.

Indicator 4: the number of applications and grants related to this specific objective

No calls for proposals for action grants or operating grants planned, only procurement activities.

Indicator 5: the level of funding requested by applicants and granted in relation to this specific objective

No calls for proposals for action grants or operating grants planned, only procurement activities.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	33 02 01	4	500 000
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	33 02 01	4	500 000
Total		8	1 000 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)	F	9	9	6	8	4	4	4
	P	0	2	0	6	4	4	
Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination	F	9	9	0	4	0	4	4
	P	0	6	0	4	4	4	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Gender mainstreaming

As gender mainstreaming is included in policy development, so it is enshrined in EU-level funded actions. The REC Programme supports in many ways the gender mainstreaming, as it is considered in the overall programme design and followed in the implementation of the Programme.

First of all, REC has a specific objective with dedicated actions ‘To promote equality between women and men and to advance gender mainstreaming’.

The Annual Work Programme envisages every year a call for action grants with targeted policy priorities on gender equality. Following the Directive on work-life balance for parents and careers, the Programme co-funded national governments’ initiatives that aimed to increase the participation of women in the labor market and the take-up of family-related leave and flexible working arrangements. This was the aim of the call for proposal to close gender gaps over the life cycle – work-life balance for women and men – a better sharing of care (2019). Previous calls for proposals focused on: equal participation of women and men in leadership positions and work-life balance (2018); address gender gaps over the life-cycle (2017); prevent and combat violence against women (2016); promote good practices on gender roles and overcome gender stereotypes in education, training and in the workplace (2015); equal economic independence of women and men (2014).

In the period 2014-2019 the Programme’s total contribution to the specific objective of gender equality has been of EUR 43 million, including grants and procurement activities (training seminars, studies and evaluations). It includes operating grants provided to the European Women’s Lobby (€ 1 million per year).

The gender dimension is also addressed throughout the Programme in other calls for proposals, such as the ones on the democratic participation of mobile EU citizens, targeting underrepresented groups as women (2018), or on non-discrimination, for empowering Roma women (2018).

Moreover, gender mainstreaming as promotion of gender equality is to be integrated and evaluated in all funded projects, ensuring that the gender perspective is part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities. Gender mainstreaming is in fact a sub-criterion in the evaluation of all calls of proposals of the Programme. Projects are to be pro-active and contribute to equal empowerment regardless of the gender, ensuring that everyone enjoys the same rights and opportunities. When designing a project, applicants should demonstrate in the proposals how this would be respected at the implementation stage. In the delivery of activities, gender mainstreaming is to be ensured by monitoring access, participation, and benefits among women and men, and by envisaging remedial action that redress any gender inequalities during implementation. During the process of evaluating proposals, the gender dimension is also considered to the extent of having an equal representation of women and men as evaluators.

Last but not least, the Programme addresses gender-based violence under the specific objective and related yearly calls for proposals ‘to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence’.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

By promoting youth Roma integration in the funded activities of non-discrimination, the Programme contributes to the goal that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and education. By tackling gender stereotypes in the gender based violence or gender equality actions, the Programme contributes to the goal to upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Via actions funded under gender violence and gender equality calls for proposals, the Programme contributes to the goals to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls. In particular, the Programme contributes to the goals to ensure women’s equal opportunities for leadership at all levels and to adopt enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

The Programme also promotes gender diversity through the projects funded within the call for proposals to promote non-discrimination. In this regards, it strengthens equal opportunities financing the EU Platform of Diversity Charters, its annual forum (on ‘United in Diversity – a common challenge’ in 2019) and expert seminars, supporting peer network, share of good practises and tools for benchmarking, measuring and monitoring.

Decent work and economic growth

The Programme contributes to the goal to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. It funds activities sharing best practises on work-life balance and supports persons with disability in terms of awareness raising, capacity building, monitoring of their situation in terms of employment and foster education. Learning is provided to legal and policy practitioners on legal instruments to protect and promote employment of persons with disabilities.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The Programme ensures equal access for travellers with disabilities to a number of benefits in the areas of culture, leisure, sport and transport, thus contributing to the inclusion of people with disabilities in society, via funding the European Disability Card project. It also helps in monitoring the poverty situation of persons with disabilities through supporting the Academic Network of European Disability experts and exchange of good practices in the social protection field.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Via the project Joint Programme on Access of Roma and Traveller Women to Justice (JUSTROM), the Programme supports the empowerment of Roma women through increasing their awareness about discrimination, complaint mechanisms, the justice system and human rights institutions/equality bodies. It also aims to increase the number of cases of discrimination against Roma women admitted by human rights institutions, equality bodies and courts, as well as to enhance professional resources used at national level by the judiciary, law enforcement and NGOs/human rights advocates regarding the application of anti-discrimination standards Roma access to Justice.

The Programme finances projects focusing on a child-friendly justice, to support children before, during and after judicial proceedings and to provide capacity-building to judicial practitioners on individual assessments specified in EU law.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Via the European network of academic experts in the field of disability, the Programme ensures the collection of essential data, analysis and monitoring on the situation of people with disabilities related to, among others, employment, education and poverty risk.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Europe for Citizens

Lead DG: JUST

Associated DGs: SG

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The aim of Europe for Citizens is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity, and to foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at EU level.

The financed projects will:

- Raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the EU and the EU's aim – namely to promote peace, the values of the EU and the well-being of its peoples.
- Encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at EU level, by developing their understanding of the EU policy-making-process, and stimulate interest and involvement in EU policy-making.

EU added value of the programme

The Union added value of the proposed 'Europe for Citizens' Programme can be demonstrated at the level of the individual actions of the new Programme:

In the case of 'European remembrance' (strand 1), the programme supports activities that encourage reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values in the broadest sense. Funds may be made available for initiatives to reflect on the causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. This strand also encompasses activities concerning other defining moments and reference points in recent European history. In particular, it gives preference to actions which encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation as a means of moving beyond the past and building the future, in particular with a view to reaching the younger generation.

In the case of 'Democratic engagement and civic participation' (strand 2), the programme supports activities that cover civic participation in the broadest sense, and focuses in particular on structuring methods to ensure that funded activities have a lasting effect. It gives preference to initiatives and projects with a link to the Union political agenda. This strand may also cover projects and initiatives that develop opportunities for mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, solidarity, societal engagement and volunteering at Union level. The aim is to increase the democratic participation of young people and the participation of women in political and economic decision-making.

In the case of 'Valorisation', this covers horizontal dimension of the programme as a whole. It focuses on the analysis, dissemination, communication and valorisation of the project results from the above-mentioned two strands. Common tools are needed to collect best practices and ideas about how to strengthen remembrance, European citizenship and civic participation and facilitate the transnational exchange.

The programme demonstrates a clear European added value as all activities funded under Europe for Citizens have either a cross-border dimension, involving citizens and organisations from several participating countries, or are related to the European Union itself. Activities such as remembrance activities, town-twinning or pan-European networks are intended to broaden perspectives and to develop a sense of European belonging and European identity. The programme also provides European added value in the aggregate effect of its impact on participants and its complementarity with other EU initiatives. The positive impacts achieved by the Europe for Citizens programme would not be attained without EU funding as no similar funding schemes are available at national, regional or local level.

The programme also supports the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). The aim of the ECI is to allow EU citizens to take an active part in agenda-setting at the level of the Union, by calling on the European Commission to submit proposals for legal acts of the Union for the purpose of implementing the Treaties. The ECI is the only transnational instrument of its kind; i.e. initiatives are prepared by committees of seven EU citizens residing in seven different Member States; a need has been identified to increase awareness across the Union about the ECI as a tool for participatory democracy at EU level and therefore improve the number and quality of proposed initiatives submitted to the Commission; the support provided also aims to make the ECI more user-friendly, for example via the development of dedicated IT systems to make it easier for citizens to support an initiative through a central online collection system managed by the Commission; etc.

Implementation mode

The programme is implemented through direct management (grants).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Europe for Citizens Programme is implemented through the two strands ‘European remembrance’ and ‘Democratic engagement and civic participation’, which offer co-funding for European remembrance projects, town-twinning activities, networks of towns and civil society projects. The two strands are complemented by horizontal actions for dissemination and use of project results.

The programme is implemented through action grants and operating grants granted to European civil society organisations and think tanks active in the thematic areas targeted by the programme.

In 2019, all actions were implemented in accordance with the Commission implementing decision of 13.11.2018 on the adoption of the 2019 work programme and the financing for the implementation of the Europe for Citizens work programme (C(2018)7384).

Following a transfer of appropriations as of 2017 to the specific budget line dedicated to the European Citizens’ Initiative (18 04 01 02) the Programme appropriations have been also used to improve the implementation of the ECI Regulation ⁽¹⁾ (covering IT developments and studies).

Key achievements

The Europe for Citizens programme plays a positive overall role in encouraging civic participation and democratic engagement, while strengthening the sense of belonging together and supporting mutual understanding and identification with Europe, thereby helping to support the European integration process in the longer term. By working directly with citizens, the programme offers a forum for involving European citizens through a grassroots approach. In the area of European remembrance, the Europe for Citizens programme adds value to the debates by encouraging exchange beyond national boundaries and promoting a European vision of history. Europe for Citizens offers a new approach through the development of activities linking remembrance with civic participation and democracy.

Project examples

Project Title: ‘Heart of Europe’ – One example of a network of towns

The project ‘Heart of Europe-network of towns promoting heart culture, solidarity and integration’ coordinated by the Slovenian organisation DRUSTVO ZA NARAVNO UCENJE Z DOZIVLJANJEMUMETNOSTI IN NARAVE GLEDALISCE KOLENC brought together 14 partners’ organizations from 8 countries. The project has involved more than 830 direct participants during 6 international events and over 2000 estimated indirect participants during the whole duration of the project. The event addressed the problems of youth unemployment, globalization, immigration, European citizenship, Euroscepticism and stigmatization of migrants. Through discussions, guided workshops, and presentations possible strategies were presented to cope with youth unemployment to promote active volunteering and art.. The most important achievement was the creation of eight permanent and sustainable international cultural heart points. In each participating country, creative centers (‘heart points’) were established. Partners of network explored different approaches of artistic expressions with the goal to contribute to common European identity and promote EU values as cultural diversity and mutual understanding.

Project Title: ‘1918: At the end of a war. The outcome of the First World War in seven European homelands’ – One example of a European remembrance project

‘1918: At the end of a war. The outcome of the First World War in seven European homelands’ carried out by the ‘Opladener Geschichtsverein von 1979 e.V. Leverkusen’ contributed to a deeper understanding of the meaning and consequences of war in general and the First World War in particular, at a local level as well as in a comparative perspective across Europe. It portrayed the end of the First World War and the new beginnings after the war in seven European regions, notably Jülich, Leverkusen and Schwedt (Germany), Bracknell (United Kingdom), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Raciborz (Poland) and Villeneuve d’Ascq (France). The results were presented in the exhibition in Leverkusen, accompanied by a diverse programme of lectures, discussions and guided tours. Additionally, the book ‘Kriegsenden in europäischen Heimatzen’ and the exhibition catalogue ‘The ends of the war in European homelands’ in English, German and French were published.

At the ‘Europe for Citizens – History Defines our Future’ event, which DG HOME organised in April 2019 in Brussels, over 300 people -citizens alongside participants in the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme – discussed how to strengthen European values, achievements and identity whilst drawing lessons from history and maintaining pride in one’s own heritage.

Co-organised by the Jean Monnet House (European Parliament), the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) and DG HOME, **the ‘Taking stock of European Memory policies in 2019’ event** brought together representatives of remembrance projects selected under the Europe for Citizens programme in 2018 and 2019 and gave them an opportunity to share experience and learn from each other, in the Jean Monnet House, near Paris.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens’ initiative (OJ L 65/1, 11.03.2011).

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Support was provided as of 2017 to boost the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative. As far as the number of requests for registration of initiatives is concerned, in 2019 17 new citizens' initiatives were registered. This increase can be partly attributed to the communication campaign funded by the Europe for Citizens programme. Overall, 71 citizens' initiatives have registered since 2012 (total as at end 2019), including one third registered since the launch of the new communication activities.

Evaluation /studies conducted

The key findings of the latest mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 (SWD(2018)86 –see: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/europe-for-citizens-programme-results-mid-term-evaluation_en were already presented in the Programme Statement 2019.

The mid-term evaluation confirms the programme's use in promoting civic participation, strengthening the sense of belonging together and supporting mutual understanding. The programme's structure, with two strands and a cross-cutting measure on valorisation has proved to work efficiently and both operating and action grants have helped deliver the desired outcomes. Europe for Citizens has demonstrated its added value at EU level both in its impact on participants and its role as a complement to other EU funding programmes and policy initiatives in the field of education, culture and EU citizenship.

In the context of the European Citizens' Initiative, two studies were carried out to assess the scope for simplifying personal data requirements for signatories and for streamlining the technical specifications for online collection systems. These were used for the preparation of the proposal for a new Regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative adopted by the Commission in September 2017. After negotiations with the co-legislators, the new Regulation was adopted in April 2019 and entered into application on 1 January 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

In accordance with the work programme 2020 adopted in October 2019 (C(2019)7821) and given the additional 1 million EUR adopted by the budgetary authority for 2020, the implementation or commitment appropriations for 2020 for each action will be as follows:

Strand 1 – European remembrance: EUR 5 716 900 including 48 project grants and 6 framework partnership agreements;

Strand 2 – Democratic engagement and civic participation: EUR 20 052 165 for 350 project grants and 24 framework partnership agreements;

Strand 3 – Horizontal Action Valorisation: EUR 1 300 000, including 35 action grants to National Contact Points.

2020: 25 287 285 EUR

2021: 13 800 000 EUR

The European Citizens' Initiative: In 2020, according to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Citizens' Initiative adopted on 13.09.2017 (COM(2017)482), EUR 1 385 000 should be available in commitment appropriations for the budget line dedicated to the European Citizens' Initiative (18 04 01 02). The following should be made available in payment appropriations: EUR 1 030 751 for 2020 and EUR 1 092 816 for 2021.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the next Multiannual Financial Framework, the Rights & Values Programme is the Commission's proposals for the successor of the REC Programme, presented in May 2018. It merges two current funding Programmes, the REC and the Europe for Citizens Programme. The general objective of the Programme is to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies. The focus are: (a) to promote equality and rights (Equality and rights strand); (b) to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union (Citizens' engagement and participation strand); (c) to fight violence (Daphne strand).

The European Parliament and the Council reached a partial agreement on the programme, now re-named Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values. A new focus has been included: to strengthen the promotion of Union values and the respect of the rule of law (EU values strand). Further to the European Parliament request, the programme will also have a stronger emphasis on the support to civil society organisations including at local level. The budgetary aspects and some related horizontal provisions of all the future Multiannual Financial Framework programmes are subject to an overall agreement.

The future programme, under the specific objective of citizens' engagement and participation, shall focus on:

- a) supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining events in modern European history, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance;
- b) promoting citizens and representative associations' participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas on Union action;
- c) promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning and networks of towns, so as to afford them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future;

The future Rights and Values programme will as well finance the technical and organisational support to implement Regulation [(EU)No 211/2011], thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives.

In addition, the Programme shall focus on protecting, promoting and raising awareness on rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.

Outlook 2021-2027 for the European Citizens' Initiative:

The new rules on the European citizens' initiative apply since 1 January 2020 (Reg 2019/788). These include new obligations for the Commission to make this instrument easier to use for organisers of initiatives and supporters (signatories) across the Union, in particular: further development of the IT tools supporting the organisation by the Commission of communication activities. Rights and Values programme will support the technical and organisational support to implement Regulation [(EU)No 211/2011], thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020	2014 – 2020	185,5

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	1,5
Operational appropriations	23,3	21,9	23,0	24,1	25,2	26,3	28,3	172,0
Executive Agency	2,1	2,0	2,2	2,2	2,2	2,2	2,3	15,2
Total	25,6	24,2	25,3	26,4	27,6	28,7	30,8	188,7

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	28,682	99,92 %	24,758	99,34 %	30,812	20,68 %	29,499	26,10 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	28,956	99,24 %	25,241	98,51 %	31,009	20,55 %	29,838	26,01 %

(*) 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 analysis of the data obtained on the basis of indicators show that the Europe for Citizens programme is on track for achieving its objectives. In a challenging political, social and economic climate, the programme contributes to foster the civic engagement of citizens across Europe. It has encouraged people to participate more actively in the development of the EU and promote its fundamental values such as tolerance, solidarity and non-discrimination, through action and operating grants. A large number of projects directly address current political and societal issues such as migration and the European elections. The rise of Euroscepticism experienced over the years in the EU highlights the relevance of the programme and the need to encourage the development of a shared sense of European identity. Against this background, the programme offers a public forum that gives people the opportunity to express their ideas about the future of Europe through a grassroots approach.

Through the European remembrance strand, the programme helps raise awareness of European historical memory and remembrance, including through the development of activities linking remembrance with civic participation and democracy in the broadest sense. In the area of town twinning, the programme achieves results by increasing and encouraging mutual understanding and friendship between citizens at a local level. Networks of towns complemented the traditional town twinning measure by offering towns and municipalities the opportunity to develop larger-scale projects with the aim of increasing their projects' impact and sustainability. The programme targeted civil society organisations through operating grants and civil society projects. The participation of stakeholder organisations in the programme influenced their perceptions of Europe. Most participating organisations noted positive effects on their knowledge of Europe and were committed to becoming more engaged with civil society.

In 2019, the Programme was implemented all together in 34 eligible participating countries: 28 Member States and 6 other participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Northern Macedonia and Kosovo.

Out of 1 590 applications received, 433 projects were selected, and around 1 250 000 participants were expected to be involved in the activities of the programme. The number of projects funded, as well as the number of participants that has been continuously increasing since 2014 suggests that the programme has contributed to the achievement of its general objectives.

For both strands, the available budget is spent at a relatively even rate each year. The high number of direct and indirect participants reached by Europe for Citizens projects illustrates that the programmes is effective at a relatively low cost. As regards sustainability of the programme's results, projects create long-lasting relationships between partners who in many cases continued to engage in further civic activities after the end of the project.

A challenge for the last implementation year of Europe for Citizens will be to ensure the visibility of the programme's results, to strengthen synergies with other EU programmes, in particular the REC programme and to prepare the transition from Europe for Citizens to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme (2021-2028).

General objectives

General Objective 1: to contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, to foster European citizenship and to improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level

Indicator 1: Percentage of EU citizens feeling European								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
59 %				Stable at 59 %			Stable at 59 %	Stable at 59 %
	Actual results							
	60 %	64 %	67 %	70 %	71 %	70 %		

Source: Eurobarometer number 92 – Autumn 2019.

Unit of measure: Percentage

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the Union and the Union's aim, namely to promote peace, the values of the Union and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks

Indicator 1: the number of participants who are directly involved								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
100 000	100 000			100 000			100 000	100 000
	Actual results							
	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	125 000	

Unit of measure: Beneficiaries

Indicator 2: the number of persons indirectly reached by the Programme								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
150 000	165 000			180 000			202 500	202 500
	Actual results							
	165 000	185 000	190 000	190 000	194 000	260 000		

Unit of measure: Beneficiaries

Indicator 3: the number of projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
31				35			36	36
	Actual results							
	36	33	38	39	37	49		

Unit of measure: Award decisions

Indicator 4: the quality of the project applications and the degree to which the results of selected projects can be further used, transferred

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Lowest score obtained by a retained project: 80.0	Actual results							83.2
	84.5	80.0	82.5	82.5	82.5	80.5		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of events organised: 50	Actual results							95
	84	90	96	120	120	245		

Unit of measure: Award decision & Granted applications

Indicator 5: Percentage of first time applicants

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
40 %	Actual results							-5 % < 40 % < 5 %
	43 %	45 %	50 %	50 %	50 %	70 %		

Unit of measure: Applications submitted

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Structural support -Framework partnerships (4 years)	18 04 01	0	0
Structural support – Framework partnerships (3 years)	18 04 01	6	1.292
Remembrance projects	18 04 01	48	4.475
Total			5.767

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Structural support – Framework partnerships (4 years)	F	8	6	6	6	0	0	0
	P	6	6	6	6	0		
Structural support – Framework partnerships (3 years)	F	0	0	0	0	6	6	6
	P	0	0	0	0	6	6	
Remembrance projects	F	65	42	45	44	44	44	48
	P	36	33	38	39	37	49	

Specific Objective 2: to encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy-making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level

Indicator 1: the number of participants who are directly involved

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
100 000	Actual results							100 000
	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	125 000		

Unit of measure: Beneficiaries

Indicator 2: the number of persons indirectly reached by the Programme								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
150 000	165 000			180 000			202 500	202 500
	Actual results							
	165 000	185 000	190 000	190 000	194 000	260 000		

Unit of measure: Beneficiaries

Indicator 3: the number of participating organisations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 000	1 100	1 300	1 350	1 400	1 500	1 600	1 700	1 700
	Actual results							
	1 100	1 300	1 550	2 100	2 300	2 310		

Unit of measure: Applications submitted

Indicator 4: the perception of the Union and its institutions by the beneficiaries								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
77 %	77 %			Stable at 77 %			77 %	77 %
	Actual results							
	60 %	64 %	67 %	70 %	71 %	70 %		

Source: Eurobarometer number 92 – Autumn 2019

Indicator 5: the quality of project applications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
71	53			72			74	74
	Actual results							
	53	74	73	71	71	71		

Unit of measure: Award Decision

Indicator 6: the percentage of first time applicants								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
40 %	40 %			-5 % < 40 % < 5 %			-5 % < 40 % < 5 %	-5 % < 40 % < 5 %
	Actual results							
	40 %	44 %	53 %	53 %	54 %	66 %		

Unit of measure: Applications submitted

Indicator 7: the number of transnational partnerships including different types of stakeholders								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1.3	1.6			At least 2			At least 2	At least 2
	Actual results							
	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0		

Unit of measure: Types of stakeholders

Indicator 8: the number of networks of twinned towns								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
41	35			35			36	36
	Actual results							

	35	32	30	32	35	36		
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Source: Award decisions

Indicator 9: the number and quality of policy initiatives following-up on activities supported by the Programme at the local or European level

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0			2			2	2
	Actual results							
		0	0	2	2	2		

Source: Final reports

Indicator 10: the geographical coverage of the activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Member States with appropriate national coverage (NC):				25			25	25
	Actual results							
		23	25	25	27	27		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Submitting as a lead partner: 13	16			13			25	25
	Actual results							
		28	27	28	28	28		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Selected as a lead partner: 12	15			26			28	28
	Actual results							
		27	27	27	27	27		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Submitting as a lead or co-partner: 18	20			26			28	28
	Actual results							
		28	28	28	28	28		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Selected as a lead or co-partner: 15	17			26			28	28
	Actual results							
		28	28	28	28	28		

Methodology: NC = National coverage = % of projects submitted (or selected) per member State as a lead partner (or co-partner) / % of its population in the total population of the EU.

Comment: Geographical coverage at EU level = number of Member States for which 90 % < NC < 110 %;

Unit of measure: Applications granted and submitted

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Citizens' meetings	18 04 01 01	280	4.800
Networks TT	18 04 01 01	38	5.467
Civil society projects	18 04 01 01	32	4.416
Structural support – Framework partnerships (4 years)	18 04 01 01	0	0
Structural support – Framework partnerships (3 years)	18 04 01 01	24	5.519
Peer reviews	18 04 01 01	0	0
Studies and communication services	18 04 01 01	0	0
IT development, communication activities and other support activities (for the ECI)	18 04 01 02	4	1.385

Support structures in the Members states	18 04 01 01	35	1.100
Total			22.687

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Citizens' meetings	F	430	312	338	276	295	277	280
	P	252	252	237	248	255	260	
Networks TT	F	103	43	46	35	38	35	38
	P	35	32	30	32	35	36	
Civil society projects	F	39	33	36	28	31	28	32
	P	29	27	25	27	31	29	
Structural support –Framework partnerships (4 years)	F	26	29	29	29	0	0	0
	P	29	31	30	30	0		
Structural support – Framework partnerships (3 years)	F	0	0	0	0	24	24	24
	P	0	0	0	0	24	24	
Peer reviews	F	2	2	2	0	1	1	0
	P	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Studies and communication services	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	P	1	0	0	0	0		
IT development, communication activities and other support activities (for the ECI)	F			0	2	1	3	4
	P			0	2	2	4	
Support structures in the Members States	F	33	33	33	33	33	36	35
	P	25	27	29	30	29	29	

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship**Union Civil Protection Mechanism – Heading 3****Lead DG: ECHO**

Associated DGs: EAC

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

The aim of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽¹⁾, as stated in Treaty Article 196, is to support, coordinate and supplement the actions of the Member States in the field of civil protection with a view to improving the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. The UCPM focuses on reducing loss of human life, environmental, economic and material damage caused by disasters through a comprehensive approach covering disaster prevention, preparedness and response; improving the understanding in Member States of disaster risks through cooperation on risk assessment and planning, and the gradual development of a European culture of disaster prevention; as well as on improving the preparedness for disasters through training, exercises, exchange of best practices and similar activities.

The UCPM Heading 3 funds projects where the primary beneficiaries are the Participating States of the UCPM (the 34 Participating States to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism include the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and Turkey).

EU added value of the programme

The EU's added value comes in the form of:

- Reduction of loss of human life and of environmental, economic and material damage caused by disasters through a comprehensive approach covering disaster prevention, preparedness and response;
- Improved understanding in Member States of disaster risks through cooperation on risk assessment and planning, and the gradual development of a European culture of disaster prevention;
- Improved preparedness for disasters through training, exercises, exchange of best practices and similar activities;
- Improved coordination of the response to disaster by bringing together and facilitating Member States' offers of assistance;
- Increased cost-effectiveness through the pooling of assistance, the sharing of transport capacities, the identification of complementarities and the avoidance of duplication;
- More coherent, predictable and visible response to disasters through the set-up of a European Response Capacity ready to help everywhere in the EU and in third countries when needed;
- Additional capacities at the disposal of Member States to respond to natural and man-made disasters in overwhelming situations.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the lead DG for the implementation of the UCPM. The Mechanism is implemented through direct management (grants and procurement).

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

The activities in the area of civil protection were implemented as planned in the UCPM legislation and the Commission Implementing Decision in all areas: disaster prevention, preparedness and response.

This was an important period for the UCPM as it witnessed the revision of its legislation (Decision No 1313/2013/EU). Following the Commission proposal adopted in November 2017, a political agreement was reached in December 2018 between the Council, European Parliament and the Commission. The new legislation entered into force in March 2019, with the subsequent implementing decisions put in place in 2019 to establish the rescEU reserve in the areas of aerial forest fire fighting and emergency medical capacities.

The operational transition of the new provisions in 2019 was handled smoothly with the new financial support arrangements for UCPM activations taking immediate effect from March and the first deployment of rescEU 'transition' aerial forest fire fighting assets.

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013).

In addition, as part of the EU's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Commission proposed to reinforce the UCPM within the Union by EUR 370 million in 2020, so as to make essential medical supplies available.

Key achievements

The UCPM intervenes in all phases of the disaster management cycle: prevention, preparedness and response. This section outlines some of the key achievements of 2019 in the three areas:

General

- From a legislative point of view, since the entry into force of the legislation in March 2019, three Commission implementing decisions were adopted in 2019 (April, July, November) giving meaning and content to the provisions of the new legislation. These acts allowed, notably, the definition of specific rescEU capacities and the establishment of general rules of functioning for the European Civil Protection Pool and the rescEU reserve.
- From a communication perspective, in particular on the awareness raising dimension, the Commission has been running several communication campaigns. The 'EU Saves Lives' campaign (launched in 2018 and continued throughout 2019) was one of the key achievements. It consisted of a virtual reality roadshow, reaching over 600 000 visitors in 14 cities, in addition to more than 22 million online viewers.
- Moreover, a new media buying campaign in the last weeks of 2019 had a reach of over 31 million citizens (in nine EU Member States), and focused on rescEU and the reinforced EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Prevention

- In 2019, the UCPM financed eight cross-border disaster prevention and preparedness projects. Out of the eight projects, three projects had a direct focus on increasing climate resilience. In addition, a new call ('Track 1') for single-country grants for leveraging investments for disaster risk management was introduced in the UCPM. The pilot awarded seven grants to six Participating States. Out of the seven grants, four targeted primarily disaster prevention and three disaster preparedness.
- Three 'EU Peer Reviews on Disaster Risk Management' were conducted in 2019 inside the UCPM (North Macedonia, Serbia, Portugal).
- The reporting guidelines for the submission of the summaries of risk assessments and risk management capabilities as foreseen in article 6.3 of Decision 1313/2013/EU were published in December 2019 ahead of the 22 December indicative date. This can be considered a **climate-related** objective, as the new guidelines introduced climate adaptation as one of the criteria to be taken into account by Member States in the future.

Preparedness

- By the end of 2019, a total of 110 response capacities were committed to the European Civil Protection Pool and are available for immediate deployment. Out of these, 16 capacities finalised the certification process in 2019.
- Nine new adaptation grants, for a total amount of nearly EUR 6.5 million, were granted in 2019 for the upgrading and repairing of national capacities to allow for their international deployment.
- The work to continue developing the European Medical Corps pursued in 2019 with a dedicated meeting gathering Member States' relevant health and civil protection authorities, organised in November 2019.
- DG ECHO continues providing financial support to the World Health Organisation to allow (among others) mentorship for the European emergency medical teams (EMTs), wishing to go through the WHO classification process. At the end of 2019 a contribution agreement was signed with WHO for an amount of EUR 462 000 to further support the development of global technical standards through various working groups as well, as the training of EMTs and the testing of different coordination mechanisms through various exercises.
- To date four European Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) which received the WHO classification (verification) are registered in the European Civil Protection Pool. In 2019, a Portuguese EMT1 has joined the European Medical Corps, while the EMTs committed by Belgium (EMT-2) and Germany (EMT-1) are in the process of WHO verification.
- One of the key achievements in 2019 was the establishment of the **rescEU transition phase** as foreseen in the enhanced UCPM legislation. In 2019, the Commission signed grant agreements with Member States (Croatia, Italy, Spain, Greece, France and Sweden) to make aerial forest firefighting assets available at EU level during the 2019 forest fire season. This reserve consisted of 15 assets/6 capacities (8 Canadair, 1 Dash and 6 helicopters). Over EUR 15.5 million were dedicated to this action. This can be considered a **climate related** achievement, as it had a direct impact on the capacity of the Union to support Member States extinguishing forest fires.
- In parallel, the Commission put in place a number of dedicated **Task Teams** meetings to define all the technical and operational specifications to establish as rapidly as possible the rescEU capacities in the priority areas identified by the legislation: aerial firefighting capacities, medical capacities and Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) capacities. A total of 12 Task Teams meetings were organised in 2019.

- In 2019, the training and exercises activities continue as in previous years with the training of approximately 1000 UCPM experts and 270 exchanges of experts, with the implementation of 14 MODEX exercises, two UCPM exercises, with the organisation of two sets of ad-hoc training session on rescEU topics and the contribution to joint UN training sessions. In addition, in 2019, the Commission initiated the work on the establishment of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, an initiative that will bring together individuals and organisations (incl. civil protection and disaster management actors, centres of excellence, universities and researchers) to share their knowledge.

Response

- In 2019, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism was activated in response to 20 emergencies in total, three of which happened inside the EU. Assistance via the Mechanism was provided to Greece (forest fires), France (marine pollution) and Finland (marine pollution).
- In the framework of the forest fire support operation in Greece in August 2019, it is important to be noted that Italian and Spanish aircraft included in the rescEU transition phase were deployed during two days, performing 172 water drops (approximately 1 032 tonnes) during 39 flying hours. This is considered the first operation including rescEU capacities.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the [latest interim evaluation](#) were presented in the Programme Statements of 2018 and 2019 (covering the years 2017 and 2018 respectively).

In October 2018, the Commission launched an ‘Evaluation Study of Definitions, Gaps and Costs of Response Capacities for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism’ whose final report was published on DG ECHO’s website in December 2019.

A study was also commissioned to analyse the objectives of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and assess the extent to which the UCPM Training Programme is effectively meeting the preparedness needs of the Commission. The study looked at the training programmes from 2015 to 2018. The final report has been issued in January 2019² and will serve to develop the 2020-2024 Training programme.

A Study on ‘Medical aerial evacuation as European emergency response capacity: Analysis and way forward’ was conducted between July and November 2019 and fed into the legislative preparatory work to add MEDEVAC to list of rescEU capacities.

Forthcoming implementation

The immediate focus will be put on the implementation of the new provisions of the legislation in force since March 2019, notably on the development of rescEU capacities. As indicated above, the Commission has set in motion different Task Teams (expert meetings) on the priority areas identified in the legislation to agree on the technical details, so specific rescEU capacities can be added through implementing acts. The availability of funds depending on the final outcome of the overall MFF negotiations will have a direct impact on the correct implementation of the enhanced UCPM.

Some of the key areas in the short-term will be:

- In 2020, the first impact evaluation looking specifically at the programme of Prevention and Preparedness Projects will be carried out. This evaluation will assess impact of the programmes in the current MFF (2014-2020) in order to shape any future adjustments for support provided under the next MFF.
- In 2020, in the context of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), DG ECHO is partnering with the World Bank Group to carry out a study on the ‘Economics of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in Europe’. The study is expected to be completed around the end of 2020/early 2021.
- During the period 2020-2021, the Commission expects to sign the first direct grant agreements for the establishment of *proper* rescEU capacities, namely aerial forest firefighting assets, for MEDEVAC for high infectious diseases patients, and for EMT-3 (type-3 Emergency Medical Teams). Pending the adoption of the related implementing acts, two new areas, notably stockpiling of vaccines and CBRN, might be included in the development.
- The Commission will also continue with rescEU transition for the aerial forest firefighting assets. It is expected that Member States will offer a comparable number of capacities as in 2019.
- In 2020, the Commission will continue with the establishment of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. The Network’s goals are to streamline the exchange of knowledge, stimulate research and innovation and create more networking opportunities to various actors at all levels and build a shared understanding and culture in disaster prevention, preparedness and response. The Knowledge Network will build on existing national and EU programmes, such as for training and exercises, but will be broader and more ambitious.
- Based on the ‘Evaluation Study of Definitions, Gaps and Costs of Response Capacities for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism’ finalised in 2019, the so-called Art. 34 (2) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on operations and progress made towards the capacity goals and remaining gaps of the European Civil Protection Pool, taking into account the establishment of rescEU capacities will be prepared in 2020 (Article 34 of Amended Decision 1313/2013/EU).

- On the communication side, a new specific survey of the Eurobarometer is expected to be issued in 2020 to continue testing the level of support of the EU citizens of the UCPM.

It should be noted that under the enhanced UCPM legislation, the development of rescEU capacities could be done through multi-annual work programmes, with budgetary commitments being broken down into annual instalments.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

A key element for the period 2021-2027 is the fact that the UCPM will be placed under a single Heading (Heading 5: ‘Security and Defence’), instead of the current situation where it is split between an internal and external Heading. This is seen as a positive development, as it will make possible an even closer interlinkage between the internal and external dimension of the UCPM.

From a legislative point of view, on 7 March 2019, the Commission adopted a proposal to amend the budgetary provisions and related articles of Decision No 1313/2013/EU (COM(2019) 125 final). Given that Article 19 of the Decision sets the financial envelope for the seven-year period of the multiannual financial framework, it is essential to amend it to ensure that the UCPM can continue functioning in the new multiannual financial framework. The proposal is a technical proposal, circumscribed to the financial provisions, and in line with the overall amount for the UCPM for the 2021-2017 period already adopted by the Commission in its Communication of May 2018 (COM(2018) 321 final).

The Council adopted its partial General Approach on 19 November 2019. During Council discussions, the Member States slightly enlarged the scope of the proposed revision beyond the financial provisions. The European Parliament is expected to reach an opinion on the Commission proposal by the end of March 2020. Trilogues could then start in April 2020, although the finalisation of the amendment to Decision No 1313/2013/EU (COM(2019)125 final) would be subject to agreement on the overall MFF package.

During the 2021-2027 period, the UCPM is expected to deliver on the major initiatives introduced in the legislation, being the development of rescEU capacities being a key element. Given the significant investments needed to develop such costly capacities, the provision of adequate financial resources for the whole period is considered essential. In this light, the Commission proposal of EUR 1.4 billion is being the basis for the budgetary planning within DG ECHO.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism	2014 – 2020	223,8

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	28,2	29,3	30,6	29,5	33,2	104,6	141,2	396,5
Total	28,2	29,3	30,6	29,5	33,2	104,6	141,2	396,5
<i>Of which contribution to European Solidarity Corps</i>					2,0	2,0	2,0	6,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	69,556	100,00 %	42,370	100,00 %	511,170	6,36 %	252,000	5,51 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	38,569	188,16 %	18,689	237,07 %	515,807	6,36 %	254,667	6,06 %

(*) 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 UCPM is not a regular programme funded by the Union, but rather a more complex policy instrument that supports Member States and Participating States in the area of civil protection, intervening in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response). By its external dimension, the UCPM also supports the EU as a global actor, projecting EU solidarity in disasters beyond the EU borders.

Performance

In general terms, the UCPM has shown a strong performance over recent years. Notably:

- In the area of prevention, the UCPM has been instrumental in fostering an EU-wide culture of prevention, supporting notably those Member States and neighbouring countries whose structures and policies were not so advanced. Through the compilation of national risk assessments and the dissemination of a document outlining a risk profile at EU level, Member States have generally become more aware of the need to strengthen prevention policies and taken significant steps. Some Member States (e.g. Greece and Portugal) have undertaken over the past years, bold reforms in their national civil protection structures, to emphasise precisely the role of prevention. Croatia has put investment in disaster risk management forward as key priority during their Presidency of the Council, building on the work of earlier presidencies. Although difficult to quantify, the advancement in awareness raising among Member States concerning prevention matters has significantly increased over the past years.
- In the area of preparedness, there is a clear trend that shows the growing importance the UCPM is having among Member States when it comes to being prepared for disasters. The number and diversity of registered capacities in the European Civil Protection Pool is the highest ever, reaching in certain areas the maximum required at EU level.
- Concerning response, despite the unpredictable nature of disasters, the UCPM is very often activated to support Member States and third countries. An activation of the UCPM and providing rapid support under it is seen by many Member States as a sign of European solidarity. The fact that most of the activations of the UCPM are requested by third countries also shows the international relevance that the UCPM has acquired and the capacity and will that EU Member States have to send assistance and expertise to third countries in need. Nevertheless, efforts to raising awareness of the UCPM in third countries should be continued. In this regard, the role of EU Delegations and the DG ECHO regional offices is essential.

Areas of improvements and external factors

Despite a strong performance over the past years, as reported by the European Court of Auditors report published in 2016, and as explained above, the UCPM legislation was amended in 2019 to address some of the limitations identified by the Interim Evaluation conducted in 2017 and by conclusions drawn from operations. The fact that this important legislative modification was carried out without disrupting the proper functioning of the instrument, it also shows the degree of maturity that the UCPM has been able to reach. It should be noted as well that the entry into force of a new legislative framework presents always some implementation challenges (shortcomings), especially in the early stages, where new procedures are being established. As such, some elements that will need follow up are:

Some of the new provisions envisaged in the revised legislation, namely the **development of rescEU capacities**, will need some additional time to be materialised in full. Although specific funds were earmarked for the development of rescEU capacities in the 2019 annual work programme, not all funds were spent and EUR 37 million were returned. In addition, EUR 8 million were also returned to the central budget for the internal response. Given the impossibility to predict emergencies, the budget returned under the response line should not be considered as under-implementation.

- Actions to address the problem: The Commission has put in place the necessary measures to ensure that rescEU capacities can be developed in the short-term. Notably by the establishment of the so-called ‘Task teams’ working around the three priority areas identified by the legislation (aerial firefighting, medical and CBRN) to lay down the minimum technical requirements necessary to adopt the subsequent Commission implementing decisions to develop such capacities. The result is that since the entry into force of the new legislation in March 2019, three Commission implementing decisions have already been adopted.
- External factors: despite the Commission efforts to have in place the legislative framework ready as soon as possible, the initiative to develop (or not) rescEU capacities lies entirely with Member States, which need to agree to host and co-finance part of the capacities. Another important external factor affecting this action is the (un)availability of certain of these capacities in market. In the case of amphibious airplanes, notably the Canadair CL-415, it is not currently available in the market and despite discussions with the manufacturer are well advanced, the new aircraft will not be ready before 2022-23.

Another provision of the new legislation is the **establishment of the UCPM Knowledge Network**, foreseen in the new legislation, which still needs to be set up.

- Actions to address the problem: the key problem encountered in this area was the lack of consensus among Member States about what the Knowledge Network should entail. As such, the Commission organised during 2019 multiple meetings with Member States to agree on the structure and governance of the Knowledge Network. The final draft is still being discussed. In order to support these efforts, the Commission has decided to launch an ambitious outreach strategy to Member States (a round of consultative visits) to obtain first-hand information about their expectations and to be to deliver on the objectives pursued in a simple manner, avoiding duplications.
- External factors: the incoming German Presidency has set the development of the Knowledge Network as one of the key priorities during its term. The initial German reaction to the draft concept note on the governance and structure of the Knowledge Network presented by the Commission was lukewarm, proposing a different model. Given the need to have the buy-in from Member States to develop such project, further efforts to coordinate and obtain the support of the German Presidency will be needed.

Finally, as overarching external factor having a direct impact on the delivery of the objectives of the UCPM is the conclusion of the ongoing UCPM MFF negotiations, notably from the budgetary perspective. Securing the necessary funds to carry out the actions envisaged in the enhanced legislation will be the key to ensure that the UCPM can be implemented correctly. Failing to reach an

agreement in time, and the application of any MFF contingency plan, will evidently delay or undermine the performance of the whole instrument.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Union Civil Protection Mechanism shall aim to strengthen the cooperation between the Union and the Member States and to facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters.

Indicator 1: Economic damage caused by natural disasters								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
155.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0
	Actual results							
	91.3	78.9	136.1	332.7	105.5	3.1		

Comment: Estimate based on the average of annual economic damage of the 2004-2014 years. The data reflects economic damage caused by natural disasters worldwide excluding the economic damage caused by natural disasters in the Member States of the European Union. The EM-DAT base is frequently updated and historical data revised.

The annual results and evolution of this indicator depends on external factors (occurrence, frequency, severity and location of disasters) which are totally beyond the control of the Commission. In addition, the proportion of reported economic damages varies strongly by countries, disaster type, and time. The specific contribution of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to the evolution of this indicator is difficult to assess.

Source: As recorded in the EM-DAT database

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their effects by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services.

Performance

Overall a strong performance for all three indicators under Specific Objective 1 should be underlined. Indicator 1 and Indicator 2 show a minor deviation from the milestone (26/28 and 27/28 respectively). These indicators refer to the submission of reporting documents (national risk assessments for Indicator 1; risk management capabilities assessment for Indicator 2) by Member States in accordance with Article 6 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU. Although heavily encouraged and despite several reminders, the final decision to submit or not those document lie with Member States. In the first case, Malta and Latvia did not submit their national risk assessments, and for the second indicator, only Malta failed to submit.

The Commission compiles the key information contained in these documents and will issue (for the second time) a document providing an overview of the main risks the EU may face. The non-submission of these documents by two countries will not prevent this from taking place.

Regarding indicator 3, although meeting the milestone, it shows some variation from previous year. The reason for this is that since 2018 a new strategy for the Prevention and Preparedness Projects was presented to Member States and fully implemented as of 2019. The strategy includes a much stronger focus on: results (with the introduction of a mandatory results framework in the project proposal phase to better measure impact), relevance to needs of the end users and on scalability (i.e. possibility to use outputs of project to prepare prevention and preparedness investments). It has also become mandatory to include a proof of support of the national civil protection authorities from the countries that benefit from the project. The strategy also included raising the ceiling of max EU contribution to €1 million (as of 2019) in order to increase efficiency (the transaction cost of preparing a multi-beneficiary grant is very high). As a consequence, the milestones for the coming year have been revised (reduced) to mirror the new approach.

Projects awarded in 2017 have ended at the end of December 2019 (duration is 24 months); those awarded in 2018 will be closed at the end of 2020, etc. Therefore, it is too early to tell whether this new approach has delivered the expected results. To this end, we are preparing an evaluation of the entire programme, which will assess the results achieved by Prevention and Preparedness Projects between 2014 and 2020. This will also tell us whether this new approach (post-2018) has been effective.

Indicator 1: Number of Member States that have made available to the Commission a summary of their risk assessments.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
14			27	28	28	28	27	28
	Actual results							
	17	27	28		23	26		

Source: Annual report for the EP on the implementation of the new union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision.

Indicator 2: Number of Member States that have made available to the Commission an assessment of their risk management as referred to in Article 6 of the Decision.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	0	0	0	28	28	28	28
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	27	27		

Comment: Obligation to report from 2018 onwards. Only one Member State did not submit the report in 2018, but its contribution is expected in 2019. In addition, Norway and Serbia also submitted their contribution as non-EU Participating States to the Mechanism.

Indicator 3: Number of projects financed for prevention within the Union

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
7	10	10	12	10	10	8	11	11
	Actual results							
	15	10	10	5	4	8		

Comment: Following the new approach to the prevention and preparedness projects introduced in 2019, whereby projects are expected to be more targeted and produce higher impact. As a result, less projects have been financed, but with a higher financing. In 2019 the maximum EU contribution was raised to 1 million EUR. This includes 4 single-country grants ('Track 1'), 3 cross-border projects ('Track 2') and 1 grant to the OECD (Peer Review methodology).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021	
		Number	EUR
Grant agreements	14 02 01	11	7 600 000
Number of contracts	14 02 01	2	5 100 000
Total		13	12 700 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	*2019	*2020
Grant agreements	F	10	10	11	11	15	15	15
	P	15	10	10	6	4	11	
Number of contracts	F	2	3	6	6	2	5	5
	P	2	3	2	2	5**	5	

*2019-2020 figures reflect the amendments to Decision No 1313/2013.

Specific Objective 2: To enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters.

Performance

Concerning the performance of the indicators relevant for Specific Objective 2, two comments are provided. Regarding Indicator 2, this measures the number of registered in the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS). CECIS provides the broadest overview of existing capacities in Member States, and as such, reports different status for the capacities, namely, rescEU capacities, capacities offered to the European Civil Protection Pool (cf. Indicator 1), and capacities existing in Member States that are not part of the first two categories. It is precisely in the latter category (capacities existing in Member States), where the important increase has been measured. However, although the Commission encourages Member States to report all national capacities in CECIS, there is no legal obligation, as such, it depends entirely on Member States decision to do so. The increase should be then seen positively, and as a sign of the maturity of the UCPM and the trust that Member States have on it.

In relation to the performance of Indicator 2, the same explanation provided for Indicator 3 of the Specific Objective 1 applies, given that the new approach put in place concern both prevention and preparedness projects (note that the same action under the annual work programme covers both type of projects). As with prevention projects, the milestone for preparedness projects has also been reviewed.

Indicator 1: Number of response capacities included in the voluntary pool in relation to the capacity goals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0			≥ 15		≥ 50		≥ 60	≥ 60
	Actual results							
	3	16	56	92	105	109		

Comment: The indicator covers the number of modules, as well as technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities registered or having started the registration process for the rebranded European Civil Protection Pool (formerly known as Voluntary pool).

Under the new legislation in force since March 2019, higher financial incentives are given for capacities to be registered in the ECPP. These are: a) coverage of 75 % of the operational costs (including transport) for operations inside the Union, b) 75 % of transport costs for operations outside the Union, c) 75 % of adaption grants to upgrade the capacity for international deployment; and d) 75 % of repair costs to bring a capacity from a state of disrepair to a state of deployability under the Mechanism.

Indicator 2: Number of standard response units (modules) registered in the EU's Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
150	160		≥ 160		≥ 175		≥ 180	≥ 180
	Actual results							
	160	170	172	173	174	220		

Comment: Measured by the number of modules, technical assistance and support teams, other response capacities registered in accordance with Article 9(6) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU in the EU's Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) database.

Source: Annual report for the EP on the implementation of the new union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision.

Indicator 3: Number of projects financed for preparedness

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
7	10	10	12	10	10	11	11	11
	Actual results							
	13	8	10	6	4	8		

Comment: This includes 5 cross-border grants + 3 single-country (Track 1) grants focusing on preparedness.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021	
		Number	EUR
Grant agreements and contracts (number of preparedness projects financed, including training dimension)	14 02 01	33	36 400 000
Number of administrative arrangements	14 02 01	1	3 000 000
Number of grant agreements and contracts (Emergency Response Capacity + rescEU)	14 02 01	30	95 800 000
Total		64	135 200 000

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	*2018	*2019	*2020	
Grant agreements and contracts	F	24	26	28	30	30	50	50
	P	28	36	39	37	20	22	
Number of administrative arrangements	F	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
	P	4	4	2	2	2	3	
Emergency response capacity, number of grant agreements (rescEU)	F						13	20
	P						6	

*2019-2020 figures reflect the amendments of Decision No 1313/2013.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters.

Performance

The improvement witnessed under the indicator measuring Specific Objective 3 needs to be put in context, since this indicator is partly influenced by the number, severity, nature and the specific context of the emergencies for which the UCPM is activated in a given year. Thus, although the reduction in the response time can be seen as an element indicating improvement in the coordination and efficiency of the response delivered, it should not be discarded than in 2020 a slight increase could occur, depending on the type and nature of emergencies faced.

Indicator 1: Average speed of interventions under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (from the acceptance of the offer to deployment).

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

≤ 36	≤ 24			≤ 18			≤ 12	≤ 12
	Actual results							
		22	20	11	14	7		

Methodology: Measured as the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the offering EU Member States for movement towards the affected Member State. The indicator covers modules, as well as for technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU).

Comment: EU’s Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) data base. Measured as the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the offering EU Member States for movement towards the affected Member State. The indicator covers modules, as well as for technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU) of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Results of this indicator are partly influenced by the number, severity, nature and the specific context of the emergencies for which the UCPM is activated in a given year.

Unit of measure: Hours

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021	
		Number	EUR million
Number of contracts	14 02 02	2	1 500 000
Grant agreement / service contract (operations inside the EU)	14 02 02	110	21 900 000
Number of contracts (deployment of experts)	14 02 02	54	600 000
Total		166	24 000 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	*2019	*2020
Number of contracts	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	0	15	
Grant agreement / service contract	F	2	2	2	2	10	20	20
	P	5	6	6	8	12	2	
Number of contracts (deployment of experts, new output)	F				4	4	4	4
	P				4	0	0	

*2019-2020 figures reflect amendments to the Decision No 131:2013. Outputs for the 2019-2020 period are lower than those foreseen in the Legislative Financial Statement (keeping the same budgetary allocation foreseen in the LFS) because under the new legislation, the amount per grant is likely to be significantly higher, given that, in addition to the transport costs, operational costs are also eligible.

Specific Objective 4: To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters.

Indicator 1: The level of awareness of Union citizens of the risks in their region.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
							75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
		55 %						

Comment: The level of awareness of risks has been measured once, through the Eurobarometer survey conducted in 2015 in 28 MS. In the following Eurobarometer surveys (2017), the question was not repeated and the focus shifted towards the public awareness on the EU response to disasters. On this question 55 % of the respondents replied positively in the 2017 survey. The rephrasing reflects better the communication objectives of the Commission, while keeping the main responsibility for awareness raising on risks in general at the national and local level.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021	
		Number	EUR
Number of civil protection projects contributing to increased public awareness and preparedness for disasters	14 02 01	n/a	n/a
Contracts contributing to increased public awareness (including possible organisation of Eurobarometer survey)	14 02 01	2	800 000
Total		2	800 000

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of civil protection projects contributing to increased public awareness and preparedness for disasters	F			18	15	15	15	15
	P			20	12	1	0	
Contracts contributing to increased public awareness	F			1	2	2	2	2
	P			1	2	1	2	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Projects and other activities related to climate change adaptation	19.8	27.6
Total	19.8	27.6

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
6.9	6.1	6.9	5.9	6.0	19.8	27.6	79.2

(*)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).

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship**Food and Feed**

Lead DG: SANTE

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

Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 established the Programme for the Union's action in the field of food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material. The aim is to contribute to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests and by ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs. The Programme has four specific objectives:

- 1) to contribute to a high level of safety of food and food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production;
- 2) to contribute to achieving a higher animal health status for the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals;
- 3) to contribute to the timely detection of pests and their eradication where those pests have entered the Union; and
- 4) to contribute to improving the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls and other activities carried out with a view to the effective implementation of and compliance with the Union rules.

The Food and Feed Programme is implemented through annual and multiannual work programmes.

Moreover, financial support to emergency measures is provided in order to eradicate or contain animal diseases and pest outbreaks. The emergency measures act as a fire-extinguisher to put down or contain the outbreak and avoid further spread of the disease.

EU added value of the programme

Diseases can rapidly spread between Member States and involve the entire EU market. The EU intervention is needed in order to minimise the impact on human, animal and plant health, as well as on the industry and the markets with a view to reducing risks and bringing improvements all along the food chain through preventive actions and management of crises.

With a relatively limited budget of around EUR 250 million per year (representing EUR 0.5 per citizen of the EU per year), this EU budget ensures a high level of protection of humans, animals, and plants while protecting also the whole EU agri-food industry, representing the largest manufacturing sector in Europe, with some 44 million jobs in the EU and a value estimated at more than EUR 410 billion. The competitiveness of the European food productions depends on their reputation, with the EU food safety budget playing a crucial role in contributing to the safety and quality of European food products.

The budget of EUR 250 million per year is distributed as follows:

Veterinary and phytosanitary programmes	EUR 130 M
Veterinary and phytosanitary emergency measures	EUR 20 M
European Union Reference Laboratories	EUR 20 M
IT expenditure	EUR 16 M
Better Training for Safer Food	EUR 19 M
Contributions to international organisations	EUR 8 M
Other expenditure (studies, experts, communication, ...)	EUR 24 M

Variations are possible depending on the unforeseeable nature of emergency measures.

Experience shows that EU added value in the food chain area goes beyond what individual Member States could achieve by implementing national measures without EU support. The achievement of a higher animal and plant health status in the EU was possible thanks to both the technical and financial support provided by the EU to the Member States. Especially Member States struggling with economic crisis or other constraints, have difficulties to secure appropriate financial resources to respond to the combination of present and potential challenges. The EU co-financing mechanism also provides an incentive for Member States seemingly not having a direct interest in combatting a particular disease or pest because the pest or disease is not present on its territory but having the obligation to collaborate in the overall EU interest. The success of this solidary approach is reinforced by the centralised monitoring and follow-up system put in place by the Commission thus creating the necessary oversight and supporting the strategic and priority choices to be made.

The EU added value provided by the European Reference Laboratories' activities and the Better Training for Safer Food programmes is linked to the nature of their activities: the network of reference laboratories ensures high-quality and uniform testing in the EU and supports Commission activities on risk management and risk assessment in the area of laboratory analysis, while the EU training programme promotes a common approach towards the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation. This

contribution towards the harmonisation of rules at Union level and the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the food chain and related areas is a concrete example of positive interaction within the EU, which could not be achieved through isolated efforts at national level and without the EU financial support.

Implementation mode

The Food and Feed budget is implemented under direct management and mainly (85 %) through direct grants to designated beneficiaries being in principal the Member States or Member States' affiliated entities but also through calls for tender (e.g. Better Training for Safer Food programme and IT expenditure).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

Since 2016, annual work programmes have been implemented as foreseen. These work programmes include national programmes for the eradication, control, and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses; national survey programmes for pests; training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health; IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, and plant health; the European Union Reference Laboratories. Co-funding for emergency measures related to outbreaks of animal diseases and pests was covered through the adoption of one common financing decision. The severe outbreaks of Avian Influenza (2016-2018) and African swine fever (2018-2019) necessitated the use of the flexibility clause to raise the maximum EU- contribution.

The **national veterinary programmes** target transmissible, often epidemic animal diseases. They have a direct impact on public health because of food safety issues and because some animal borne diseases are transmissible to humans. Furthermore, animal disease outbreaks can trigger significant economic costs through loss of internal EU and export markets and the direct cost of disease control on the EU and Member States' budgets. In 2019, 142 national veterinary programmes covering the monitoring and eradication of 12 diseases and implemented by 28 Member States, have been approved and implemented in accordance with pre-defined priorities; their final report is due at the end of April 2020. Around EUR 130,6 million was allocated to co-fund them which accounts for the largest proportion of spending under the Food and Feed budget.

The **national survey programmes for organisms harmful to plants** ensure early detection and eradication of pest outbreaks. The programmes covered 60 different plant pests of which *Xylella fastidiosa*, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, *Ralstonia solanacearum* and *Clavibacter michiganensis* consume the major budget share (about 50 % of the total budget of EUR 13,1 million). In 2019, 24 Member States participated and their programme implementation reports are due at the end of April 2020. Whereas the programme started in 2015 with 17 Member States participating, the number of Member States implementing these programmes is since 2017 stabilised at 24. Over the full period of implementation (2015-2019) the increase is indicative of the growing importance of this relatively new activity.

As far as **emergency measures** are concerned, a system was put in action in 2016 to contain the outbreaks of Lumpy skin disease in the Balkan countries through coordinated vaccination campaigns shielding the Union from further disease spread. These EU co-funded emergency measures have been continued in 2019. The implementation of the measures led to the containment of the disease in Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, and a number of third countries which also benefitted from EU financial aid (Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Albania).

The large scale Avian Influenza outbreak which started in 2016 requested extensive efforts through 2017 and 2018 to limit its spread across the European territory. As a consequence of the measures implemented, such as the slaughter of the affected animals and the disinfection of holdings, the disease did not spread across vast territories and serious damages to the farming community and the export capacity of the Union were thus avoided. The Avian Influenza virus is propagated by movement of wild birds; its spread, therefore, needs quick reaction. In 2018, the Union signed grant decisions, on top of the EUR 100 million already agreed in 2017, to co-fund the further immediate implementation of emergency measures against Avian Influenza for an additional amount of EUR 29 million. For several Member States the financial settlement of this crisis is still continuing in 2020, which will result in further substantial payments in 2020.

African swine fever (ASF) is a devastating viral disease which in Europe affects both domestic pigs and European wild boar. The disease is a serious economic threat and presents also challenges for animal welfare. Since its introduction into four Member States in the Eastern part of the EU in 2014, ASF has spread and is currently present in eleven Member States (in Italy the disease has been present since 1978 but this is not related to other Member States). The disease can be transmitted in various ways: directly through contact between sick and healthy animals (most prominently through the wild boar population and subsequent transmission of the disease to domestic pigs), and indirectly. The latter occurs through infected material (vehicles, clothes, boots etc.), contaminated food (e.g. feeding with garbage/swill containing infected meat) and biologic vectors (soft ticks). The virus is very resistant to inactivation even under harsh environmental conditions, and currently there is no vaccine available. The 'human factor' is closely related to long distance 'jumps' of the disease. These issues contribute to difficulties in ASF control and eradication.

Since 2014, the EU has allocated a total of EUR 161,5 million for the prevention and eradication of the disease, which includes EUR 62 million for eradication programmes and EUR 99,5 million for emergency measures. In 2019, thirteen Member States had EU-approved national programmes in place for control and eradication of ASF with a total allocation of EUR 14,3 million while for co-funding of emergency measures EUR 49,9 million were allocated in total. In addition, EUR 6,3 million have been allocated on 2019 budget for agreements for EU co-financing of measures against ASF with seven neighbouring non-EU countries (Albania,

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine) and Kosovo. Payments for ASF emergency dossiers will continue in 2020 and 2021 and have an important impact on the budget.

In 2019, the Food and Feed programme also co-funded emergency measures to fight against plant pest outbreaks. The combat against the Asian long horn beetles (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), pinewood nematode and *Xylella fastidiosa* took up the largest portion.

All activities carried out with the objective to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and reliability of **official controls** were also implemented as planned. In 2019 all trainings were delivered as foreseen, and the Better Training for Safer Food programme (BTSF) trained approximately 13 500 public officials in Member States and third countries in charge of the controls in the Food and Feed area. By the end of 2019 new contracts have been signed with service providers assisting the Commission in organisation these training activities, hence assuring their continuation in 2020.

There were 44 EU funded European Reference Laboratories (EURLs) in 2019; the laboratories helped ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market, the protection of human health, and the maintenance of consumers' confidence. Furthermore, 2 European Reference Centres were funded, one for animal welfare and another one for zootechnics. The Centres provide technical support and coordinated assistance to the EU countries in carrying out official controls in their respective fields.

The EURLs ensure high-quality and uniform testing in the EU, and provide trainings to hundreds of National Reference Laboratories (NRL) in a number of food safety priority areas. This ensures a consistent and uniform work of all Member States. The activities performed by the EURLs have contributed, inter-alia, to the continuous update of diagnostic tools for the timely identification of pathogens.

There were 159 audits and other control activities carried out by the Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate of DG SANTE in the food and feed area in 2019 with the participation of 61 national experts. Control activities were performed largely according to plan, while some flexibility accommodated new priorities and emergencies during the year. Audit reports are public and available on the dedicated Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/index.cfm

Key achievements

For all veterinary programmes, including the few examples given below, the EC provides a major contribution to the success achieved by Member States through the technical advice given to each Member States by the experts from the Commission and supported by national experts assessing each programme, asking for modifications and improvements when needed and checking its full compliance with EU rules. In addition, the financial support given through these programmes is a key incentive for the Member States, as explained above in Part I ('EU added value'). The external factors that can have an impact on the achievements of these programmes, such as increased epidemiological risks linked to globalisation, climate change, neighbouring third countries, or wildlife, are taken into account in the initial assessment of each specific programme before approval, and during the final report evaluation before payment.

Rabies

A significant achievement has been gained by the EU Programmes addressing rabies: this disease has been almost eradicated in the EU in wildlife (complete eradication is expected by 2020) and the number of cases has fallen from 1602 in 2009 to only 8 in 2018 (**in 3 MS**) and **5 in 2019 (in 2 MS)**, hugely reducing a significant risk to **public health** and enabling free movement of cats and dogs within the EU.

This result has been achieved through Union targeted technical and financial support for the implementation of vaccination against rabies in the Member States and certain neighbouring non-EU countries. The success of the EU co-financed rabies programmes is also illustrated by the fact that no indigenous cases of rabies in humans have been reported in the EU since 2016 (reported cases are imported cases).

Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis

Diseases such as bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis require medium-to-long term eradication actions so that Member States and regions are granted an officially free status. Thanks to MSs efforts implementing EU co-financed programmes, in the last few years, the progression of eradication of these diseases shows a positive trend: in 2013 16 MS were officially free from bovine brucellosis, 18 in 2015, 19 in 2016, 20 in 2017, 20 in 2018 and 2019. For bovine tuberculosis, 15 MS were officially free in 2013, 17 in 2015, 18 in 2016 and 2017 and 17 in 2018 and 2019 (Malta suspended). In addition, the implementation of EU co-financed bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programmes has protected human health as these diseases are zoonoses. It should also be noted that the progress in the number of officially-free Member States or regions does not fully reflect the actual progress achieved in that area because there is currently no formal obligation for the Member States to request official freedom status. This will be corrected as from 2021 with the new rules stemming from the animal health law, which should lead to an increase in those numbers in the coming years.

African swine fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) was introduced in the Eastern part of the EU by wild boar movement from Belarus and Ukraine – into the four Member States initially affected (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland). In 2017, there have been new incursions of the

disease in new areas of Poland and in two newly infected Member States (Czechia and Romania). The long-distance spread has been mainly linked to human activities and not to the natural way of disease spread by wild boar movement. In 2018, there was a dramatic increase in ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs, mostly in Romania and three Member States became newly infected (Hungary, Bulgaria and Belgium); the occurrence of ASF in wild boar in Belgium demonstrated a possible range for long-distance transmission of the disease (from the East of the EU) related to human activity. In 2019, Czechia became ASF-free while another Member State (Slovakia) became newly infected and the disease further spread in Bulgaria and Poland, coming very close to Germany. In 2020, Greece became newly infected so the disease is currently present in eleven Member States (including Italy where ASF is present since 1978 but this is not epidemiologically related to the rest of the EU). Most of these Member States had EU co-financed ASF programmes in place for several years, and Bulgaria, Belgium and Greece submitted their first programmes in 2019 (for 2020). In addition, they have received or will receive substantial EU financial support for outbreaks/cases-related emergency measures such as slaughtering or culling of pigs and compensations to owners for the value of their animals. Overall, the number of Member States with EU co-financed ASF programmes has increased from nine in 2018 to 13 and 19 in 2019 and 2020, respectively, and the situation is closely monitored.

The EU well-targeted and multifaceted response to the ASF and LSD outbreaks continued to keep the negative effects limited while the epidemics could have had devastating effects on animal health and on the sustainability of the sector (e.g. €34.3 million were allocated to Romania in 2018 for co-financing of emergency measures). The extension of the geographic area affected by ASF in the EU has been mostly geographically limited to the Eastern part of the EU.

Lumpy Skin Disease

This exotic disease, transmitted by insect vectors, is endemic in Turkey and entered the EU for the first time ever in 2015 in Greece. From there it spread quickly to Bulgaria and 5 Balkan countries and an additional 5, non-EU countries in the Balkan region in 2016. Through the technical and financial support provided by the EU, including the swift setting up of an EU LSD vaccine bank, an efficient coordination was immediately put in action to contain the outbreaks of Lumpy skin disease in the EU and in the Balkan countries in South East Europe, including EU and non-EU Member States, through coordinated vaccination campaigns, shielding the Union from further disease spread. The implementation of the measures led to the containment of the disease in the EU and the Balkans as from end of 2017, with no new case of Lumpy Skin disease in South East Balkans since 2018. Vaccination and/or surveillance of the disease is continuing in 2020 to restore the free status of the EU towards this disease in the affected region and the EU in general. The containment and eradication of this very contagious exotic disease is a clear success in protecting the health status of the EU and neighbouring countries and illustrates the EU added value in the field of contagious diseases

Avian Influenza

The large scale Avian Influenza epidemic which started in 2016 requested extensive efforts through 2017 and 2018 to limit its spread across the European territory. Eighteen Member States were infected by the Avian Influenza virus propagated by the migration movements of infected wild birds. As a consequence of the measures implemented, such as the slaughter of the affected animals and the disinfection of holdings, the disease was eradicated swiftly in the affected areas and did not spread across vast territories and serious damages to the farming community and the export capacity of the Union were thus avoided. The technical and financial support from the EU enabled the Member States to implement those measures as quickly as possible.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation are published on DG SANTE's webpages ⁽¹⁾. On 26 April 2016, the European Court of Auditors published its Special Report on a performance audit on animal disease eradication programmes. The Court examined whether the national veterinary programmes adequately contained animal diseases by assessing the approach taken by the Commission (DG SANTE) and the Member States' programmes' design and implementation. The special report entitled 'Eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases' concluded that the approach taken by the Commission was sound and was supported by good technical advice, risk analysis, and a mechanism for prioritising resources. The Court acknowledged that there have been some notable successes, for example, decrease in the cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, salmonella in poultry, and rabies in wildlife. Overall, the Court concluded that the audited animal disease programmes adequately contained animal diseases. However, the Court stressed that, as disease outbreaks can always occur, the Commission and the Member States should continue the efforts.

Four recommendations issued by the Court are taken forward by the Commission:

- facilitate the exchange of epidemiological information between Member States;
- examine whether the existing set of indicators should be updated to provide better information on veterinary control activities and the cost-effectiveness of programmes;
- systematically include, when relevant, the wildlife aspect in the veterinary programmes;
- support the availability of vaccines for use by the Member States when epidemically justified.

Three out of the four recommendations (b,c and d) have already been implemented and the recommendation a is expected to be implemented in 2021. The Commission is working together with the OIE on the merging of different notification systems (ADNS and WAHIS into ADIS).

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/cff_food-chain_mid-term-eval_reg-2014-652.pdf

In the second half of 2016, DG SANTE launched an external evaluation exercise in support to the Commission's effort to conduct the interim evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, which lays down provisions for the management of the food chain expenditure under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. The final report of the external evaluation was delivered by the selected contractor in July 2017, while the Commission mid-term evaluation report was established and presented to the European Parliament and to the Council in September 2017.

Overall, the mid-term evaluation revealed that the CFF Regulation is functioning well within its policy context. All activities receiving EU financial support in this area have proven to serve the CFF objectives, namely the improvement of human, animal and plant health, as well as the overall Commission's priorities, including the functioning of an effective internal market and the support to trade with non-EU countries. The EU financial provisions on food safety, animal and plant health have been recognised as uniform and consistent in their application and enforcement in all EU Member States. This ensures in turn that both citizens and businesses are confident that this financial framework is fair and effective in promoting high safety standards in a key sector of the EU economy. The activities funded under the CFF Regulation contribute to an EU which is safe and secure, prosperous and sustainable, social, and stronger on the global scene. These findings were used as a basis for the proposal for the food chain programme incorporated in the SMP.

To further complement the evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, and to follow up on a Court's recommendation, a targeted study to perform cost-effectiveness analysis in the food chain area is being carried out by the JRC. The study was published in 2019 (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/cost-effectiveness-analysis-methodology-food-chain-area>). This report provides a methodological guidance on cost-effectiveness analysis in the view of future evaluations of the EU interventions currently funded under the Common Financial Framework of the food chain area.

Concurrently, an external study focused on data gathering and analysis in the food chain area was launched in October 2017. The report was published in 2019 (<https://publications.europa.eu/s/k19k>). It covers all policy areas under the food chain funding, consisting of two assignments: the first one on gathering and analysing data on the cost-efficiency, benefits and EU added-value of the actions performed under the Food Chain Programme, including the projection of those elements under different budgetary scenarios; the second one, based on relevant budgetary and policy indications made available, on designing detailed programme indicators for future monitoring and evaluation purposes, in relation to the actions that will be retained for the Food Chain Programme post-2020. Its intermediate and final findings were feed into the preparatory works towards the presentation of a Commission's proposal for a post-2020 Food Chain Programme.

Forthcoming implementation

African swine fever also continues to pose a serious threat in the east part of the EU triggered by wild boar movements from bordering third countries such as Belarus and Ukraine. In addition, the threat has expanded also into the central part of the EU with a number of ASF cases in wild boar detected since 2018 in Belgium. This will continue to require emergency measures in both Member States and Balkan third countries to ensure the Union is protected from further disease spread. If not quickly detected and effectively treated, this disease can expand uncontrollably and cause substantial damages. In 2020 and 2021 in general there will be the constant need to address animal disease (such as: African swine fever and avian influenza) outbreaks as well as plant pest outbreaks (such as: *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) continuously and with utmost urgency as the consequences can be dramatic with huge losses for the sector.

In order to maintain the efficiency of the network, to capitalize on the knowledge already built, and to keep the same high level of food safety in the Union, continued funding for 46 EU Reference Laboratories and EU Reference Centres is planned for 2020 and beyond. Tasks previously carried out by UK European Reference Laboratories have been reallocated to other laboratories through a specific designation procedure (due to Brexit) and EU Reference Centres for animal welfare had their first year of implementation in 2019. Furthermore, five European Reference Laboratories for plant health have been designated in 2019. A second European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for poultry and other small farmed animals has been designated in November 2019 and is operational as from 1 February 2020.

While DG SANTE controls, including audits, in 2020 will aim at verifying the functioning of the Member States' national control systems and the competent authorities which operate them, controls in third countries will verify the compliance or equivalence of third country legislation and systems, including certification and the issuance of official certificates, labels, marks and other attestations. They will also verify the capacity of the third country control system to ensure that consignments of animals and goods exported to EU comply with the relevant requirements.

The Better Training for Safer Food programme will continue to play a key role in improving the efficiency and reliability of official controls by delivering high-value training courses on EU legislation to staff responsible for official controls in the sanitary and phytosanitary fields. In 2019, more than 40 training programmes ran, representing more than 175 trainings attended by around 6000 participants. For 2020 similar objectives were foreseen but due to the COVID-19 crisis, a number of the planned trainings have been cancelled or postponed, which will have an impact on the final results. Pending the improvement of the situation, the use of BTSF e-learning modules have been promoted and alternative IT tools such as virtual classrooms are being studied.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Food and Feed Programme has been integrated into the Commission proposal for the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics (SMP) through a dedicated food strand.

This food strand consists of programmes and activities actually already carried out under the Regulation 652/2014 as well as new programmes in the areas of animal welfare, sustainable food production and consumption, food fraud, coordinated control programmes, digitalisation, anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and food waste prevention.

The **animal welfare** actions will aim at supporting innovative projects that replace, reduce or refine current practices that are detrimental to the welfare of animals, activities of data collection and of training.

Initiatives to improve the sustainable use of food packaging materials and tableware as a way to reach the target of the circular economy and contribute to the zero pollution strategy

Activities to facilitate recycling of food contact materials and limit incidental contaminants: because of the circular economy and environmental objectives linked to sustainability, the use of recycled food contact materials needs to grow. This growth is limited by insufficient knowledge on incidental contaminants occurring in the secondary (waste) materials used as input to the recycling processes. The recycling of plastics other than PET, as well as of paper and board requires a better understanding of contaminant levels and the ways to control them. Activities concerning the monitoring of contaminants in recycled food contact materials are therefore needed to ensure the health risk of incidental contamination can be understood and controlled in order to further facilitate the growth of the share of recycled materials in this sector, and as a support to official controls in this area.

Activities to achieve better information systems on the use of food contact materials through the digitalisation of the production chain: Presently, under the food contact materials legislation substances may be authorised, but there is very little knowledge on the actual use of these substances, and compositional information is often lost in the supply chain. This information is directly relevant for enforcing the safety of packaging materials, but also for consumer trust, the ability to recycle them, and their environmental performance. Such activities should include work on information systems for the management and enforcement of relevant compliance information in the supply chain of food contact materials. They will inter alia investigate whether and how it will possible to design an information system to manage and transfer compliance related information between business operators and competent authorities. It will result in a report on the possible specifications of such as system, and the requirements for its implementation.

Activities on ensuring the safe use of natural and materials as food contact materials: In the wake of the plastic strategy, services note an expansion of the use of processed natural materials used as alternatives to plastics that were not previously widely used as food packaging or as kitchenware or tableware. Whilst these materials are often associated with environmental benefits, e.g. they may be produced from left overs in food production, their safety is difficult to establish. In the traditional context, they may not become authorised therefore, despite their ability to contribute to more sustainable food use. Therefore, criteria and approaches should be established to support their safe use. This activity aims at establishing such criteria.

Sustainable food production and consumption: activities ensuring that pesticides and biocides placed on the market are safe for human health and the environment

This activity includes technical support for Member States authorities to conduct risk assessment for active substances, plant protection products, biocidal products and setting of MRLs, to obtain outcomes of high scientific quality within applicable deadlines. This will ensure the timely removal of unsafe products and that all products on the market are safe, and that consumers are fully protected from residues in food.

In the area of food fraud, emphasis shall be put on activities combating food fraud through EU coordinated control plans to map fraudulent activities in specific sectors, to designate reference centres for food authenticity and to improve dialogue, awareness and education across the EU.

Activities supporting sustainable food production and consumption

As part of the European Green Deal, the 'Farm to Fork' strategy will design a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. This activity will aim to support social innovation initiatives by business and civil society stakeholders to optimise resource efficiency in the food supply chain and valorise agri-food residual streams, whilst ensuring food safety and protecting animal health. This could include for instance support to stakeholders, in particular to SMEs, for implementation of product and supply chain innovation in order to accelerate the EU's progress towards climate and environmental targets and goals. This activity could be implemented through grants to stakeholder organisations which will complement research funding sources (through Food 2030/Horizon Europe) oriented at basic research rather than practical implementation.

Activities supporting consumers to shift towards sustainable, healthy consumption patterns, considering also needs of producers

Governments and food business operators agree that consumer behaviour and food choice is crucial to transform the current food system to a more sustainable one. However, at present, credible communication about sustainability aspects of food patterns and food products, integrating health and environmental aspects is limited. The activities will collect data to explore actual understanding, motivation and factors influencing purchasing decisions of consumers as well as factors influencing product offer in relation to sustainable food/sustainable diets. This data will ensure that future EU policies are effective to enable consumers to make informed choices and that the product offer is adapted to changing preferences. Furthermore, national dietary guidelines that take into account sustainability considerations are fundamental in order to implement SDGs at national, but also at EU level as those are the base for shaping food environments by policy interventions. Official bodies in Member States provide dietary advice to their citizens, but few Member States have adapted the advice to include other sustainability considerations than health, such as

environmental considerations. The grants will support Member States in this process, enabling exchange of best practices between involved actors and experts across the EU and beyond, capacity building initiatives and training. These activities will be complemented by the development of EU sustainable dietary guidelines to serve as the base for EU level policies to progress to achieving the SDGs.

Activities supporting food waste prevention:

These activities will support the scaling up of food waste prevention efforts by Member States and stakeholders in order to accelerate the EU’s progress towards Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 calling for halving food waste by 2030 and reducing food losses along the production and supply chains. Activities will also help address the hotspot of consumer food waste through targeted research and communications on date marking and its impact on food waste as well as continued work with the Joint Research Center to assess the effectiveness of food waste prevention activities, thereby helping to transfer knowledge, learning and evidence-based solutions across the EU.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, amending Council Directives 98/56/EC, 2000/29/EC and 2008/90/EC, Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC	2014 – 2020	1 891,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	10,5
Operational appropriations	250,7	243,0	250,3	256,3	276,7	287,0	275,8	1 839,8
Executive Agency	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	8,3
Total	253,4	245,6	253,0	258,9	279,4	289,7	278,5	1 858,6

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	289,691	100,00 %	241,590	99,63 %	247,278	62,71 %	216,746	13,65 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	294,076	99,42 %	247,345	99,35 %	249,435	62,57 %	218,716	13,95 %

(*) 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 Commission (DG SANTE) considers that the Food and Feed programme is performing well and has been effectively implemented, contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests. The programme ensures a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs. It focuses on national programmes for the eradication, control, and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses; national survey programmes for pests; training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health; IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, and plant health; the European Union Reference Laboratories. In 2019, the Food and Feed programme also co-funded emergency measures to fight against plant pest outbreaks. The combat against the Asian long horn beetles (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), pinewood nematode and *Xylella fastidiosa* took up the largest portion.

The performance indicators linked to the programme’s specific objectives are relevant, measurable and realistic. Since 20 March 2019 the entire Union is declared free of Swine vesicular disease, therefore the corresponding indicator is not relevant anymore because the disease has been eradicated.

In the period 2014-2020, the Court of Auditors published several reports assessing the implementation of the Food and Feed Programme. In the SR 2019/02 of the Court of Auditors on Food Safety, it is emphasized that the EU's food safety model in respect of chemicals is considered a point of reference and it is soundly based and respected. On 26 April 2016, the Court published its Special Report (SR 28/2016) on a performance audit on animal disease eradication programmes and drew overall positive conclusions on DG SANTE's management of the programmes. All recommendations of the Court referred to actions that were already ongoing and all of them have been already finalised. The Food and Feed programme has contributed to animal welfare through the financial support to organise BTSF trainings in several countries and this has led to improvements in this sector as stated by ECA., that emphasized in its report SR 2018/31 that the EU actions on animal welfare have improved compliance with the requirements and supported higher standards with a clear positive impact on animal welfare. DG SANTE proposes to launch an external study to prepare the evaluation of the 2012-2015 animal welfare strategy and based on the results of the study will elaborate the evaluation on the strategy through a Commission staff working document. A contract for the one year study has been signed on 10 October 2019. The actions related to the target indicators to compare Member States' performances are well advancing: three audits were carried out and another four are planned for 2020; a working group with MS took place in December 2019. The coordination of enforcement continues as planned, following-up the improvement of implementation of the rules on the prevention of tail biting and avoidance of routine tail docking in pigs. Nine audits took place, questionnaires were sent to all MS, as well as correspondence at political level. DG SANTE revises the progress on the implementation of the Action Plans by the MS.

Main key achievements of the Food and Feed programme:

- Rabies has been almost eradicated in the EU in wildlife (complete eradication is expected by 2020) and the number of cases has fallen from 1602 in 2009 to only 8 in 2018 (in 3 MS) and 5 in 2019 (in 2 MS);
- Positive trend in Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication: from 16 MS officially free from bovine brucellosis in 2013 to 20 MS in 2018 and 2019. For bovine tuberculosis, in 2013, 15 MS were officially free, and 17 in 2018 and 2019;
- Concerning the African swine fever, the number of Member States with EU co-financed ASF programmes has increased from nine in 2018 to 13 and 19 in 2019 and 2020, respectively, and the situation is closely monitored.
- Efficient controls were implemented: 202 audits were carried out by the Health and Food Audits and Analysis Directorate of DG SANTE in the food and feed area in 2017 with 120 participations by national experts. All audits were performed according to planning while still accommodating assignments in case of emergencies.
- Emergencies were in general addressed timely and effectively by MS and EU financial support was allocated in order to achieve the objectives. A good example of successful emergency measures put in place is the way the Union dealt with the Lumpy Skin Disease crisis in Greece and Bulgaria through the creation of vaccine banks and co-financing of vaccines purchased by the Member States.

The weak aspects of the programme:

- The Commission agrees on the existence of backlogs especially in the area of regulated food ingredients and is working to enhance its procedures for the monitoring and enforcement of all food and health legislation which will cover the follow up to recommendations arising from Commission audits.
- See mid-term evaluation report (?).

Following the evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (CFF) and in order to follow up on a Court's recommendation, the JRC was asked to carry out a study to establish the cost-effectiveness methodology in the food chain area. The report published in 2018 provides a methodological guidance on cost-effectiveness analysis in the view of future evaluations of the EU interventions currently funded under the Common Financial Framework of the food chain area (CFF, Regulation (EU) No 652/2014). In addition, a methodology was proposed to develop a set of indicators in order to evaluate the different levels of intervention in the spending areas covered by the CFF. As a follow up, a set of indicators for monitoring and evaluation purposes are under identification in the framework of the Single Market Programme, food strand part, covering the financial period 2021-2027 (MFF).

The Food and Feed Programme has been integrated into the Commission proposal for the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics (SMP) through a dedicated food strand. As part of the European Green Deal, the 'Farm to Fork' strategy will design a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. This includes the fight against animal and pest diseases in order to prevent, contain and eradicate animal diseases (especially zoonosis such salmonellosis) and pest in EU to provide safer foods for more people. These activities will support the scaling up of food waste prevention efforts by Member States and stakeholders in order to accelerate the EU's progress towards Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 calling for halving food waste by 2030 and reducing food losses along the production and supply chain.

General objectives

General Objective 1: contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests and by ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs

(?) https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/cff_food-chain_mid-term-eval_reg-2014-652.pdf

Indicator 1: Incidence of main food-borne disease in the EU (BSE and Salmonella)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Classical BSE cases: 11					less than 5		0	0
	Actual results							
	3	2	1	0	1			
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Salmonella: 90 000					67 000		60 000	60 000
	Actual results							
	92 012	94 477	94 425	91 590	91 857			

Narrative: Total BSE Cases: 2012: 18, 2014: 11, 2015: 5, 2016: 5, 2017: 6, 2018: 3

Comment: The final reports of the Member States for 2018 programmes will be submitted by 30/04/2019. See Specific Objective 1 – Indicator 1 for explanation on the trend.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to contribute to a high level of safety of food and food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production

Indicator 1: the reduction in the number of cases of diseases in humans in the Union which are linked to food safety or zoonoses

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
90 883					67 000		60 000	60 000 cases, continuous reduction of 3 to 5 % per year/no eradication possible
	Actual results							

Comment: The baseline is data from the year 2012, source 2013 report. The reduction of the number of human cases is not as good as expected mainly because of the multi country outbreak caused by Polish eggs. In order to improve the current set of legal measures related to Salmonella in certain poultry populations, the Commission also requested EFSA to provide a scientific opinion on Salmonella control in poultry flocks and its public health impact.

Source: EFSA and ECDC zoonoses report: The report was published on 19 February 2019

(<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5596>).

Unit of measure: Confirmed cases of human salmonellosis

Expenditure related outputs

Please see the Expenditure related outputs table under Specific Objective 2.

Specific Objective 2: to contribute to achieving a higher animal health status for the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals

Indicator 1: the increase in the number of Member States or their regions which are free from animal diseases in respect of which a financial contribution is granted

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Bovine Brucellosis: MS and regions officially free: 16 MS and 23 regions officially free				19 MS and 30 regions officially free			25	25 MS
	Actual results							
	18 MS and 26 regions officially free	18 MS and 4 regions officially free	19 MS and 4 regions officially free	20 MS and 4 regions officially free	20 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free	20 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

Bovine tuberculosis: MS and regions officially free- 15 MS and 14 regions officially free				16 MS and 20 regions officially free			23	23 MS
	Actual results							
	16 MS and 14 regions officially free	17 MS and 3 regions officially free	18 MS and 3 regions officially free	18 MS and 4 regions officially free	17 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free	17 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Melitensis: MS and regions officially free- 19 MS and regions officially free				22 MS and 28 regions officially free			25	25 MS
	Actual results							
	19 MS and 25 regions officially free	20 MS and 4 regions officially free	20 MS and 4 regions officially free	20 MS and 4 regions officially free	20 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free	20 MS officially free and 4 MS partially officially free		

Comment: The reduction of the number of human cases is not as good as expected mainly because of the multi country outbreak caused by Polish eggs. In order to improve the current set of legal measures related to Salmonella in certain poultry populations, the Commission also requested EFSA to provide a scientific opinion on Salmonella control in poultry flocks and its public health impact.

The apparent stability of the number of officially or partially officially free Member States as reflected in this table does not mean that the situation is not improving.

Indeed, there is currently no obligation for a Member State to request an officially free status, which means that even if the situation has improved, it may not be reflected through an increase of the number of free Member States or regions. In addition, several Member States have actually increased their number of officially-free regions in the last years even if this level of details is not reflected in the current global indicator (because the EU legal definition/size/numbers of the regions is very different between Member States, making it complex to reflect one simple indicator at EU level). It must be noted that there is currently no ideal single indicator that could give a detailed view on the evolution of these 3 diseases at EU level. It can also be reminded that only 3 Member States out of 28 receive currently financial support from the EU for bovine brucellosis and that the evolution of the epidemiological situation in each of these co-financed Member States is followed precisely year by year country by country with several indicators, and that penalties are applied in case the individual targets are not reached.

Source: EFSA and ECDC zoonoses report: The report was published on 19 February 2019 (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2019.5596>).

Indicator 2: an overall reduction of disease parameters such as incidence, prevalence and number of outbreaks								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Bluetongue outbreaks: 6 196				Eradication			Eradication	Eradication subject to vector, climate change, and vaccination
	Actual results							
	9 435	653	2 919	4 539	864	490		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Classical swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs: 0				0			0	0
	Actual results							
	1	0	0	0	0			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Classical swine fever outbreaks in wild boar: 42								
	Actual results							
	27	5	0	0	0			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
African swine fever outbreaks in domestic pigs: 109				10			0	0
	Actual results							
	80	58	71	141	1 360	1 852		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
African swine fever outbreaks in wild boar:				2				
	Actual results							

67	334	1 713	2 463	3 951	5 386	6 425		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Swine vesicular disease outbreaks in domestic pigs: 25	0							0
	Actual results							
	5	1	0	0				
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
BSE positive animals: 7	Less than 5							Less than 5 (long incubation period)
	Actual results							
	11	5	5	6	4			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Scrapie (sheep and goats) prevalence: 17 %	14 %							8 %
	Actual results							
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Rabies outbreaks in wild animals: 679	80							0
	Actual results							
	216	100	18	2	8	5		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Avian influenza outbreak in poultry (domestic animals) of HPAI:	0							0
	Actual results							
	10	75	391	820	34	8		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Avian influenza outbreak in wild birds of HPAI:								
	Actual results							
	0	6	312	1 144	81	2		

Narrative: African swine fever: Since 20 March 2019 the entire Union is declared free of this disease

Comment: Given the positive results in 2014 and 2015, the milestone for 2016 has been reduced from 200 to 80 outbreaks, and the target for 2020 from 100 to 0 outbreaks.

Availability of Data: For all the data above, source of information is the annual report submitted by MS to Commission/ ADNS notification DG SANTE by 30 April of each year.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Bovine brucellosis	17 04 01	3	8.1
Bovine tuberculosis	17 04 01	6	22.5
Ovine/caprine brucellosis	17 04 01	5	9
Bluetongue	17 04 01	15	5.3
Salmonella	17 04 01	25	17.6
Swine diseases	17 04 01	26	12
Avian influenza	17 04 01	25	1.8
TSE,BSE and scrapie	17 04 01	26	11.8
Rabies	17 04 01	12	26.5
Other veterinary measures, animal welfare and vaccines/antigens	17 04 01	1	55.4
Total			170

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
number of bovine brucellosis eradication programmes	F	5	5	3	3	3	3	3
	P	5	5	3	3			
number of bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes	F	6	7	6	6	5	6	6
	P	6	7	6	6			
number of ovine/caprine brucellosis eradication programmes	F	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
	P	6	5	5	5			
number of bluetongue eradication/monitoring programmes	F	18	15	14	15	15	15	15
	P	18	15	14	15			
number of salmonella control programmes	F	25	24	24	24	24	24	25
	P	25	24	24	24			
number of swine disease (CSF, ASF and SVD) control programmes	F	10	14	13	14	16	16	26
	P	10	15	13	14			
number of avian influenza survey programmes	F	28	26	25	26	25	26	25
	P	28	25	25	25			
number of TSE monitoring and BSE/scrapie eradication programmes	F	28	28	27	26	26	26	26
	P	28	27	27	26			
number of rabies eradication programmes	F	13	13	13	12	12	12	12
	P	13	13	13	12			

Specific Objective 3: to contribute to the timely detection of pests and their eradication where those pests have entered the Union

Indicator 1: the coverage of the Union territory by surveys for pests, in particular for pests not known to occur in the Union territory and pests considered to be most dangerous for the Union territory

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of EU territory covered by surveys for pests, in particular known to occur in the Union territory: 5.00 %	10.00 %	50.00 %	60.00 %	70.00 %	80.00 %	90.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
	Actual results							
		60.71 %	78.50 %	85.70 %	85.70 %	85.70 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Percentage of EU territory covered by surveys for pests considered to be most dangerous: 100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %		

Availability of Data: For all the data above, source of information is the annual report submitted by MS to Commission/ ADNS notification DG SANTE by 30 April of each year.

Indicator 2: the time and success rate for the eradication of those pests

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Time to eradicate pests not known to occur in the Union, number of days between finding and notification: 42 days		42		20	20		8	8
	Actual results							
		42		22	14			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Success rate in eradication of pests not known to occur in the Union:							95 %	95 %
	Actual results							

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Survey programmes (Art.20)	17 04 02		
Outermost regions (Art.25)	17 04 02		
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Survey programmes (Art.20)	F	5	17	20	24	24	28	28
	P	0	17	22	24			
Outermost regions (Art.25)	F	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
	P	1	1	0	0			

Specific Objective 4: to contribute to improving the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls and other activities carried out with a view to the effective implementation of and compliance with the Union rules

Indicator 1: a favourable trend in the results of controls in particular areas of concern carried out and reported on by Commission experts in the Member States

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
60 %			70 %					95 %
	Actual results							95 %
	74 %	79 %	79 %	74 %	71 %	70 %		

Methodology: Percentage of DG SANTE recommendations following audits that have satisfactorily addressed with corrective action.

Narrative: Milestone for 2016: Percentage of all recommendations from these reporting years (N-2, N-3, N-4) are addressed by Member States.

Comment: This indicator is a rolling indicator based on a three year rolling cycle. Therefore, indicator for year N = Average Year N-2+N-3+ N-4. Indicator for year 2019 is based on the verification of follow up actions by Member States in response to audit recommendations issues following audits carried out in years 2015-2017. Indicator for year 2020 is based on the verification of follow up actions by Member States in response to audit recommendations issues following audits carried out in years 2016-2018. Data for 2020 will be available at the end of the year.

Source: For all the data above, source of information is DG SANTE

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Laboratories	17 04 03	46	38
BTSF	17 04 03	175	19
national experts FVO	17 04 03	125	0.4
Computerised systems + IT	17 04 03	7	15.8
Communication	17 04 03	10	1.9
Data collection	17 04 03	9	2
Studies and evaluations	17 04 03	8	2.8
Grants to international organisations	17 04 03	10	6.4
Purchase of vaccines against animal diseases	17 04 01	1	4.8
Total			91.1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Laboratories and centres	F	45	43	43	45	48	46	48
	P	44	43	43	46	47	46	
BTSF	F	95	170	170	175	175	175	180
	P	180	170	200	170	175		
National experts FVO	F	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
	P	94	132	168	120	125	125	
Computerised systems (EU alert systems, large scale)	F	6	7	7	7	7	7	8
	P	6	7	7	7	7	7	
Communication	F	8	8	8	10	10	10	10
	P	8	8	8	10	10	10	

Data collection and Coordinated control plans	F	4	5	6	7	9	9	9
	P	4	5	6	7	9	9	
Studies and evaluations	F	7	10	10	10	12	12	13
	P	15	15	10	10	12		

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
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The proposed activities related to Food Contact Materials will contribute to a higher level of safety, especially regarding the recycled materials used in their production. They will also help to a better enforcement of the applicable safety rules.

The proposed activities related to sustainable consumption and production (including food waste prevention) will contribute to improved resource efficiency, thereby helping to close the gap between supply and growing demand for food. In particular, the recovery and redistribution of surplus food from the supply chain to help feed those in need contributes to addressing hunger in our communities.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages

The proposed activities related to sustainable consumption also aim to facilitate the shift of dietary patterns towards healthy diets, thereby helping to reduce the negative impact of low quality diets on obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The proposed activities related to Food Contact Materials will contribute to their more sustainable production and use, ensuring in particular a better recyclability of these materials, and the use of more natural and sustainable materials.

This proposed activities related to pesticides and biocides will ensure the timely removal of unsafe products and that all products on the market are safe, and that consumers are fully protected from residues in food.

The proposed activities related to sustainable consumption and production will contribute to improved resource efficiency, and reducing the environmental and climate pressure of food systems. Activities related to food waste prevention specifically aim to accelerate the EU's progress towards SDG Target 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030 and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains.

6. Programme related additional information

Expenditure related outputs not linked to a specific objective

Emergency measures related to animal and plant health			
Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Animal diseases	17 04 04		
Plant pests	17 04 04		
Total			

In 2017, grants with several EU Member States were signed covering emergency measures implemented in 2016 and 2017 for the fight against highly pathogenic avian influenza virus detected in poultry, captive, and wild birds. All affected Member States immediately took measures within the affected areas (regionalisation) in accordance with the EU legislation on the control of avian influenza, including stamping out and establishment of zones.

The total allocated amount of EU contribution amounted to approximately EUR 105 million for the period in question of which taking into account the effective claims sent by these MS **EUR 17 million remains to be paid, most likely in 2020 (depending of results of ex-ante audit).**

In 2018 again, several Member States continued to implement measures against Avian Influenza and another series of grants were signed for a total budget of EUR 33 million for which payments have been made up amounting to EUR 19.1 million. Final cost claims will arrive in 2020 and can total maximum EUR 13.9 million.

The Commission managed to close several avian influenza files and to pay up to 70 % in instalments to those Member States still awaiting the result of the on-going audit. The current outstanding debt relating to the Avian Influenza crisis the period from 2016 to 2018 amounts to approximately EUR 30.9 million of which maximum 17 million may be paid in 2020 and maximum EUR 13.9 million in 2021.

It should be noted that the Union should also be in a position to continue to fund emergency measures against other threats such as African swine fever and Lumpy Skin disease as well as plant pest outbreaks such as *Xylella*, pine wood nematode or for new emerging risk pests. The situation with ASF in the EU indicates that the fight against this disease continues to be a priority task for veterinary services and will in the coming years continue to weigh heavily on the Food and Feed budget.

This is demonstrated by the recent surge in outbreaks in domestic pigs in Romania and Bulgaria which is translated particularly in compensations to owners for the value of their animals being slaughtered or culled. In 2018 and 2019, grants for several Member States amongst which Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Belgium were signed for a total budget of EUR 86 million; EUR 36 million in 2018 and EUR 50 million in 2019. EUR 53 million have already been paid as instalments awaiting the final report or the result of the on-the-spot audits, likely to become available as from 2021. Additional payments bringing the level of instalments up to 70 % of the granted amounts are envisaged in 2020 for a maximum of EUR 9.6 million leaving a balance in terms of potential payments post 2020 of EUR 33 million.

Over the past years, additional credits were transferred to the emergency measures budget line through internal re-deployment of funds (in 2017, 2018 and 2019) and a transfer of credits (Global Transfer in 2017). In 2019 the total credits allocated for emergency measures under the EU budget were raised from EUR 20 million to EUR 50 million. Internal redeployment is foreseen in 2020 again to cover the needs in terms of payments and commitments.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Union action in the field of health (Health Programme)

Lead DG: SANTE

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

Good health is a major concern of European citizens. The European Union (EU) works for better health protection through its policies and activities, in accordance with Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The EU does not define health policies, nor the organisation and provision of health services and medical care. Instead, its action serves to complement national policies and to support cooperation between member countries in the field of public health.

Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 established the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) as a financial instrument for policy coordination at EU level. The aim is to complement, support and add value to the policies of member States in improving the health of EU citizens and reducing health inequalities, encouraging innovation in health and increasing the sustainability of health systems. The Programme has four specific objectives:

- (1) promote health and healthy living and prevent diseases;
- (2) protect Europeans from serious cross-border health threats;
- (3) contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems; and
- (4) facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Europeans.

While this document relates to the Health Programme activities carried out during the year 2019, it should be noted that when the Covid-19 outbreak started in the first quarter of 2020, the Programme's on-going actions have been urgently reoriented towards the fight against the pandemic. For example, the Healthy Gateways Joint Action ⁽¹⁾ organised training courses for trainers and specific webinars, providing guidance including questions and answers on points of entry and borders. The SHARP Joint Action ⁽²⁾ (Strengthened International Health Regulations and Preparedness in the EU) is supporting laboratory diagnostics for covid-19, and mapping the current existing facilities and clinical capacities.

In addition to the Health Programme's actions, and in the context of the Joint Procurement Agreement to procure medical countermeasures ⁽³⁾ signed by the Commission and Member States, DG SANTE launched, in emergency mode, joint procurements for gloves and coveralls (for a maximum amount of 1.402.836.634 euros); for eye and respiratory protection (for a maximum amount of 150.851.116 euros); for ventilators/respirators (for a maximum amount of 790.000.000 euros) and for laboratory equipment.

To complement the very limited resources of the Health Programme (approximately 60 million euros per year), the resources of other Directorates-General and of other EU instruments, among which, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Emergency Support Instrument and the EU Solidarity Fund, the Horizon Europe 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, have been mobilised to finance the emergency response to the pandemic.

EU added value of the programme

As stated in Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, EU action must complement national policies and encourage cooperation between Member States. The programme contributes only where Member States cannot act individually or where coordination is the best way to move forward.

The programme focuses on fostering best practice exchange between Member States and supporting networks for knowledge sharing or mutual learning. Moreover actions are undertaken addressing cross-border health threats to reduce risks and mitigate consequences. The Health programme addresses issues relating to the internal market where the EU has substantial legitimacy to ensure high-quality solutions across Member States and targets actions unlocking the potential of innovation in health. Lastly it promotes actions that could lead to a system of benchmarking or improving economies of scale by avoiding waste due to duplication and optimising the use of financial resources.

Implementation mode

The Health Programme is implemented under direct management and is mainly executed through grants and procurement procedures focusing on Commission priorities. A major part of the Health Programme is implemented by the Consumers Health Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA).

⁽¹⁾ www.healthygateways.eu

⁽²⁾ www.sharpja.eu

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/joint_procurement_en

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Commission adopted the work programme for 2019 in the framework of the third Programme of the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) on 29 March 2019. This has focused on the following areas: (a) country specific and cross country knowledge; (b) cross-border health threats, (c) preparedness and response, focusing specifically on antimicrobial resistance and vaccination; (d) structural support to health systems and link to digital single market; (e) promotion of health and prevention of non-communicable diseases.

Grants

A Joint Action (part of AWP 2018) was signed in 2019 for EUR 9.9 million: twenty-six partners initiated on 2 July 2019 their collaboration to strengthen the implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health, support EU level preparedness and responses to health threats and reinforce the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), in fine, ensuring a safer environment for all EU citizens.

Three other Joint Actions were launched under the AWP 2019: two of them will focus on the implementation of best practices selected by the Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (SGPP) in the areas of nutrition and food reformulation, and digitally enabled integrated care models. The third one focuses on improving capacity and response of Member States' authorities against bioterrorism related threats.

In 2019, 3-year Specific Grant Agreements (SGAs) were signed covering the period March 2019-February 2022 with all 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs) for an amount of EUR 13.7 million. The funding for the coordination tasks of the networks was complemented under the AWP 2019, by a call for projects related to the setup of patient registries with an indicative amount of EUR 3 800 000. Nineteen proposals have been recommended for funding, with an expected signature in the 1st – 2nd quarter 2020.

A call for proposals was launched in the second quarter of the year in order to support stakeholders in the area of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) for EUR 2 million. One project has been recommended for funding, with an expected signature in the 1st – 2nd quarter 2020. On the basis of a call for Operating Grants launched under the 2017 annual work programme and ensuing Framework Partnership Agreements signed with 17 Non-Governmental Bodies in 2018, specific grant agreements have been awarded on a competitive basis for the financial year 2018, 2019 and 2020. It is expected that the supported non-governmental bodies will assist the Commission with the information and advice necessary for the development of health policies and the implementation of the Health Programme objectives and priorities. It is also expected that non-governmental bodies will work on increased health literacy and promotion of healthy life styles, the organisation of science policy conferences and contribute to the optimisation of healthcare activities and practices by providing feedback from and facilitating communication with patients thus empowering them. The Commission also encourages these non-governmental bodies to work together with the European Solidarity Corps, where appropriate.

In 2019, international cooperation was pursued through the signature of five direct grants with international organisations. These included the two grants implementing the State of Health in the EU cycle with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies; the signature of a grant with the OECD on digitally enabled integrated care; and one with the WHO Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

Procurement

The Health Programme included procurement procedures launched by CHAFAEA, as well as DG SANTE. By the end of 2019, 12 procedures were launched and 8 service contracts were signed. From them, four contracts were signed based on Framework Contract CHAFAEA/201/Health/36 with regard to tobacco legislation, to support the assessment of characterising flavours in tobacco products. They concern support services to the Technical Group of sensory and chemical assessors and the Independent Advisory Panel. These services are key to determining whether tobacco products placed on the EU market comply with the Directive's rules and hampering the tobacco industry efforts in making their products more enticing by adding different flavourings.

Another contract was signed for an expert study on the development and configuration of the automatic alerts ('alerts') that will be generated by the EU traceability system for cigarettes currently consisting of a set of primary and secondary data repositories. Its main objective is to establish a set of automatic alerts that can be used by competent authorities among Member States and by other law enforcement bodies at European level.

Regarding vaccination, two important tenders were launched in support of the policy actions of the recommendation of 7 December 2018 to strengthen the EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases (2018/C 466/01), and the Commission communication of 26 April 2018 on Strengthened Cooperation Against Vaccine Preventable Diseases (COM(2018)245 final):

The first tender (signed for a value of EUR 2 220 000) is a feasibility study for a common vaccination card for EU citizens, that is interoperable with EU Member States' Immunisation information systems (IIS); and that can be common to all EU Member States and usable across borders.

The second tender (launched with an indicative budget of EUR 700 000) concerns a study which will: (i) explore the feasibility of and identify options for physical stockpiling of vaccines; and (ii) develop a concept for a mechanism for exchanging vaccine supplies from one EU Member State to another in case of an outbreak.

Regarding digital innovation and in view of the creation of a 'European Health Data Space' to promote health-data exchange and support research on new preventive strategies, a service contract has been signed (EUR 440 000) to assess the current situation on primary and secondary health data use and exchange in Europe and to identify enabling factors and barriers.

Key achievements

The below are examples of actions corresponding to main Commission priorities for (i) implementation of best practices for health promotion and diseases prevention, (ii) the establishment of 24 European Reference Networks, (iii) Crisis preparedness and risk management, (iv) Relevant information in the framework of the EU semester, (v) Mental health and (vi) Health and Innovation.

(i) Implementation of best practices for health promotion and diseases prevention:

The online 'best practice portal' was launched in April 2018. Since June 2018, it counted more than 6 650 visitors from all EU Member States as well as neighbouring countries. Portal visitors can access good practices collected by previous Health Programme actions, for example in the field of nutrition and physical activity, prevention of alcohol abuse, mental health and integrated healthcare. Stakeholders can also submit a practice for evaluation. The portal is always open for submissions, but it is also open for specific calls. The practices selected as 'best' are presented to Member States in so-called marketplace workshops. Afterwards, Member States prioritize among the presented practices for scale-up and country-to-country transfer. Those scoring highest can receive financial support for such transfer.

(ii) The establishment of 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs):

ERNs are virtual networks involving healthcare providers across Europe. They aim to tackle complex or rare medical diseases or conditions that require highly specialised treatment and a concentration of knowledge and resources. To review a patient's diagnosis and treatment, ERN coordinators are convening a 'virtual' advisory board of medical specialists across different disciplines, using a dedicated IT platform and telemedicine tools. This way, the medical knowledge and expertise travel rather than the patients.

Using the clinical patient management system (CPMS), the members of the ERNs have already been able to consult, explore, diagnose and decide on cases of particular complexity. In February 2019, the ERNs had used 458 panels to discuss 444 patient cases, and the number of cases opened in the CPMS regularly evolves (see for example <https://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1164244>).

Since 2018, with a help of a dedicated contract financed through the EU Health Programme, ensuring the funding of their coordination costs until March 2022, ERNs are cooperating in the development of a complete taxonomy of the different technical and informative documents that they are producing, such as training programmes, or patient information packages. The results of this cooperation will feed, for example, some of the necessary elements for the creation of the ERNs methodology for the development of clinical practice guidelines for rare diseases, expected for May/June 2020.

Furthermore, a first pilot group of 5 among the 24 ERNs, supported by grants under the EU Health Programme, has started in 2018 to develop and improve rare disease registries relevant for the diseases and conditions covered by their respective ERNs. In 2019, the EU awarded funding to the remaining 19 networks, allowing them to take forward methodologies and technical solutions already tested and validated by the first pilots. With additional health programme support, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has developed and put at their disposal a dedicated EU Rare Diseases Registration Platform, as well as related tools and standards.

The first ERNs are up and running since March 2017. Over the next five years, as the ERNs reach full capacity, thousands of EU patients suffering from a rare or complex condition can expect to benefit. In addition, several networks received co-funding to set up disease and patient registries, building on the clinical patient management system provided through the DG SANTE IT platform.

(iii) Crisis preparedness and management:

In 2018, the Joint Action EMERGE – Efficient response to highly dangerous and emerging pathogens at EU level – has delivered on its work for the improvement of capabilities for rapid laboratory diagnosis of new or emerging pathogens (e.g. sample sharing). It completed three rounds of external quality assurance exercises (EQAEs), improving detection methodologies and response capabilities of the participating laboratories on high risk (re)emerging pathogens such as *Bacillus anthracis*, *Yersinia pestis*, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and Lassa virus. The Joint Action also contributed to combating the outbreaks of ZIKA and Ebola.

The Health Programme is also playing a crucial role in addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), by defining common approaches to fight AMR and to control healthcare-associated infections in line with ongoing EU and international policies.

Funded under the AWP 2017 (EU contribution of EUR 6.9 million) the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI) supports EU Member States in developing and implementing effective one health action plans against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infections (HCAI). Its main results are:

- It completed the mapping of the National Action Plans (NAPs); the mapping of the implementation of the One Health strategy; and a self-assessment by the EU Member States of the implementation of their NAPs.
- It implemented ten pilot peer review visits with ‘One health’ delegations, in order to share best practices, and discuss future policy options.
- It launched a social media campaign that reached 2.7 million people in just one month.
- It held an AMR webinar for journalists, followed by more than 90 organisations and media from 33 countries, to provide clear and accurate scientific information for journalists to be able to correctly inform national audiences about AMR.
- The JA also designed a Universal Infection Control Framework (UICF) currently tested in 5 countries. It also developed an implementation model (Breakthrough Series) to improve safety and infection control in Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) management, also currently tested in pilot hospitals from 11 countries. It also performed a mapping of research priorities and identified gaps in research.
- Finally, EU-JAMRAI is working to develop a simple surveillance system of antibiotic use and resistance including rapid feedback mechanisms for a shorter time lag in both human and animal.

(iv) State of Health in the EU and Country Profiles (European semester):

On 28 November 2019 the European Commission published the 30 country health profiles delivered under the State of Health in the EU Europe Cycle. The accompanying companion report and factsheet flagged five key challenges facing the EU health systems:

- Tackling the decline in vaccination confidence across the EU,
- Harnessing the digital transformation of health promotion & disease prevention,
- Strengthening the evidence base on access to healthcare,
- Shifting tasks and changing the skill mix to explore new ways of providing care,
- Breaking down silos for safe, effective and affordable medicines.

Several of these are closely linked to objective 3 of the health programme as well as to the key priorities of the incoming Commission as set out in the mission letter to Commissioner Kyriakides and are supported by specific actions co-funded under the 3rd health programme (see below sections on health and innovation, vaccination and access to medicines).

(v) Accessible and affordable medical technologies:

The companion report raised the issue of access to affordable medical technologies whether pharmaceutical products or medical devices, as being essential for the sustainability and resilience of health systems. This is a challenging area, combining implementation of legislation (notably for medical devices); common if not harmonized life-cycle based assessment methods; shared information and expertise on pricing and procurement methods, including joint procurement or other collaboration mechanisms.

The contribution of the health programme is important in this area, through the following:

- It supports the work of civil society and the contribution to the EU level policy dialogue in this field of stakeholder organisations, through the operating grants awarded to Health Action International; the European Public Health Alliance; and the European Organisation of Rare Diseases Associations.
- It provides continuing financial support to the work of the EUnetHTA 3 Joint Action: The piloting of the EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment has proven successful. By the end of 2019, the EUnetHTA 3 Joint Action carried out 27 joint reports (13 assessments and 14 early dialogues).

vi) Digital innovation – paving the way to a European health data space

The Commission aims to support EU Member States in making the most of the potential of e-health to provide high-quality healthcare and reduce inequalities. Key to achieving this aim is the creation of a ‘European Health Data Space’, to promote health-data exchange and support research on new preventive strategies, as well as on treatments, medicines, medical devices and outcomes.

In this context, CHAFEA used the newly signed experts’ meeting framework contract to set up an expert network on primary and secondary health data use and exchange in Europe with the aim to identify enabling factors and barriers. The first workshop of Member States’ representatives and experts has already taken place and the results of this technical and legal analysis will feed into the programme of the upcoming German presidency in this area and a possible legislative initiative.

In parallel, the joint action on eHealth (eHAction) continues supporting the work of the eHealth Network for the period 2018-2021 for the delivery of Cross Border eHealth information Services (CBeHIS. These services (the patient summary for unscheduled care, ePrescriptions and eDispensations) are delivered through the National Contact Points for eHealth, while the health programme will

in addition reinforce their capacity through a service contract (currently under evaluation for an indicative budget of EUR 920 000) providing training and other capacity building activities.

vii) Supporting the implementation of the new medical devices regulations

In 2019, through service contracts, the first communication and information campaign on Medical Devices was implemented, informing stakeholders about the legislative changes brought by the new EU legislation on Medical Devices and in-vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices which will enter into force in May 2020. The campaign mapped all relevant stakeholders, numbering more than 2000 contacts in and outside the EU. It produced eight informative factsheets translated in all EU languages, as well as in Chinese, Japanese and Arabic. The campaign also comprises the organisation of webinars addressed to stakeholders as well as other information material in a layman language.

A new hub on the DG GROW website ('New regulations') was created, with information addressing the main target stakeholders: manufacturers of medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic medical devices; authorised representatives, importers and distributors; healthcare professionals and health institutions; as well as institutions in charge of procurement of medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic medical devices. Finally, a social media campaign on Twitter and LinkedIn produced over 6000 link clicks (to the Medical Devices website), as well as 2 million impressions and 800 000 video views.

In 2019, the Joint Action on Market Surveillance of Medical Devices (JAMS) came to its end, yielding significant added value by reinforcing the market surveillance system for medical devices and improving coordination and cooperation among all European Union's countries. The joint action developed methods, tools and guidance for a consistent and proactive approach to manufacturers' inspections by national competent authorities, also by strengthening capacity through the training courses for inspectors. It further established specific inspection scopes and objectives to complement those conducted by conformity assessment bodies. A high level Conference on the Health Programme was organised on 30 September 2019. The event presented the results of the current and previous EU Health Programmes, highlighting achievements in fighting cancer; enhancing health security in support of the free movement of persons; innovation in delivering care; and access to better care through the European Reference Networks (ERNs).

Finally, a roundtable discussion, brought together high-level representatives of 5 different DGs (DG EMPL, DG RTD, DC CNECT, SG and DG REGIO) to present the new approach in the future Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation (Mid-Term evaluation of the 3rd Health Programme https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/programme/2014-2020/midterm_evaluation_en) have been presented in the Programme Statements of 2018.

The Mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health programme 2014-2020 was published in the Commission Report to the European Parliament and to the Council COM(2017) 586 final. The conclusion was that implementation of the Programme was on track, in alignment with the Commission's main priorities under Article 168 TFEU and the SDG, striving to maximise synergies with other EU policies and financial instruments such as Horizon 2020. All thematic priorities remained valid and most actions delivered useful outcomes with high EU-added value, in particular for crisis management and for the safety and security in Europe.

The open public consultation provided strong support for continued cooperation through the Programme, particularly in areas such as health promotion, disease prevention and eHealth.

The Staff Working Document SWD(2017) 331 final accompanies the Commission's report on the mid-term evaluation. It presents the main findings based on an independent external study conducted from May 2016 to May 2017. The conclusions of the evaluation were used to improve the implementation of the Health Programme in 2018-2020 and serve as a basis for the new Health Programme.

The evaluation indicated that major achievements were:

- establishing 24 European Reference Networks;
- supporting Member States to increase their capacity-building to respond to outbreaks (e.g. Ebola and Zika viruses);
- contributing to the EU's migration policy by supporting Member States to respond to the health needs of high influx of migrants and refugees;
- training health professionals and other front-line staff.

Other achievements of the health programme included exchanges of good practice in areas as diverse as alcohol reduction, cancer screening, HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, additional support for EU health legislation on medicinal products and medical devices, the eHealth Network activities and Health Technology Assessment.

A significant progress represented the joint work with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. This collaboration brought together internationally renowned expertise in the State of Health in the EU cycle to strengthen country-specific and EU-wide knowledge on health issues.

Compared to the second Health Programme, the 3rd Health programme design took a more strategic view of a mid-term perspective and has demonstrated its value as an effective and flexible management tool capable of covering unforeseeable needs (refugees' crisis).

The external evaluation of the 3rd Health programme 2014-2020 ('3HP') concluded that the programme complemented and supported the policies of Member States, in terms of improving the health of EU citizens and reducing health inequalities. The 3HP represented a major improvement. The new structure has increased the Health Programme's ability to target important health needs where it can add value (such as anti-microbial resistance and 'e-Health' in the context of the digital single market to name just a few). It demonstrated efforts to identify common, structural challenges facing Member States. The mechanisms for pooling expertise at EU level and supporting MS in their health reforms have been set up (namely the Expert Panel on Health and the Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment) and the 3HP was providing direct financial support to the OECD and WHO to produce country profiles, giving a clear understanding of country specific needs. This focus was recognised by Member States: the consultation of Programme committee members and national focal points representing Member States' interests confirmed the 3HP structure matches the main health challenges in their country.

Forthcoming implementation

The AWP 2020 was adopted on 28 January 2020 ⁽⁴⁾. It includes different kind of actions (grants for projects and joint actions, operating grants, service contracts, etc.) and focuses on the following main topics:

Implementation of best practices in the area of mental health; tobacco control; vaccination; health technology assessment cooperation; GDPR implementation in the health sector; innovation and e-health; health workforce reforms; healthcare procurement; international cooperation on pharmaceuticals; patient-reported measures and prioritisation for the implementation of best practices.

The expected results of the work programme include: (a) the exchange and adoption of best practices in various areas of health; (b) enhanced understanding of properties and regulatory implications of novel tobacco products and e-cigarettes; (c) increased vaccination uptake among disadvantaged groups and migrants; (d) enhanced knowledge base for the conception and implementation of reforms on retention policies, medical deserts and task-shifting related to the health workforce (e) a GDPR-compliant data governance model and code of conduct for health(care)-related data; (f) knowledge-sharing and discussion on public procurement in the healthcare sector; (g) an NGO contribution to achieving the objectives of the EU health programme.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Given the Covid-19 crisis, the Health Programme will be expanded in the Commission proposal for the new MFF as a stand-alone Health Programme. The Health Programme should bring together two strands of activities. A longer-term vision of continuously improving health conditions across the Member States, through better disease prevention, health promotion, access, diagnosis and treatment – objectives which have already been pursued through the currently existing programme. And a second strand on health security that would endow the EU and Member States with the preparedness and responses capacities to swiftly react to health emergencies. Both strands would contribute to tackling structural weaknesses of European health systems. Its objective is to ensure a high level of health protection in the Union by preventing health risks and promoting public health and access to medical products. This will help reduce health inequalities and help address health challenges identified in the European Semester. The main operational objectives of the Health Programme are (a) strengthening crisis preparedness and response against cross border-health threats; (b) empowering health systems; (c) supporting EU health legislation and (d) supporting integrated cross-national work. Actions include policy analysis and implementation; capacity building of networks and partners; communication and dissemination.

The focus will be on key areas and priorities where Europe can deliver added value and make a real difference to the life of citizens. It will build on actions and achievements under the current EU Health Programme, and better coherence, complementarity and synergy in close cooperation with other EU programmes such as the Horizon Europe will be ensured. From a post-crisis recovery perspective, the Health Programme will make an important contribution to ensuring that the EU will be better prepared to face future health threats affecting the whole or large parts of its territory.

The Health Programme is currently under development and the negotiations are ongoing.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the establishment of a third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1350/2007/EC	2014 – 2020	449,4

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/adoption_workplan_2020_en

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	10,5
Operational appropriations	52,9	54,0	56,5	58,8	60,5	62,3	63,6	408,5
Executive Agency	4,2	4,2	4,2	4,2	4,4	4,6	4,6	30,3
Total	58,6	59,8	62,2	64,5	66,4	68,3	69,7	449,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	68,308	100,00 %	63,129	98,42 %	97,254	39,22 %	87,098	36,14 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	70,815	99,92 %	66,180	97,21 %	98,990	39,20 %	90,385	37,06 %

(*) 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

In line with the results of the mid-term evaluation of 2017, the Commission (DG SANTE) considers that the Health Programme is performing well and has been effectively implemented, contributing to better health protection through its policies and activities, in accordance with Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The programme addresses efficiently the Commission priorities on the implementation of best practices for health promotion and diseases prevention, crisis preparedness and risk management, relevant information in the framework of the EU semester, mental health, and health and innovation.

In the period 2014-2020, the Court of Auditors published several reports assessing the implementation of the Health programme. In the Special report no 07/2019 ⁽⁵⁾ on Cross-border healthcare access, the Court of Auditors mentioned: ‘EU actions in cross-border healthcare enhanced cooperation between Member States. The Commission has overseen the implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive well’. This Special report (SR 07/2019) also identified certain shortcomings and improvements to be made in terms of administrative burden reduction and long-term financial sustainability of the European Reference Networks (ERNs). In the ECA’s Special report no 21/2019 on Addressing Antimicrobial resistance ⁽⁶⁾ it is emphasized that ‘Fighting against antimicrobial resistance is complicated. The Commission and ECDC support to strengthen Member States One Health approach to AMR was valuable’. However, the Court observed challenges, particularly with regard to the sustainable implementation of the results in the Member States.

The performance indicators linked to the programme’s specific objectives are relevant, measurable and realistic. The Commission (DG SANTE) makes significant efforts in order to reach the targets.

Objective 1: promoting health and preventing diseases: 34 % of the overall Programme budget (EUR 96 million). From those EUR 8 million were spent on cancer, inter alia to support screening programmes in MS, improve the quality of patients’ lives, address survivorship issues, look into the impact of research in cancer and the uptake of innovative treatments; EUR 11 million were channelled towards the prevention of major risk factors i.e. on alcohol and tobacco control, physical activity and nutrition. Other activities addressed the prevention of chronic diseases, including through the promotion of uptake of validated best practices across the EU in cardiovascular disease or diabetes prevention.

Indicator: number of Member States involved in health promotion and disease prevention, using evidence-based and good practices through measures and actions taken at the appropriate level in Member States

Objective 2: protecting from cross-border health threats: 10 % of the overall budget, EUR 29 million; more than EUR 14 million for projects to ensure that EU Member States are well prepared to respond to a possible major health threat. These included several table top or other types of exercises addressing generic preparedness; capacity building actions such a quality assurance for diagnostic capacity, as well as specific activities addressing the air transport and shipping sectors. They also included several actions supporting Member States in addressing the challenges of the migratory crisis of 2015-2016.

Currently on going actions have been re-orientated as to provide coverage for specific needs regarding the Coronavirus threat (such as training for health professionals including practical advice- isolation, waiting rooms and reception areas, cleaning, appropriate PPE etc; as well as an offer for real-time RT-PCR for detection including coverage of costs for shipment of the samples, if needed).

Indicator: number of Member States integrating coherent approaches in the design of their preparedness plans

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_07/SR_HEALTH_CARE_EN.pdf

⁽⁶⁾ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_21/SR_Antimicrobial_resistance_EN.pdf

Objective 3: contributing to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems (27 % EUR 95 million). From those EUR 30 million were invested in the collaboration on Health Technology Assessment, to develop commonly agreed tools and procedures, as well as carrying out joint assessments or early dialogues, in an approach recognizing the full life cycle of health technologies. Other actions supported the exchange of experience and best practices in addressing the ageing of the population, promoted integrated care models and practices or supported the EU eHealth network in promoting the uptake of digital solutions.

Indicator: advice produced and the number of Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems

Objective 4: ensuring access to better and safer healthcare (27 % EUR 75 million). From those EUR 26 million was invested for set up cost and coordination of the European Reference Networks, including through the assessment of the networks and their healthcare provider members. The effort to jointly address the effects and challenges of increased anti-microbial resistance and healthcare acquired infections; the support to the Member States' collaboration in the area of blood, tissues and cells; and rare diseases were key priority areas of the health programme spending.

Indicator: number of European reference networks established in accordance with Directive 2011/24/EU; number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks; number of Member States using the tools developed

Main key achievements of the Health programme:

- In April 2018 DG SANTE launched the online 'best practice portal'. Since June 2018, it counted more than 6 650 visitors from all EU Member States as well as neighbouring countries.
- Efficient response to highly dangerous and emerging pathogens at EU level (Joint Action EMERGE) and improvement of capabilities for rapid laboratory diagnosis of new or emerging pathogens (e.g. Ebola, Zika).
- The establishment of 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs), which are providing greater access to high quality healthcare and information, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment to patients affected by rare or low prevalence diseases. In this first phase (2017-2018), ERNs include more than 900 highly specialised healthcare providers in 300 hospitals across the EU.
- Effective evaluations and studies conducted: in 2019, DG SANTE undertook an extensive evaluation of the Regulations on orphan medicines (141/2000) and paediatric medicines (1901/2006), including a study, a staff working document, and outreach to stakeholders; DG SANTE also launched a feasibility study for a monitoring system on reformulation initiatives for salt, sugars and fat in support of the EU framework for national initiatives on selected nutrients; a Staff Working Document to finalise the evaluation of the Directives on blood (2002/98/EC) and tissues and cells (2004/23/EC) was also adopted.
- Establishment of an EU quality register ensuring the safety of medical devices.
- Establishment of an Organ Database, which has helped 34 000 transplants only in 2017.
- Set up of an EU-wide tobacco tracking and tracing system to combat illicit tobacco products trafficking.
- Finally, a majority of indicators for assessing the performance of the Programme's general and specific objectives showed positive trends over the implementation period 2014-2019. Furthermore, as detailed below, in the sections 'General objectives' and 'Specific objectives' 5 indicators out of 8 ⁽⁷⁾ reached their milestone figures defined at the beginning of the implementation and in certain cases were above these milestones (implying that they should reach their defined targets at the end of the programme).

The decrease of 'the number of Member States (MS) in which the European accreditation scheme for breast cancer services is implemented' indicator is explained by the fact that in 2019, guidelines developers and/or national authorities of (only) six Member States have used, implemented or adapted in their national cancer plans the European Guidelines, evidence base or methodology developed by the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The other 2 indicators which did not reach their milestones in 2019 are, the indicator on the Number of Health Technology Assessments (HTA) produced per year reached (27 in 2019, versus the foreseen milestone of 29) and the indicator on the number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks (ERNs). The stabilisation of this indicator around 950, after reaching in 2017 the milestone set out for that year, can mainly be explained by the fact that subsequent annual milestones were set at too ambitious levels, with regard to external factors linked with the ERNs' infrastructure, capacity and resources.

The weak aspects of the programme:

Following the ex-post evaluation of the second Health Programme, the Commission undertook to work on three main aspects of the third Health Programme, as stated in its report to the European Parliament and the Council in May 2016: These commitments were to:

- improve monitoring, reporting and dissemination efforts
- encourage participation of all Member States and other participating countries, and to work with all Member States, particularly those with greater public health needs; and
- develop synergies with the Commission's main priorities and other programmes.

⁽⁷⁾ Out of 10 programme indicators, 2 indicators (i.e. Number of Healthy Life Years of Men and of Women) did not have defined milestones and targets

These points are still valid and the Programme will continue to work on these areas. In particular for the dissemination of results and implementation of best practices in close cooperation with other Programmes investing in health.

The experience from the ongoing Covid crisis has demonstrated that the EU must improve health systems ready to provide state of the art services and care and to be prepared to cope with epidemics and other unforeseeable challenges. An ambitious self-standing Health Programme can support Member States in the transition to better preparedness and stronger health systems. The Programme should bring together two strands of actions. A longer-term vision of continuously improving health conditions across the Member States, through better disease prevention, health promotion, access, diagnosis and treatment – objectives which have already been pursued through the currently existing programme. The second strand on health security would endow the EU and Member States with the preparedness and responses capacities to swiftly react to health emergencies. Both strands would contribute to tackling structural weaknesses of European health systems. The new Health Programme’s objective is to ensure a high level of health protection in the Union by preventing health risks and promoting public health and access to medical products. The main operational objectives are (a) strengthening crisis preparedness and response against cross-border-health threats; (b) empowering health systems; (c) supporting EU health legislation and (d) supporting integrated cross-national work. Actions include policy analysis and implementation; capacity building of networks and partners; communication and dissemination.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States to improve the health of Union citizens and reduce health inequalities by promoting health, encouraging innovation in health, increasing the sustainability of health systems and protecting Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats

Indicator 1: Number of Healthy Life Years at birth								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Men: 61.8	Actual results							
	61.4	62.6	63.5	63.5				
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Women: 62.6	Actual results							
	61.8	63.3	64.2	64.0				

Narrative: Baseline: Men 2012: 61.5 %, Women 2012: 62.6 %

Comment: The above indicator is taken directly from the 3rd Health Programme Regulation. The 2 indicators below are an operationalization. NB: the guidelines on breast cancer services were published in July 2017. Plus 3 announced in 2017 but not approved by the end of the year.

The above indicator is taken directly from the 3rd Health Programme.

Availability of Data: Data not available for 2018, 2019

Source: Eurostat. Data for 2017 will be made available by Eurostat in May 2019, and for year 2018 in May 2020, and so on.

Unit of measure: Healthy years

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: identify, disseminate and promote the uptake of evidence-based and good practices for cost-effective health promotion and disease prevention measures by addressing in particular the key lifestyle related risk factors with a focus on the Union added value

Indicator 1: number of Member States involved in health promotion and disease prevention, using evidence-based and good practices through measures and actions taken at the appropriate level in Member States								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Fat: 12	16	18	20	22	24	25	28	28
	Actual results							
	21	21	21	22	24	24		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cancer: 0	Actual results							28
				10			28	
	0	0	0	10	10	6		

Comment: (relevant for Cancer sub-indicators): In 2019, Guideline developers and/or national authorities from six EU countries have used, implemented or adapted the European Guidelines, evidence base or methodology developed or applied by the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). In 2019, guidelines developers and/or national authorities of six Member States have used, implemented or adapted in their national cancer plans the European Guidelines, evidence base or methodology developed by the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer, coordinated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Unit of measure: Member States having a national initiative on reduction of saturated fat & MS in which the European accreditation scheme for breast cancer services is implemented – establishment of the scheme

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of actions granted that plan to deliver validated best practices for cost effective prevention measures	17 03 01	5	15
Number of grants and contracts provided contributing to promoting health and fostering supportive environments	17 03 01	10	3
Total		15	18

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of actions granted that plan to deliver validated best practices for cost effective prevention measures	F	4	5	3	12	11	5	5
	P	4	5	9	9 (all the actions below contribute with evidence-based interventions)	9		
Number of grants and contracts provided contributing to promoting health and fostering supportive environments	F	35	25	14	19	30	20	10
	P	35	23	20	9 (4 SC + 2 x JA on Health inequalities and on Cancer + 3 Direct grant to IGOs)	10		

Specific Objective 2: identify and develop coherent approaches and promote their implementation for better preparedness and coordination in health emergencies

Indicator 1: number of Member States integrating coherent approaches in the design of their preparedness plans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	4	18	20	22	24	28	28
	Actual results							
	0	16	16	16	22			

Comment: Actual results on the indicators will be available after the next reporting exercise by Member States on preparedness and response planning under Article 4 of Decision 1082/2013/EU. The next reporting exercise takes place in 2020.

Unit of measure: Member States

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of grants and contracts provided to protect citizens from serious cross-border health treats	17 03 01	5	12
Total			

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of grants and contracts provided to protect citizens from serious cross-border health treats	F	4	7	4	6	5	5	5
	P	4	7	5	6	1		

Specific Objective 3: identify and develop tools and mechanisms at Union level to address shortages of resources, both human and financial, and to facilitate the voluntary uptake of innovations in public health intervention and prevention strategies

Indicator 1: advice produced and the number of Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Advice produced, in particular the number of Health Technology Assessments (HTA) produced per year: 2	11	6	12	18	22	29	50	50
	Actual results							
	6	9	0	4	22	27		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems:		5	9	8	10	12	18	18
	Actual results							
	0	5	10	9	22			

Methodology: Annually

Comment: (relevant for the second sub indicator): In 2019, EUnetHTA Joint Action carried out 27 joint reports (13 assessments and 14 early dialogues). This is an increase from 22 joint reports in 2018-15 are on pharmaceutical products (2 Assessments and 13 Early Dialogues) and 7 on other technologies (6 Assessments and 1 Early Dialogue).

Availability of Data: Information is not available, due to time-lag between end of reference period and the availability of validated data

Unit of measure: For second sub indicator: Member States with patient summaries data/ePrescription in line with the EU guidelines

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of grants and contracts to address shortages of resources, both human and financial, and to facilitate the voluntary uptake of innovations in public health intervention and prevention strategies	17 03 01	15	8
Others of horizontal nature	17 03 01	5	3
Total		20	11

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of grants and contracts provided concerning obj. 3	F	19	16	11	26	19	40	20
	P	19	11	13	32	17		

Specific Objective 4: increase access to medical expertise and information for specific conditions beyond national borders, facilitate the application of the results of research and develop tools for the improvement of healthcare quality and patient safety

Indicator 1: number of European reference networks established in accordance with Directive 2011/24/EU

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	0	10	24	24	24	30	30
	Actual results							
	0	0	23	24	24	24		

Comment: Networks can only be formally established as provided in Commission Implementing Decision 2014/287/EU setting out criteria for establishing and evaluating European Reference Networks and their Members. The implementing decision was adopted later than forecasted in 2013 (when the goals where defined in the Health programme) and therefore the milestones and goals should be adapted to reality. The establishment of ERNs is a complex procedure, which involves several steps and tools. The first call for ERN has been launched in the second half of 2016, the result was the establishment of 24 ERNs. Target reduced from 33 to 30 based on the SANTE strategic plan 2016-2020. Revised target more likely to be reached by the end of the Programme.

Indicator 2: number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	0	120	936	1 136	1 342	1 450	1 450
	Actual results							
	0	0	936	956	956	953		

Comment: The difference with regard to 2019 and 2018 is due to cleaning of duplicate records. The stabilisation of this indicator around 950, after reaching in 2017 the milestone set out for that year, can mainly be explained by the fact that subsequent annual milestones were set at too ambitious levels, with regard to external factors linked with the ERNs' infrastructure, capacity and resources.

Indicator 3: number of Member States using the tools developed								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0	0	0	18	20	24	28	28
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	25	25	25		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of functioning European Reference Networks	17 03 01	24	0
Number of grants and contracts to facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens	17 03 01	40	14
Total		66	14

*This is the number of actions to facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens financed for the Draft Budget 2019. The number of functioning ERNs is independent from this total.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of functioning European Reference Networks	F	0	0	15	15	24	24	24
	P	0	0	0	24			
Number of grants and contracts to facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens	F	9	10	22	30	30	40	40
	P	9	10	32	25 (23 ERNs + JA on AMR + assessment of ERN HCP)	39		

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
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Gender mainstreaming

DG SANTE has developed a questionnaire for all beneficiaries to be completed at the time of the interim and final report, operating grant recipients will only provide a final report and complete the questionnaire then. One question targets gender mainstreaming and how it was performed in the actions. DG SANTE can already report on the first data from the beneficiaries/reports for the operating grants (budget of EUR 4.6 million), whereas information from project grants and Joint Actions will only be available later.

As regards the operating grants, the first replies from recipients indicate that on average an amount of about 2 % of their budget, i.e. EUR 86.000, is spent to finance activities targeting the gender issue related to health.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Health Programme contributes to EU efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in health and well-being by supporting actions to implement the EU's political commitments and legal obligations in health and work towards Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health. Examples of such support included funding for operating grants to NGOs. Specific Grant Agreements were signed with 15 NGOs in 2019.

In order to maximise collective EU work towards the WHO's nine voluntary targets on non-communicable disease and the UN Sustainable Development Goals for health and well-being, DG SANTE works through the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases.

In 2019, mental health good practices identified by the Steering Group were selected for scale-up and transfer (Suicide Prevention in Austria, Mental healthcare delivery system reform in Belgium, and European Alliance Against Depression).

At the Steering Group's formal meeting in June 2019, childhood immunisation (and the uptake of the second dose of measles vaccination in particular) was identified as a priority area for best practices and screening of implementable research results in 2020. DG SANTE, in close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre, organised expert meetings to select potential best practices in this area.

Other projects on health promotion and disease prevention launched included projects on cardiovascular disease prevention; the prescription of physical activity; and on the promotion of whole grain consumption.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Consumer Programme

Lead DG: JUST

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Consumer Programme supports the EU consumer policy. It aims to help citizens fully enjoy their consumer rights and actively participate in the Single Market, thus supporting growth, innovation and meeting the objectives of Europe 2020. The Consumer Programme 2014-2020 focuses on four key areas:

- a single market of safe products for the benefit of citizens and as a component of competitive businesses and traders;
- a single market where citizens are well represented by professional consumer organisations whose capacity is built to meet the challenges of today's economic environment;
- a market where citizens are aware and exercise their rights as consumers so that they contribute to the growth of competitive markets; citizens must enjoy access to redress mechanisms in case of problems without needing to resort to court procedures which are lengthy and costly for them and the governments;
- a concrete and effective collaboration between national bodies to support the enforcement of consumer rights, and support the consumers with advice.

EU added value of the programme

The main actions implemented through the Consumer Programme are aimed to supporting the objectives of the EU Consumer protection policy where they cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, in particular due to the cross-border nature of the issues involved. This is achieved by actions in 4 specific objectives:

I. Safety: to consolidate and enhance product safety

Ensuring that products circulating on the internal market, including online, are safe for consumers is a basic objective for EU consumer policy and contributes to the Juncker Commission's priority for a Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base. This objective is supported by EU legislation with general requirements for safe products and for market surveillance by the Member States. Consumers need to be confident that unsafe products have no place on the EU market and that the relevant rules are effectively and efficiently enforced, both domestically and cross-border. This is why EU supports a coordinated and coherent approach to the enforcement of safety and market surveillance rules across the EU.

II. Consumer information and education and support to consumer organisations

Developing modern evidence on how markets work for consumers and businesses – notably through the Consumer Scoreboards – helps Member States to identify areas where the EU is not delivering fully for the internal market, and contributes to better policy-making. Collecting such evidence at EU level ensures methodological consistency and comparability across time and countries, allowing Member States to benchmark the consumer outcomes of their policies.

Enhancing knowledge also entails making sure that consumers are informed of their rights, supporting consumer education, and building the capacity of consumer organisations, especially in Member States with weaker consumer cultures (NB. local courses organised in Member States are given the national language). Both the capacity building and the consumer education actions target EU-wide audiences with a view of sharing best EU wide practice.

III. Rights and redress: to develop and reinforce consumer rights

Enforcement efforts seek to ensure that citizens feel adequately protected from unsafe products and unfair commercial practices, and that businesses and industry can operate in open and fair markets. EU consumer policy also aims to boost consumers and traders trust by giving them access to more efficient and cost-effective means of out of court redress, notably through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and online dispute resolution (ODR) mechanisms.

IV. Enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights

Stepping up enforcement of the EU consumer acquis through the revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation is one of the objectives of the Digital Single Market strategy. The CPC network has an important role in this respect as it allows Member State authorities to cooperate and tackle infringements with a cross-border dimension. For widespread infringements such as concerning internet platforms or big market players, it is more efficient and effective to pool resources and coordinate enforcement action at EU level. The Consumer Programme supports these coordinated actions as well as the pre-requisite building of capacity and joint expertise in investigation and enforcement, for instance to raise digital investigations knowledge and standards in Member State authorities to ensure an equal level of enforcement through the Single Market.

The role of the European Consumer Centres (ECCs) is also relevant in this respect; it contributes towards the governance and performance of the Single Market and helps the European consumers to get the redress they deserve when purchasing abroad or

while travelling. ECCs act as a consumer rights information service for the citizens and are an important component of the Consumer Programme. They also play the role of consumers' advocates in trying to get a settlement in cross-border trade issues and contribute to the promotion the use of the Alternative Dispute Resolution. Many ECCs also serve as the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) contact points, and in some instances, Member States conferred on them the power to issue external alerts to consumer protection authorities under Article 27 (1) of the new CPC Regulation as from 17 January 2020.

Implementation mode

Direct management via grants and procurement. Grants are mostly implemented by the Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), implementation of procurement actions is shared between DG Justice and Consumers and CHAFEA, with some limited sub-delegations to DG SANTE, GROW and DIGIT.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The implementation of the Consumer Programme 2014 – 2020 is well on track to meet its multiannual objectives. Most of the related performance indicators expected for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 2018 and 2019 have been achieved.

The annual work programmes (commitments):

- 2014 (EUR 21.9 million operational budget) was executed at 98.3 %
- 2015 (EUR 22.5 million) executed at 99 %
- 2016 (EUR 23.7 million) executed at 99 %
- 2017 (EUR 24.7 million) executed at 94,5 %
- 2018 (EUR 25.7 million) executed at 100 %
- 2019 (EUR 27.2 million) executed at 73 % (data from January 2020). Global commitments for the remaining already defined actions (legal commitments to be concluded during the first half of 2020) were done at the end of 2019.

Key achievements

I. Safety: to consolidate and enhance product safety

Product safety in single market is a key concern of the EU and it is one of the main focus of the activities funded by the programme in particular through a EU-wide alert system to notify dangerous product and awareness-raising activities.

Rapid Alert System (RAPEX) becomes Safety Gate

The Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products (RAPEX) underwent in 2019 a revamping of its website, renamed 'Safety Gate'. It has become more user friendly and is available in all EU official languages. The system has continued during the last years to support the exchange of information between Member States and the Commission on measures taken against dangerous products. In 2019 Member States' authorities communicated through the system more than 2.000 notifications of dangerous products.

EU Product Safety Award

In 2019 the Commission launched a new initiative: the EU Product Safety Award to showcase best business practices in consumer protection that can serve as an inspiration for other companies. The winners were announced in September 2019. Winner companies were identified in 2 categories: large companies and SMEs. In total 8 awards (gold, silver and bronze as well as a 'special mention' in each category) were awarded to companies excelling in the safety of childcare products.

II. Consumer information and education and support to consumer organisations

Informed consumers, aware of their rights, are at the centre of EU consumer policy: the programme pursues this objective through targeted information and education campaigns.

Thanks to the success encountered, the SME training pilot project 'Consumer Law Ready' was in 2019 integrated to the Consumer programme. It received new funding and saw its duration extended.

The month of November marked the release of the [2019 edition of the Consumer Conditions Scoreboard](#). It showed among others that over 70 % of EU consumers trust retailers to respect their consumer rights and that more than half of consumers (an increasing proportion) are attentive to product's green claims when shopping.

III. Rights and redress: to develop and reinforce consumer rights

Online Dispute Resolution platform

The Online Dispute Resolution platform became more efficient and user friendly by adding new functionalities, including – a self-assessment for the consumers, a useful tool to help people to find the most appropriate means of redress.

IV. Enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights

Having good EU consumer legislation in place is alone not enough: its enforcement remains a key aspect to which the programme devotes part of the funding each year.

Support for the Consumer Protection Cooperation- EU-wide screening

In 2019 the Consumer programme supported the implementation of an EU-wide screening ('[sweep](#)') of 481 e-shops selling clothing and footwear, furniture and household items, and electric appliances was carried out by consumer protection authorities of 27 countries (25 EU countries, Norway and Iceland) under the coordination of the Commission. The findings reveal that two-thirds of the screened websites do not comply with basic EU consumer rights such as:

- Nearly 45 % of all the websites screened did not provide an easily accessible link to the Online Dispute Resolution platform on their website, informing consumers on their possibilities in case of a dispute;
- More than a quarter of the flagged websites did not inform consumers in a clear and comprehensible manner about the conditions and the time limit to withdraw from a contract (14 days of receiving the good without the need to give a justification);
- Nearly half of the flagged websites did not clearly indicate the time-limit to return the item within 14 days from the moment they have notified the trader of their intention to withdraw;
- Over a third of the flagged websites did not remind consumers of the existence of the minimum 2-year legal guarantee to have a good repaired, replaced or reimbursed in case it was faulty at the moment of delivery;
- Over one fifth of the flagged websites did not include delivery, postal or other additional mandatory charges or information about the possibility of such charges in the price initially shown;
- One fifth of the flagged websites did not respect the 'shop like a local principle' as enshrined in the Geo-Blocking Regulation which allows consumers to shop from websites not delivering in their country of residence, provided that traders deliver to an address in the country served by the trader.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The survey on scams and fraud that consumers experience found that 56 % of European Consumers have been exposed to scams and fraud. It also analysed the channels through which consumers are exposed to fraud and the financial and other impacts from this fraud. It came out that fraudsters and scammers are most active online, using email (43 % of cases) and online advertisements. Phone calls (either mobile or fixed line) are also widely used (28 % of cases). People who are less active online are more likely to be targeted in phone-based fraud. Overall the financial loss is estimated at 24 billions over 2 years. The study also confirmed that consumers rarely report fraud. These findings will help to better fight against mass consumer fraud.

Evaluation of the Programme

In November 2019 the Commission published its report on the mid-term evaluation of the Consumer Programme 2014-2020: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2019/0490/COM_COM\(2019\)0490_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2019/0490/COM_COM(2019)0490_EN.pdf). It was prepared following an external study on Ex-post evaluation of the Consumer Programme 2007-13 and mid-term evaluation of the Consumer Programme 2014-2020 launched in October 2017. The study showed that the Consumer Programme 2014 – 2020 achieved progress towards meeting the programme's specific objectives in the areas of safety, consumer information and education, rights and redress and enforcement. The costs are assessed as being proportional to the benefits achieved and the EU added value is considered high. The results of this study show a general satisfaction of the stakeholders in terms of relevance and effectiveness of the activities.

Overall, the objectives and priorities of the Consumer Programme were so far assessed as being still very relevant. The evaluation concludes that in the future, the programme's ability to react to new challenges related to market developments, digitalisation and new policy demands should be strengthened. Additional priorities could be given to sustainable consumption, to activities that contribute to a uniform and high level of consumer protection throughout the EU, and to support to consumer organisations at the Member State level (e.g. jointly with the Member States in their role as consumer watchdogs).

In terms of coherence, there seems to be little overlaps with other programmes, but quite a significant potential for increasing synergies with activities in other areas, for example, it was suggested to involve national consumer organisations into consumer information and education campaigns, to increase synergies between the actions, and at the same time strengthen the capacity of these organisations. Representatives of ECCs suggested increasing the synergy with the CPC Network by increasing the number and scope of joint activities.

In terms of efficiency, there seems to be significant room for improvement regarding administrative burdens related to the programme delivery and scope for simplification as regards grants for joint actions and exchange of officials.

In the future, the programme's ability to react to new challenges related to market developments, digitalisation and new policy demands should be strengthened. Additional priorities could be given to sustainable consumption, to activities that contribute to a uniform and high level of consumer protection throughout the EU, and to support to consumer organisations at the Member State level (e.g. jointly with the Member States in their role as consumer watchdogs).

Forthcoming implementation

Measures to help enforce consumer legislation and consumer rights and measures to enforce product safety will remain the priority, accounting for around 75 % of the operational budget of the Programme.

A high level of consumer product safety will continue to be supported through actions intended to step up enforcement by Member States, with an emphasis on market surveillance concerning products sold online, using as a service contract for market surveillance activities related to General Product Safety Directive and exchanges of enforcement officials aimed at capacity building and best practice sharing.

The functioning of the Safety Gate: the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products will also receive continued support and will be promoted via communication events such as its annual media event.

Following preparatory work done in 2019, several educational videos for consumers focusing on sustainable consumption, financial literacy, internet safety and data protection issues will be produced in 2020.

In 2020, the Commission plans to launch a new Consumer Education and awareness programme, which will include educational tools for schools, addressing teachers, raising the awareness of consumer policy/law and the importance of consumer education.

The financial support to EU-level consumer organisations will continue to be instrumental to ensure a strong enough consumer voice at EU level. Capacity-building activities for national consumer organisations will continue focusing for instance on the promotion of sustainable consumption, the prevention of vulnerabilities and the preparation to new tasks of consumer organisations in relation to the enforcement of consumer rights.

Within the aim to enhance the circular economy and consumers' more respectful gestures towards environment while shopping or managing their waste, a study on ways to empower consumers to play an active role in the green transition will be carried out.

In 2020, the enforcement of consumer rights will be further strengthened through the support of activities of the Consumer Protection Cooperation network. Activities aiming at building the capacity of national enforcement authorities to conduct online investigations will also take place, in particular through e-learning modules (second phase of the E-enforcement academy project will be launched).

The programme will continue the funding of European Consumer Centres and support to the operation of the Online Dispute Resolution platform.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

For the upcoming financial perspectives, it has been proposed to integrate the Consumer Programme to a new Single Market Programme, in the spirit of continuity, flexibility and EU value added. The Single Market Programme is adopting a new and innovative approach towards delivering the Single Market on the ground by improving synergies, achieving better value for money and providing greater visibility for the Single Market. Under the new Consumer Programme, the same priorities and actions in the area of product safety, awareness-raising, EU-level enforcement actions, cooperation of the CPC network and support to ADR bodies will continue to be funded. New priorities are being put forward, including:

- protection of vulnerable consumers will be reinforced, especially in the context of consumer fraud;
- accent will be put on sustainable consumption;
- support to national consumer organisations in their new role of qualified entities will be foreseen;
- cooperation with third countries may be further developed and;
- data on market issues and on impacts of new technologies will be further improved.

In November 2018, the Council reached a partial general approach for all the technical aspects of the regulation except for certain horizontal provisions and the budgetary envelopes. In the EP, IMCO adopted a report in February 2019, Mr Brando Benifei (S&D, IT) is the new rapporteur, the plenary approved the report and adopted its negotiation mandate on 8 October 2019. After a standstill period trilogues restart in February 2020.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework**1. Financial programming**

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 254/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on a multiannual consumer programme for the years 2014-20 and repealing Decision No 1926/2006/EC	2014 – 2020	188,8

Financial Programming (EUR million)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,0	0,8	0,8	7,2
Operational appropriations	21,3	21,9	23,1	24,1	25,2	26,6	27,0	169,2
Executive Agency	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,8	1,8	12,1
Total	24,1	24,7	25,9	26,9	28,0	29,3	29,7	188,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	29,255	99,96 %	26,642	97,67 %	29,685	14,19 %	27,685	21,75 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	29,968	99,92 %	28,013	96,64 %	30,413	16,17 %	28,949	23,91 %

(*) 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 Consumer Programme 2014 – 2020 achieved progress towards meeting the programme’s specific objectives in the areas of safety, consumer information and education, rights and redress and enforcement, with a high EU added value in particular in a highly inter-connected economy.

In the field of product safety, the Commission has promoted and facilitate cooperation among enforcement authorities by financing joint sampling and testing activities on specific products, which eventually feed the Safety Gate: the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products, as well as knowledge sharing activities on a variety of market surveillance issues.

To ensure a much closer cooperation between the European Commission and Member States market surveillance authorities, the Commission switched from a grant to a tender procedure, signing the first contract in January 2019 and the second in December 2019. The main objective of the CASP 2019 and 2020 projects (Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products) is to foster cooperation by implementing a package of product specific and horizontal activities with flexibility and efficiency. Since 2019, the exchanges of product safety enforcement officials have also been integrated within this project. The activity is called ‘VisitUs’. During a period of 6 months (October 2019 – March 2020), 26 officials participated to the exchange in this new form.

The exchanges of Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) officials (55 in 2019) continue under the previous scheme (special indemnities).

Cooperation between national authorities through the Safety Gate: the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products has significantly increased over time, since the system’s creation in 2003. The feedback ratio of reports of other authorities to ‘serious risk’ notifications increased from 0.90 in 2013 to 2.16 in 2019 (these very good statistics can also be explained by the fact that a notification can trigger several reactions from authorities of other Member States). The number of notifications has now stabilised at a regular rate with just over 2 000 per year.

Thanks to an annual operating grant of EUR 2 million, awarded in 2019 in the framework of the Framework Partnership Agreement 20018-2021, the European Consumer Organisation BEUC could carry out various activities in favour of defending the interests of all Europe’s consumers.

The Consumer Programme has funded several communication and information campaigns, to promote consumer rights while travelling and shopping (including online shopping), to promote and inform about the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform, which is today also a modern way to register consumer complaints, replacing other systems such as the European Consumer Complaints Registration system (ECCRS). Since the launch of the ODR platform, almost 130 000 consumers decided to lodge a complaint. On the basis of the available data, it is estimated that about 40 % complaints are resolved, either bilaterally between the consumer and the trader following the contact from the ODR platform, or by ADR bodies accessible via ODR platform. In 2019, the number of cases dealt with by a Union-wide online dispute resolution system reached almost 130.000 and overpassed the target set.

The programme has supported the National Consumer protection cooperation. In 2018 national CPC authorities worked together and with the Commission to address misleading commercial practices of major online operators, namely, Facebook, Airbnb and booking.com. The objective was to improve the transparency of their offers and the fairness of their terms and condition. Furthermore, intense work took place to ensure that national authorities implement efficiently the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394, entering into force on 17 January 2020) and have a modern IT system to support their cooperation.

Thanks to the support provided from the Consumer Programme, the second phase of the e-enforcement academy, set up to boost the CPC network and the ability of product safety networks to conduct online investigations, started in 2019. The first phase of the project (2017-18) was successful, providing national CPC and product safety authorities with various deliverables.

The Consumer Programme has provided funding for the European Consumer Centres Network (ECC Net). The ECC-Net which exists since 15 years, helps consumers with cross-border purchases, explaining their rights when shopping internationally and, where necessary, helping them seek redress against a trader in another EU country, Iceland or Norway. In 2014 ECC-Net developed a ‘Travel App’ to help consumers exercise their rights while on holiday abroad. Over 120 000 consumers received assistance in 2019.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to ensure a high level of consumer protection, to empower consumers and to place the consumer at the heart of the internal market, within the framework of an overall strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Indicator 1: Consumer conditions index								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Knowledge and Trust: 55.06	Actual results							60.00
	55.06		59.30		55.87			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Compliance and Enforcement: 71.91	Actual results							75.00
	71.91		74.99		73.81			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Complaints and Dispute Resolution: 58.97	Actual results							63.00
	58.97		60.34		59.45			

Methodology: Measurement out of 100

Narrative: A possible explanation for a decrease in figures in 2018 is linked to a combination of factors and different hypotheses are quoted. The decline in the UK has been particularly marked, but even the EU27 aggregate (without the UK) shows a sizeable decrease. The decline is mostly due to decreases in some large Western EU Member States (our EU aggregates are weighted by population). As the methodology for the computation of the indicators related to the CCI and its components has been revised in 2016, the 2014 values for the indicators are not directly computable (data between 2014 and 2016 are not directly comparable). Therefore, the values for 2014 have been back-estimated by applying to the 2016 values the changes in percentage points observed between 2016 and 2014 (computed on indicators based on the same methodology). By doing that, the values for 2014 have been slightly revised with respect to the initial baseline.

Comment: Result indicator: ‘pillars’ of the consumer conditions index (data available every two years). This indicator is related to the Specific objective 4.1 ‘Consolidate and improve the rights of consumers when purchasing in the Single Market’, within the General objective ‘A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base’ as adopted in the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 of DG Justice and Consumers. The Consumer Condition Index provides an overview of the key indicators describing the consumer environment at national level, as measured through surveys of perceptions, attitudes and experiences of consumers and of retailers.

Availability of Data: 2019 results not available: The result for 2018 remains the latest available

Source: Consumer and retailer surveys for the Consumer Conditions Scoreboard (biennial frequency).

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Safety: to consolidate and enhance product safety through effective market surveillance throughout the Union

Performance

The Consumer and retailer surveys for the Consumer Conditions Scoreboard are carried out with biennial frequency.

The Consumer scoreboards provide an overview of how the EU’s single market works for consumers. Published since 2008, the scoreboards monitor consumer outcomes and provide evidence to inform policy. There are 2 types of consumer scoreboards: the markets scoreboard and conditions scoreboard. Published in alternate years, they are based on EU-wide representative surveys.

A decrease in figures in 2018 is linked can be due to a combination of factors and different hypotheses are quoted.

The decline in the UK has been particularly marked, but even the EU27 aggregate (without the UK) shows a sizeable decrease. The decline is mostly due to decreases in some large Western EU Member States (our EU aggregates are weighted by population).

The new edition of the Markets Scoreboard is also under preparation. The Scoreboard was revamped in order to take into account the changes in consumption patterns and to respond better to enforcement and policy priorities.

Progressive increase in cooperation between national authorities through the Safety Gate: the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products is mirrored by an increase of the feedback ratio of reports of other authorities to ‘serious risk’ notifications from 0,90 in 2013 to 2,16 in 2019 (these very good statistics can also be explained by the fact that a notification can trigger several reactions from authorities of other Member States). The number of notifications has now stabilised at a regular rate with just over 2.000 per year. Taking into account global trade, further developing online shopping, as well as more and more direct sales to EU consumers from traders of third countries, the European Commission and national authorities collaborating through the Rapid Alert System for dangerous non-food products are also working closely with large international markets to exchange information and to increase cooperation, including at the level of online platforms.

Indicator 1: % of RAPEX (rapid alert system for dangerous consumers products) notifications entailing at least one reaction (by other Member States)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
43 %				45 %				48 %
	Actual results							
	42 %	40 %	46 %	46 %	56 %	49 %		

Narrative: Target: Increase of 10 % (to 47.5 %), compared to the 2010 value.

Indicator 2: Ratio number of reactions / number of notifications (serious risks)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
1.07				1.15				1.23
	Actual results							
	1.28	1.56	1.80	1.66	1.97	2.16		

Narrative: Target: Increase of 15 % compared to 2010 (to 1.23)

Comment: This indicator indicates the ratio number of reactions divided by the number of RAPEX notifications received under Art. 12 of the General Product Safety Directive 2001/95/EC, serious risks. So it should be 1 % to be good, if it is > 1 %, it means that Member States carry out market surveillance also when they do not have the legal obligation. A notification can trigger several reactions from authorities of other Member States.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
scientific advice	33 04 01	1	0,4
market surveillance and enforcement actions	33 04 01	6	3,6
cosmetics portal and database	33 04 01	2	0,5
Total		9	4,5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
scientific advice	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
market surveillance and enforcement actions	F	7	6	6	6	6	6	6
	P	6	6	5	5	6	6	
cosmetics portal and database	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	2	2	2	2	2	2	

Specific Objective 2: Consumer information and education, and support to consumer organisations: to improve consumers' education, information and awareness of their rights, to develop the evidence base for consumer policy and to provide support to consumer organisations, including taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable consumers

Performance

The initial 2020 target for the implementation of the 2010 Commission Recommendation on harmonising the registration of consumer complaints – in terms of the number of complaints handling bodies/countries submitting harmonised complaints data – was achieved early, in 2015, and the targets were revised upwards at that time. The number of participating countries continued to grow and by end 2016, 77 consumer organisations from 23 EU Member States and 1 EEA country (Norway) had sent harmonised complaints data to the Commission (around half of them on regular basis), bringing the total number of records in the harmonised

database to 6.15 million by end 2017. However, in 2017 the situation of the project – in particular the development and maintenance of the harmonised database – was re-assessed in view of competing priorities and resource limitations, in a context where its continuation in the medium and longer term was conditional of major upgrades in the underlying IT system. The development of the project was therefore put on hold and, after a consultation with the Member States’ representatives, a decision to discontinue its maintenance was taken in 2018.

In practice, evidence for policymaking is gathered more efficiently through dedicated and focused market studies, consumer and retailer surveys, which can target emerging issues and gather data with higher value. Complaint data are in any case already gathered through various tools owned by the Consumer enforcement and redress unit (newly launched ECC-Net compliant platform, ODR and the legally binding IT tool of the Committee on Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPCS), covering all relevant data except national offline complaints). For instance, the ODR platform connects 443 dispute resolution bodies from 30 countries. In the ODR platform, both parties have to agree on transfer of complaints to the ADR body. However, the consumers can use the ODR platform to find an ADR body who may be able to receive complaints directly. 30 national European Consumer Centres (ECCs) (EU, NO, IS) are not, per se, complaint handling bodies, but they work closely with the enforcement authorities.

Indicator 1: Number of complaint bodies and number of countries submitting complaints to the European Consumer Complaints Registration system (ECCRS).

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Complaint bodies: 33	Actual results							100
	37	73	77	77				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Countries: 7	Actual results							25
	13	20	24	24				

Narrative: Systems were decommissioned by 2018 – no more data

Comment: After a consultation with the Member States’ representatives, a decision to discontinue its maintenance was taken in 2018, due to competing priorities and resource limitations. Complaint data are in any case already gathered through various tools owned by the Consumer enforcement and redress unit (newly launched ECC-Net compliant platform, ODR and the legally binding IT tool of the Committee on Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPCS), covering all relevant data except national offline complaints). The 2020 target was already reached in 2015. We revise the 2020 target and milestones to make them more ambitious.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
evidence base	33 04 01	3	3,3
support to consumer organisations	33 04 01	3	4
consumer information	33 04 01	7	2
consumer education	33 04 01	2	1
Total		15	10,3

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
evidence base	F	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	3	3	3	3	3	3	
support to consumer organisations	F	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	3	3	3	3	3	3	
consumer information	F	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	P	7	7	5	7	7	7	
consumer education	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	2	2	2	2	2	2	

Specific Objective 3: Rights and redress: to develop and reinforce consumer rights in particular through smart regulatory action and improving access to simple, efficient, expedient and low-cost redress including alternative dispute resolution

Performance

The proportion of referrals of unresolved cases to ADR depends on the performance of ADR/ODR and the traders' engagement in the alternative dispute resolution system.

The choice to refer the cases to ADR by consumer centres depends on their experience with traders being ready to submit to ADR and the efficiency of the ADR bodies in any particular jurisdiction. Consequently, ECCs will decrease the number of cases referred to ADR if they perceive that other means of redress (courts, EPO, ESCP, enforcement bodies or the police) are more likely to help the consumer. Moreover, with the launch of ODR the consumers can attempt alternative dispute resolution entirely online: 13,363 cross-border complaints were submitted directly to ODR compared to 5,323 cases submitted to ECCs in 2017 that were closed as unresolved during the year.

It is therefore necessary to re-evaluate the target setting methodology to adapt it for monitoring the performance of ADR/ODR and develop new indicators which would be better suited for assessing the performance of ECCs.

Also, the ECCs are funded under specific objective four (enforcement) and not under specific objective three, which concerns ADR/ODR (rights and redress).

Since the launch of the ODR platform, almost 130 000 consumers decided to lodge a complaint. On the basis of the available data, it is estimated that about 40 % complaints are resolved, either bilaterally between the consumer and the trader following the contact from the ODR platform, or by ADR bodies accessible via ODR platform.

The Commission Report on the implementation of the ADR/ODR legislation of September 2019 concluded that the Member States achieved full territorial and (with some punctual gaps) sectoral coverage of ADR in all segments of consumer market. The ADR bodies in the EU Member States benefitted, for the second time, for the financial support in the form of grants for capacity building and mutual learning.

Indicator 1: % of those cases dealt with by European Consumer Centres (ECCs) and not resolved directly with traders which were subsequently referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
9 %	Actual results							75.00 %
				40.00 %				
	16.20 %	16.00 %	18.00 %	11.15 %	14.00 %			

Comment: This indicator is not suited for assessing the performance of ECCs. The proportion of referrals of unresolved cases to ADR depends on the performance of ADR/ODR and the traders' engagement in the alternative dispute resolution system. The choice to refer the cases to ADR by consumer centres depends on their experience with traders being ready to submit to ADR and the efficiency of the ADR bodies in any particular jurisdiction. Consequently, ECCs will decrease the number of cases referred to ADR if they perceive that other means of redress (courts, EPO, ESCP, enforcement bodies or the police) are more likely to help the consumer. Moreover, with the launch of ODR the consumers can attempt alternative dispute resolution entirely online: 13 363 cross-border complaints were submitted directly to ODR compared to 5 323 cases submitted to ECCs in 2017 that were closed as unresolved during the year. It is therefore necessary to re-evaluate the target setting methodology to adapt it for monitoring the performance of ADR/ODR. Also, the ECCs are funded under specific objective four (enforcement) and not under specific objective three, which concerns ADR/ODR (rights and redress).

Availability of Data: 2019 results not available: CHAFAEA confirmed ECC reports for 2019 are not due before end February.

Indicator 2: Number of cases dealt with by a Union-wide online dispute resolution system

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
17 500	Actual results							100 000
				50 000				
	25 384		20 176	52 735	97 762	129 456		

Comment: ODR platform became operational in February 2016.

Unit of measure: Complaints received by ECCs related to e-commerce.

Indicator 3: % of consumers who took action in response to a problem encountered in the past 12 months.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
83.00 %	Actual results							90.00 %
			80.00 %		85.00 %			
	75.00 %		69.00 %		77.49 %			

Comment: As the methodology for the computation of the indicator has been revised in 2016, the values for 2014 and 2012 are not directly computable with those of 2016. Therefore, the values for 2014 and 2012 have been back-estimated by applying to the 2016 values the changes in

percentage points observed between 2016 and 2014 and between 2016 and 2012 (computed on indicators based on the same methodology). By doing that, the values for 2014 have been slightly revised with respect to that reported in the previous edition of this document.
Availability of Data: Data collected every second year.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
preparation of legislation	33 04 01	5	2
coordination and monitoring of ADR and operation of the ODR platform	33 04 01	2	1
Total		7	3

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
preparation of legislation	F	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	P	5	4	3	5	5	5	
coordination and monitoring of ADR and operation of the ODR platform	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	1	2	2	2	2	2	

Specific Objective 4: Enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights by strengthening cooperation between national enforcement bodies and by supporting consumers with advice

Performance

For indicator 1, the numbers for 2019 are below the 2017 milestone (but improvement over 2018). However, this issue has been addressed through the adoption of the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394, applicable from 17 January 2020) based on which the Commission has a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). Moreover, in line with the new CPC Regulation, the Commission has developed a new electronic database replacing the current CPCs IT tool, which will serve the cooperation needs better.

For indicator 2, the number of enforcement request which have been dealt with within 12 months is below the 2017 milestone (but improved over 2018). This indicator is, however, no longer relevant: the issue has been addressed through the adoption of the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394, applicable from 17 January 2020) which introduced a clear new time frame. With the new legislation, the Commission has a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). The new CPC regulation requires CPC authorities to deal with request for enforcement measures with no delay and at the latest within 6 months, unless justified in exceptional circumstances.

For indicator 3, the number of requests to exchange information, which have been dealt with within 3 months increased in 2019 to almost attain the 2017 milestone. This indicator is, however, no longer relevant as a clear new time frame has been introduced by the new CPC Regulation. The new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394, applicable from 17 January 2020) has introduced a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). The new CPC regulation requires CPC authorities to deal with information requests with no delay and at the latest within 30 days, unless agreed otherwise in exceptional circumstances.

Indicators 2 and 3 for year 2020 will not be relevant anymore given that the reformed CPC Regulation introduced new time frames.

Indicator 1: Level of information flow and cooperation within the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of requests to exchange information between CPC authorities: 129	Actual results							167
	132	122	68	80	44	39		
2007-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of requests for enforcement measures between CPC authorities: 142	Actual results							185
	130	138	194	198	109	127		
2007-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020

Number of alerts within the CPC network: 63				76				82
	Actual results							
	35	45	57	78	53	25		

Narrative: Target:

a – Increase of 30 % (to 167)

b – Increase of 30 % (to 185)

c – Increase of 30 % (to 82)

Comment: Current situation: annualised averages 2007-10. Cases opened in 2015. 2015 is a year with many new cases, but as the case load can vary substantially, the progress will have to be monitored over a couple of year before updating the targets. These numbers are to be confirmed once the technical problem with our reporting tool is solved. The numbers for 2018 are below the 2017 values. However, this issue has been addressed through the adoption of the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394), based on which the Commission has a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). Moreover, under the new CPC Regulation, the Commission is currently developing a new electronic database replacing the current CPCS IT tool, which will serve the cooperation needs better.

Indicator 2: % of enforcement requests handled within 12 months within the CPC Network								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
50.00 %				55.00 %				60.00 %
	Actual results							
	51.00 %	46.00 %	26.30 %	14.23 %	23.30 %	28.00 %		

Comment: This percentage is to be confirmed once the technical problem with QV reporting is solved for CPCS. The number of enforcement request which have been dealt with within 12 months is below the 2017 value. However, this issue has been addressed through the adoption of the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394) based on which the Commission has a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). The new CPC regulation requires CPC authorities to deal with request for enforcement measures with no delay and at the latest within 6 months, unless justified in exceptional circumstances. Regulation 2017/2394 will be applicable from 17 January 2020. This indicator is, therefore, no longer relevant as a clear new time frame has been introduced by the new CPC Regulation. Until the entry into application of the new CPC Regulation, the Commission will regularly report on open cases within the CPC Network, and continue to discuss delays with the Member States concerned to ensure that enforcement request are carried out efficiently and timely.

Indicator 3: % of information requests handled within 3 months within the CPC Network								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2007-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
33.00 %				37.00 %				50.00 %
	Actual results							
	34.00 %	38.00 %	25.37 %	22.78 %	28.89 %	36.00 %		

Comment: Cases opened in 2013, 2014 and 2015 Q1-Q3; This % is to be confirmed once the technical problem with QV reporting is solved for CPCS. The number of requests to exchange information which have been dealt with within 3 months is below the 2017 milestone. However, this issue has been addressed through the adoption of the new CPC Regulation (Regulation 2017/2394) based on which the Commission has a stronger monitoring role on all CPC activities, and especially in order to ensure the respect of deadlines by CPC authorities (Article 14(5)). The new CPC regulation requires CPC authorities to deal with information requests with no delay and at the latest within 30 days, unless agreed otherwise in exceptional circumstances. Regulation 2017/2394 will be applicable from 17 January 2020. This indicator is, therefore, no longer relevant as a clear new time frame has been introduced by the new CPC Regulation. Until the entry into application of the new CPC Regulation, the Commission will regularly report on open cases within the CPC Network, and continue to discuss delays with the Member States concerned to ensure that information exchanges are carried out efficiently and timely.

Even if indicators 2 and 3 fall below the 2017 milestone, the issue was addressed by the recently adopted reformed CPC Regulation – Regulation 2017/2394) as explained under Indicators 2 and 3. Indicators 2 and 3 for year 2020 will not be relevant anymore given that the reformed CPC Regulation introduced new time frames. Moreover, under the new CPC Regulation, the Commission is currently developing a new electronic database replacing the current CPCS IT tool, which will serve the cooperation needs better.

Indicator 4: Number of contacts with consumers handled by the European Consumer Centres (ECC).								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
71 000				88 750				106 500
	Actual results							
	83 425	93 964	111 563	99 201	124 054	120 443		

Narrative: Target: Increase of 50 % (to 106500), compared to 2010

Indicator 5: Number of visits to the website of the ECCs.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
3 000 000				3 900 000				5 100 000
	Actual results							
	3 868 979	4 694 205	4 286 984	4 528 585	5 450 421			

Narrative: Target: Increase of 70 % (to 5100000), compared to 2013

Availability of Data: 2019 results not available: CHAFAEA confirmed ECC reports for 2019 are not due before end February.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
CPC coordination of enforcement actions	33 04 01	4	3
support to the European Consumer Centres	33 04 01	2	6,7
Total		6	9,7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CPC coordination of enforcement actions**	F	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	P	4	3*	3*	4	4	4	
support to the European Consumer Centres	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	2	2	2	2	2	2	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Gender mainstreaming

All the consumer evidence collected through surveys, market studies and behavioural studies is gender disaggregated and analysed for any significant gender-based differences on a regular basis. However, we cannot estimate a specific budget allocated to gender mainstreaming.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The Consumer Programme contributed via its dedicated energy efficiency awareness raising actions.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The Consumer Programme contributed via awareness raising actions targeting consumers promoting green transitions and circular economy.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship

Creative Europe Programme

Lead DG: EAC

Associated DGs: CNECT

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

With a budget of EUR 1.46 billion, Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the Europe's culture and audiovisual sectors. The programme is divided into two sub-programmes, Culture and MEDIA, and is supported by a cross-sectoral strand. Its objectives are to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and enhance the competitiveness of these sectors, by supporting small independent production and distribution companies in the audiovisual field as well as a wide range of operators in the cultural field.

The Creative Europe programme contributes to the political priorities of the Commission, in particular relating to jobs, growth and investment and the European Digital Single Market. By allowing participation of non-EU cultural and creative operators, the programme also contributes to making the EU a stronger global actor. At the same time, the programme helps address current political and societal challenges through the power of culture to reach the hearts and minds of citizens and boost confidence in our shared European values.

The **MEDIA sub-programme** provides added value through supporting independent producers and distributors and their audiovisual works (mainly films and TV programmes including live action, animation, fiction and documentaries as well as some video games) in order to ensure that they operate and circulate across Europe and globally, through financial support to the development and creation of audiovisual works, their cross-border distribution, including online, financing of promotional activities and building the skills and talents in the sector.

The **Culture sub-programme** addresses the cultural and creative sectors (heritage, museums, performing arts, visual arts, design, literature, architecture) and provides European added value through support to cross-border cooperation, mobility of cultural operators and circulation of works, capacity building and internationalization of careers and cultural and linguistic diversity. In addition, a number of symbolic actions showcase European talent and excellence and the tangible returns of investing in culture (European Capital of Culture).

The **cross-sectoral strand** helps diversify the EU support through the Financial Guarantee Facility, a market-led financial instrument providing guarantees to financial institutions extending loans to cultural and creative enterprises, which have difficulties accessing private financing. In addition, a limited number of projects of experimental nature open to all cultural and creative players are carried out, promoting innovation and helping to develop policies and alternative support schemes.

EU added value of the programme

Recognising the intrinsic, economic and social value of culture, the Creative Europe Programme supports actions and activities with a European added value in the cultural and creative sectors. It contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives.

The Creative Europe programme is characterised by:

- the transnational character of actions and activities which complement regional, national, international and other Union programmes and policies, and the impact of such actions and activities on the cultural and creative sectors as well as on citizens and on their knowledge of cultures other than their own;
- the development and promotion of transnational cooperation between cultural and creative players, including artists, audiovisual professionals, cultural and creative organisations and audiovisual operators, focused on stimulating more comprehensive, rapid, effective and long-term responses to global challenges;
- the economies of scale and critical mass which Union support fosters, creating a leverage effect for additional funds;
- ensuring more level playing field in the European cultural and creative sectors by taking account of low production capacity countries and/or countries or regions with a restricted geographical and/or linguistic area;
- the combined focus of the programme on the promotion of cultural diversity and the support to the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors – has led to positive societal benefits for European citizens and economic benefits for the European cultural and creative sectors. The programme has supported innovative projects of artistic quality, but also of economic value.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology are the lead services for the Creative Europe programme.

Since 2014, the implementation of parts of the programme has been delegated to Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Direct management through EACEA is ensured mainly for those parts of programmes where projects are allocated across Europe based on excellence.

The implementation of the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility has been delegated to the European Investment Fund.

The remaining actions are implemented by DG EAC and DG CNECT under direct management. These actions consist mainly of administrative expenditure (studies, external communication and dissemination of Programmes, IT systems, etc.), policy coordination and support actions, politically sensitive and new actions.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

In the period 2016-2019, **the programme was implemented as foreseen and no significant variations** are signaled compared to the initial planning in terms of results achieved and use of resources. The level of appropriations implemented reached nearly 100 %, on the final budget, both in commitments and payments. In 2017 and 2018, the programme saw the number of participating countries expand. After Tunisia in 2017, Armenia and Kosovo joined the programme in 2018. Organisations from the three countries have actively participated in the programme with a growing number of applications and selected projects either as leader or partner. It underlines the relevance of the **Creative Europe programme as a useful tool for cultural diplomacy** and the recent EU strategy on the role of culture in EU external relations.

In 2019, a total of **2,398 applications were submitted** (486 under Culture and 1 912 under MEDIA), of which 1 311 were selected for funding (160 for Culture and 1 151 for MEDIA). The programme has suffered from **low success rates** in the most popular and competitive schemes such as MEDIA development and Culture Cooperation schemes.

For **MEDIA**, the success rate in some competitive schemes, such as in development of single film concepts was as low as 21 %, in development of video games 22 % and in film education only 11 %. It indicates a continuous high demand for EU support and a high number of excluded quality projects due to limited funds. This hampers the capacity to fund projects with a European dimension which could challenge the dominance of global players in the market.

In 2019, the EUR 120 million contribution from MEDIA financed projects for a total value of about EUR 626 million, demonstrating a leverage over 5, which is better than the previous year and shows that public financing facilitates obtaining funds from other sources.

MEDIA shared stories across channels by reaching no less than 125 million people. This number is only indicative of its impact: the total size of audiences indirectly affected by MEDIA is certainly higher, but audience tracking in the audiovisual industry is severely limited. In cinemas there were 76 million admissions in the MEDIA-supported Europa Cinemas network, including 42 million (55 %) to European films, which shows a substantial increase in both objective terms (8 %) and in the share of European films (from 39 million making up 53 % in 2018). Beneficiaries of TV production scheme reported that they were aware of at least 43 million of confirmed audiences of the broadcasts of their works. Festivals and events, which were MEDIA-supported attracted no less than 3.6 million participants. On the VOD (video-on-demand) market the platforms supported by MEDIA noted a 33 % year on year increase in subscribers' base, reaching almost 365 000 regular viewers; they recorded also an almost 15 % increase in single transactions, reaching over 1 775 000 customer.

MEDIA helped the audiovisual industry to grow by addressing four specific objectives:

- **Fostering talent and skills at international level** (EUR 7.4 million) through supporting 46 training projects from providers from 17 countries. Over 1 600 professionals were trained.
- **Fostering high quality, innovative content creation** (EUR 37.9 million) MEDIA supports the creation of films, TV series and video games, which have the potential to travel, by helping them to achieve the quality needed to attract international audiences. It can be considered a success that a very high share of content created with the support of MEDIA funds are co-productions, as it is proven that they have bigger budgets and travel more broadly and attract bigger audiences. Considering that, the European market is very fragmented and operating on a small-scale, increased average budgets and reach is a step towards market structuring. Also higher potential for being positively received in different Member States contributes to a greater cultural exchange. Among all film and TV projects supported in the development-production stages, **83 %** were co-productions in 2019.
- **Increasing circulation and cross-border access** (EUR 51.9 million) MEDIA makes an essential contribution to making European films available beyond their domestic markets. Overall, MEDIA supported the theatrical release of several hundred films across borders in 2019. Targeted support was given to 20 individual films which exhibited good chances of attracting wide audiences through 18 distributors on average. Support was also given to 258 distributors (some of them distributing more than one film) and 68 sales agents (covering many Member States) to invest in the distribution of films of their choice. MEDIA also co-finances the Europa Cinemas network of cinema theatres. With over 1 000 cinemas in 33 countries, Europa Cinemas has helped audiences for European films to grow. Support was also given to the distribution and promotion of European works online, which showed intensive growth, as mentioned earlier.
- **Increased promotion of European works** (EUR 23.9 million) MEDIA supported promotion activities in four main ways: support to B2B promotional activities; facilitating access to and strengthening the visibility of European professionals in

audiovisual markets and exhibitions, in Europe and beyond; promotion of European films at exhibitor conventions; actions targeting audiences, through support to festivals and audience development. In 2019, MEDIA co-financed a total of 75 festivals with over EUR 3.5 million, which reached more than 3.5 million people.

The implementation of MEDIA was significantly **simplified and streamlined** as regards the support to the theatrical distribution of films. The number of individual grants under Automatic Distribution fell significantly (from 1 000 to below 300). Also the implementation of simplification in Selective Distribution proved cost-effective and well received.

For the **Culture Sub-programme, cooperation and collaboration across frontiers** is key to achieve the objectives of the programme: 501 cooperation projects have been funded giving directly or indirectly rise to **hundreds of partnerships between more than 4,000 organisations**. The average success rate of cooperation calls, 17 % for the whole period, indicates a continuous high demand for EU support and a large number of quality projects could not be funded due to limited funds. The selected projects **stress Europe's cultural diversity, and bring about economic benefits to SMEs and microbusinesses active in cultural sectors** like music, publishing and design. The emphasis on audience development, capacity building and support for start-ups has allowed the implementation of several innovative projects of high artistic quality and economic value. Since 2014, more than half of the budget supports the performing arts sector (music, theatre, dance) which proves the relevance of EU support to contemporary creation and has a **positive impact on professionals' careers**. Cultural diversity is also safeguarded with 15 % of funding benefitting heritage, a support of 13 % to visual arts including digital arts and therefore with a strong link to the priorities of the programme and a percentage of 5 % to books and reading. Representing the biggest budget share, cooperation projects give organisations the possibility to co-produce and contribute to capacity building, by investing in skills & training, new business models and tackling digitization challenges. They allow artists and culture professionals to operate across borders.

Continuous support was provided in 2019 to the 15 **European platforms for the promotion of artists** and 28 **European Networks of professionals**. The platform scheme has provided for new and more flexible ways of European programming and of targeting emerging artists. The 28 selected European Networks, constitute a concrete contribution to internationalization of careers, peer learning, collecting and promoting good practices. More than half of these networks focus on the development of skills and know-how and the digital shift, enabling its members to test innovative approaches to audience development and thus contributing to the overriding priority of the programme. Over half of them are active in the performing arts area.

Under the cross-sectoral strand, the **Cultural and Creative Sectors' Guarantee Facility (CCS GF)** is an innovative market led instrument that addresses the financing gap for SMEs in these sectors, aiming to generate over EUR 2 billion in loans for cultural and creative sectors by end 2024. The new instrument has been well received by the market and by the end of 2019 the Cultural and Creative Sectors' Guarantee Facility had signed 13 guarantee agreements with 12 financial intermediaries from Spain, France, Romania, Czech Republic, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden and Poland. Five additional applications have been received. Expected debt financing for SMEs from agreements already signed amounts to EUR 1.2 billion. **Loans have so far been distributed to 1,697 SMEs, supporting EUR 340 million in debt financing** (data for Q3/2019), of which 64 % from the audiovisual sector and 36 % from other cultural sectors. These results are very encouraging as they indicate that the traditional gap between the financial sector and the cultural and creative sectors can be addressed in a concrete way. Given the strong market demand, the European Fund for Strategic Investment has been mobilised to top-up the CCS GF by EUR 60 million, equivalent to 50 % of the first budget. The second top-up of additional EUR 70 million is being prepared. In addition, the Capacity Building Scheme, which offers a technical assistance to financial intermediaries, is operational as from mid-2018, and is currently in contact with 14 financial intermediaries across 12 program countries.

Finally, the network of **Creative Europe desks** established in all participating countries contributes to the success of the programme by providing information and advice to organisations applying to Creative Europe funding. They also give more visibility to the programme and its results.

Key achievements

The culture and creative sector is increasingly aware of its role in fighting climate change.

The Culture Sub-programme has recently co-funded projects encouraging the sector to adopt **more environmental friendly practices** and business models. For instance, the project Creative climate Leadership, a EUR 2 million pan-European, interdisciplinary programme, connects and enables a community of cultural leaders to take an active role in shaping an environmentally sustainable future for the European cultural sector. Other projects such as the cooperation project 'ACT' (Art, Climate, Transition) run by a 10 organisation consortium led by Theatre Rotterdam aims at **raising awareness and launching debates** on Climate issues.

Particular efforts have been made to **increase the sustainability of our MEDIA umbrella stands**, such as the choice of wood as main material, the use of the re-use of the same wood elements (desk elements and rubber floor for the four years of the contract), the partnership with local manufacturers, suppliers and installers for all stand building solutions, the local storage of the building elements to avoid transport from Brussels, the preference for local products for coffee breaks, coffee machines without capsules, and availability of flasks for participants to reduce use of plastic glasses. The Commission also received input from various stakeholders indicating that the industry is reviewing its practices and subsequently the Commission held a meeting with the industry association focused on **promoting reducing CO2 emissions in the filmmaking process**.

MEDIA Sub-programme

In 2019 MEDIA took an important step in **reaching wider audiences**. The 'Distribution Selective' scheme was wholly restructured to promote more collaboration and joined-up distribution strategies and thereby reach wider audiences (eg. by sharing marketing material amongst distributors). The Call showed the success of the improvements as it attracted many high quality proposals (total of 48; 20 selected for a total of EUR 10.5 million).

In 2019, **MEDIA-supported films won 20 major international prizes** (5 in Berlin, 7 in Cannes, 3 in Venice, 4 in San Sebastian and 1 in Annecy) and 15 European Film Academy awards as well as 6 nominations for international film academies awards (2 Oscar and 4 Golden Globe). The most popular MEDIA-supported film by number of cinema admissions was animated family film 'Early man' (2.62 million). The most renowned films included The Favourite, French social drama Les Misérables, and Spanish Dolor y Gloria.

European Film Promotion activities, supported by MEDIA can be regarded as particularly successful this year. EFP strengthens the global presence of European industry. It hosts umbrella stands at most important world film industry events (Sydney, Toronto Busan film festivals etc., events in Los Angeles in Oscars run-up) for European filmmakers.

A key achievement in 2019 was **the launch of the Directory of European Films online**, a tool which increases transparency about the availability of European films in video-on-demand (VOD) services throughout the European Union. It was launched as a beta version in Strasbourg in April 2019 by Commissioner Gabriel and Thorbjørn Jagland, the Council of Europe's former Secretary General. It includes information coming from 305 different VOD catalogues available in 32 European countries. In total, 37,000 European films have been listed. This was made possible by the participation of key VOD services JustWatch, Amazon Prime Video, Netflix and EuroVOD who have volunteered to share their data.

CULTURE Sub-programme

The **European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) in 2018 was a success** with substantial funding made available for cultural heritage projects, encouraging people-centered, inclusive, and sustainable approaches. As a result of a dedicated Creative Europe call, 29 EYCH projects are in place, with a EU funding of EUR 4.9 million. In line with the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage (EFACH), **many activities have been put in place in 2019 to keep it momentum** and harness the benefit of this year. The 65 actions of the EFACH respond to five pillars pertaining to inclusiveness, sustainability, resilience, innovation and global partnerships. They include such Creative Europe funded actions as joint EU-Unesco project on engaging youth and schools for heritage (EUR 300,000) and the peer learning project 'cultural heritage for cities and regions' (EUR 500,000).

Among the actions showcasing the richness and diversity of cultures in Europe as well as the common features they share, the **European Capitals of Culture (ECOCs) have a significant leverage effect** on long-term cultural, social and economic benefits to the cities which have held the title. This cost-efficient leverage action (EUR 1.5 million in the form of the Melina Mercouri Prize) stimulates huge culture-led investments by national, regional and local public authorities: as an example, the two 2018 ECOCs invested approximately EUR 104.6 million in Leeuwarden (The Netherlands) and EUR 26.5 million in Valetta (Malta). One euro of public money invested in an ECOC project can generate up to 6 euros in return for the local economy (as was for example the case in Mons, ECOC 2015) and overnight visitors increase on average by 12 %. In Leeuwarden, overnight stays in hotels showed an increase from 0.8 million in 2017 to 2.1 million in 2018.

Another achievement is the **success of the new platform scheme introduced at the beginning of the programme** to offer simplified mechanisms (cascading grant) to stimulate the circulation of artists and works. The sector has well responded to this new opportunity and the number of supported platforms went from 5 in 2014 to 15 in 2019. The scheme has good absorption capacity but platforms are limited by annual budget ceilings.

The **individual mobility scheme for artists and creative people was successfully launched** as an experimental action in 2018. The scheme gives artists and creative professionals more freedom to choose how to develop and build their career. The scheme called I-Portunus, is managed by a consortium headed by Goethe Institute and three other cultural organisations. Although new, it has been a huge **success with ten times more applications than funding available** and very positive feedback from cultural organisations and artists who took part. In 2019, i-Portunus funded the mobility of 337 individuals (mostly artists but also some cultural professionals) who went abroad for a period of 15-80 days with a small financial support ranging from EUR 1,500 to 3,000 (as a lump sum) for the purposes of professional development, co-production or strengthening international collaborations. It appealed especially to young and emerging artists with low incomes.

Following the decision by the European Parliament end of 2018 for an extension of the preparatory Action '**Music Moves Europe**', with budget doubled to EUR 3 million. DG EAC has launched five out of the six calls in 2019: 'Professionalisation and training'; 'Cooperation of small music venues'; 'Co-creation and co-production'; 'Music education and learning'; 'Study on the health and wellbeing of music creators'. The resulting projects and study will feed into an integrated strategy for music in the next generation programmes after 2020. The objective of the foreseen strategy is to support European diversity and talent, the competitiveness of the sector as well as increased access of citizens to music in all its diversity. For 2020, the Parliament suggested another extension of this Preparatory Action, earmarking a budget of EUR 2.5 million for it.

As part of the support for Special Actions, the Culture Sub-programme supported the organisation of **four European prizes** in the areas of music, literature, architecture and cultural heritage. All Prizes organised award ceremonies together with side events to celebrate their winners, gather stakeholders and attract media attention.

- The first edition of the **Music Moves Europe Talent Awards**, the new European Union Prize for popular and contemporary music at Eurosonic Festival in Groningen
- The biennial **European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture** on at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona
- The **European Union Prize for Literature and of the European Heritage Awards 2019** was given out in Bozar in Brussels
- The **European Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards** was given out in a prestigious ceremony in Paris.

For all the prizes, much more focus is now being put on the support to the prize winners during the year, helping them to professionalise, access markets and raise visibility. While the award ceremonies remain an important milestone to attract visibility, efforts were made to increase their attractiveness and relevance within the respective creative sector even further.

Cross – sectoral strand

In 2019, under Creative Europe’s Cross-sectorial strand, the project ‘**Cultural and Creative Spaces and Cities**’ (2018-20, EUR 1.5 million) continued the implementation of its activities: The wider context of cultural centers, hubs and the local context is explored for a better use of public spaces for social regeneration through culture. A policy-making conference took place in Brussels, different urban labs continued with its participatory approaches with municipalities and local communities, involving innovative peer learning approaches.

The Commission organised stakeholder consultations for post-2020 cross-sectorial action **Creative Innovation Labs** that aims to accelerate development by **integrating and cross-fertilizing innovation initiatives in creative fields**. The initiative was met with a numerous attendance and enthusiastic response from the sector, showing how needed and expected it was. In order to prepare for the launch of the Labs a preparatory action Call for Proposals was open already in 2019: Bridging culture and audiovisual through Digital. The EUR 1.75 million budget Call received 61 eligible applications for the total of over EUR 14.3 million. The applications came from a wide range of complementary sectors and countries and showed the appetite for such cross-sectorial calls, something that was also in evidence in a separate call on platform innovation.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The European Audiovisual Observatory, co-financed by Creative Europe, was commissioned to prepare several studies on:

- European works on VOD
- Presence of European films on SVOD outside Europe
- Directory of European films on VOD
- Revamping of the audiovisual media services database
- Updating of MAVISE by including information on licences of audiovisual media services
- Mapping on the nationality of audiovisual work
- TV and web fiction production
- Briefing notes and ad-hoc data

Each year, ex-post evaluations of the Capitals of Culture of the previous year are conducted. The external ex post evaluation conducted in 2019 has shown that the two title-holders in 2018 – Valletta (Malta) and to a higher degree Leeuwarden-Friesland (the Netherlands) – derived substantial economic, social and cultural benefits from the title ⁽¹⁾.

Forthcoming implementation

Activities to be funded under 2020 work programme will offer both continuity and experimentation in view of the new programme.

Under the Culture Sub-programme the last calls for cooperation and literary translation projects will be launched and will produce effects in the years to come with the selection of multi annual projects. However, activities financed under network and platform schemes come to an end in 2020 and their structuring effects might be lost if the new programme is not adopted in time.

In terms of new activities under culture, the mobility scheme will enter the second year of testing and a new initiative on performing arts will be launched. The lessons learnt of the Music Moves Europe preparatory action (2017-2020) and the 2020 special call for the cultural cooperation in Western Balkan, both run in close coordination with Creative Europe, will be fully integrated in the new programme

In line with the vision for the programme post-2020, the **guiding principles** for the 2020 MEDIA Work Programme are:

1. **Continuity** for actions that have already been restructured. For example, the support to selective distribution was wholly restructured in 2019 to ensure better coordination of pan-European film distribution.
2. **Adaptations** to phase in the renewed priorities of the successor programme, notably to scale up industry through the power of collaboration and networking, e.g. via the support to Festivals.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6312a17a-1b6a-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

3. **Streamlining** the modalities of implementation in order to make efficiency gains, such as streamlining application process for the highly popular Development support or reducing the overheads by combining the ‘sales agents’ and ‘distribution automatic’ schemes.

Promoting **gender balance** is a cross-cutting priority: Actions will focus on continuing to collect data, supporting and encouraging women filmmakers, supporting mentoring activities women and collaborating with other funds, notably Eurimages and the European Audiovisual Observatory.

As regards the cross-sectoral strand, under the **Guarantee Facility** new agreements with banks are ready for implementation in 2020. Several other financial intermediaries are discussing multi-country or national transactions with the EIF. Given the strong market demand, the European Fund for Strategic Investment has been mobilized for the second top-up of the CCS GF budget by further EUR 70million.

In 2020, support will also be provided under the cross-sectoral strand to the new initiative **bridging cultural and audiovisual content through digital**, the second edition of the preparatory action for Creative Innovation Labs. This will contribute to taking forward the strategy for harnessing digital to empower the positive economic and societal effects of culture.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 30 May 2018, the Commission adopted its proposal for the **new Creative Europe programme 2021-2027**. The proposal includes a CULTURE strand (covering all cultural and creative sectors with the exception of the audiovisual), a MEDIA strand (for the audiovisual sector) as well as a cross-sectoral strand.

In line with the mid-term evaluation of Creative Europe, but also the feedback from various stakeholders, the future programme will keep the **same overarching objectives** as the current one namely the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity/cultural heritage, and the reinforcement of the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors as they remain broadly relevant. The programme will also **help the cultural and creative sectors face today’s challenges**, i.e. fragmentation of the EU markets along national and linguistic lines, digitization coupled with globalisation, lack of access to funding and lack of data.

The mid-term evaluation of Creative Europe concluded that the size of the budgets of Creative Europe and its predecessor programmes were not sufficient to create major impact. Therefore, in order to respond to the new challenges facing the industry the Commission proposed an ambitious budget. It should be recalled that Creative Europe has consistently executed 100 % of the budget and many high quality projects could not be supported due to budget constraints.

The new programme will be fully aligned with Policies and in particular the new European Agenda for Culture and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. The MEDIA strand will continue to support developing skills and talent as well as the development, distribution and promotion of European films, TV programmes and video games. There would be a focus on the power of networks and cooperation in order to encourage the industry to scale up. We plan to expand the existing Europa Cinemas network, one of the biggest successes of the Programme and, based on this example, new networks for festivals and VOD services are envisaged. In the years ahead, more money would be invested in the international promotion and distribution of European works and innovative storytelling.

The CULTURE strand will build on the success of the current programme with a continuation of the three main horizontal (multi-discipline) schemes (cooperation, network and platforms) which have proved **to have a structuring effect at European level**. The increased budget is necessary to respond to the high demand for cooperation and the very low success rates of the scheme. The co-financing rates for the cooperation scheme will be increased to **facilitate the participation of micro and small organisations**, which do not have access to national or local cofinancing. The mobility scheme for artists and professional, which was successfully introduced in 2018 and 2019 will be enlarged. The main other novelty is the introduction of sector specific schemes in music, publishing/book, architecture and culture heritage to complement and deepen the impact of the horizontal actions. The international dimension of the culture scheme will also be increased.

Through the cross-sectoral strand, policy cooperation and outreach would be promoted, including through cross-border exchanges of experience and support actions. A Creative Innovation Lab would be introduced to foster innovation at the crossroads of the cultural and creative sectors, including through technology, to facilitate access, distribution, promotion and monetisation of content. The new Programme would support the news media sector to promote a diverse and pluralistic media, strengthening quality journalism and fostering media literacy. The Creative Europe Desks would continue to be supported. Whereas this strand in the past supported access to finance through the Guarantee Facility, in future this will be supported through InvestEU, a new centralised instrument outside Creative Europe.

Furthermore, the monitoring and evaluation system for the whole programme will be reinforced with appropriate impact and output indicators.

Simplification

In order to simplify the future programme compared with the current Creative Europe programme:

- Greater flexibility will be imbedded within the programme in order to adapt work programmes to unforeseen circumstances or new technological or societal developments, and reward performance;

- Greater effectiveness and efficiency will be sought by an increased use of framework partnership agreements and cascading grants to provide financial stability and facilitate access to smaller players. The already successful exchange of learning during the implementation of projects and the dissemination of results of this learning will be further enhanced;
- Incentives to reward results, related in particular to the capacity of reaching out to large audiences will be introduced (e.g., audiovisual projects that achieve good box office results);
- The future music sectorial actions, as well as the translation scheme will include award criteria rewarding market success and efforts to reach audiences;
- Effective transitions arrangements will be designed to facilitate the association to the new programme of the third countries which were previously associated to Creative Europe 2014/2020;
- Greater clarity will be provided within its guidelines, and processes and procedures will involve systematic use of e-forms and e-reports and lighter reporting requirements. A coherent set of rules (single rulebook) will be introduced, while leaving room for differentiated approaches when needed.

Substantial simplification measures such as lump sums, unit costs and flat rates have already been successfully introduced by other programmes and could be introduced in the new Creative Europe.

The specificity of the cultural sector and the individual character of the supported actions have made the calculation and application of lump sum and flat-rates challenging (outside the literary translation scheme) but where the calculation basis can be lightened it would constitute a welcome reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries. Lump sums will continue to be used in MEDIA in order to simplify financial management, when appropriate. The methodology for calculating the lump sums will foresee a regular monitoring to ensure alignment with real costs.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020) and repealing Decisions No 1718/2006/EC, No 1855/2006/EC and No 1041/2009/EC	2014 – 2020	1 462,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	2,1	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,6	2,7	16,6
Operational appropriations	167,6	163,8	177,4	194,4	215,8	230,2	236,9	1 386,0
Executive Agency	12,2	11,7	12,2	12,2	12,2	12,0	12,3	84,8
Total	181,9	177,7	191,8	208,9	230,4	244,8	251,9	1 487,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	244,843	100,00 %	201,699	99,20 %	251,914	18,11 %	215,271	14,46 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	257,425	99,00 %	215,805	96,62 %	260,922	18,56 %	227,760	14,75 %

(*) 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 Commission in 2019 adopted a Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1974 on Creative Europe programme supplementary indicators in order to strengthen the monitoring of the programme performance. The new indicators are more closely related to performance of the programme as opposed to trends in the market. The measurement through key performance indicators shows in particular how diversity was strengthened by helping European content reach wider audiences, one of the key challenges for the cultural and creative sectors. For example, in 2018 audiovisual works reached 122 million people and 440 books were translated with more than 70 % in non-English languages. At the same time Creative Europe also helped competitiveness in particular by leveraging investment in audiovisual industry (multiplier of 5). As an example in another cultural field, the European Capital of Culture of Leeuwarden was supported by EUR 1.5 million and led to an economic impact of EUR 300 million. This significant leverage effect maximises the impact of Creative Europe, within the budget constraints.

MEDIA is performing very well in respect of promoting European cultural and linguistic diversity, by supporting the development and distribution of hundreds of audiovisual works, thus helping them find their audiences. By supporting the development and distribution of about 25 % of films produced every year, MEDIA plays a significant role in creating a European ecosystem, which allows films to go beyond their domestic markets. It has exceeded the set targets in terms of number and share of European film audiences in cinemas and remains on track in VOD. This is a significant achievement in the light of the disruption of the audiovisual landscape, notably through the rapid growth of global digital platforms.

The Culture Sub-programme is achieving key objectives such as encouraging transnational cooperation in the cultural field. More than 530 partnerships have been created between 3,300 organisations across Europe. More than 70 % of the beneficiaries are small or medium size organisations. However, the low budget appropriation in the first years of implementation has resulted in very low success rates (around 12 % in 2014-2017) which might have discouraged organisations to apply. Cooperation are taking place around the 3 main priorities of the programme: circulation of artists and works, capacity building and especially audience development, which was a key priority of the programme. The literary translation scheme has efficiently contributed to increasing the diversity of European literature through the translation and promotion of more than 3,000 books. With more than 30 different ‘less represented’ languages, the scheme has a clear added value in comparison to the market dominated by translations from English. Finally, the programme demonstrated its ability to innovate and respond to the demand by testing a new mobility scheme for artists and professionals.

General objectives

General Objective 1: to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and to promote Europe’s cultural heritage

Indicator 1: the number of people accessing European cultural and creative works, including, where possible, works from countries other than their own

This indicator has been discontinued. The 2017 mid-term evaluation did eventually not collect the corresponding data as it was decided to prepare a proposal on supplementary indicators to Member States through a Commission Delegated Act.

General Objective 2: to strengthen the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors, in particular of the audiovisual sector, with a view to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Indicator 1: the cultural and creative sectors’ level, change in and share of employment and share of gross domestic product								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Of the total European workforce 3.0 % – 3.8 %					In view of economic crisis, to safeguard 2010 figures		4.0 %	4.0 %
	Actual results							
	2.9 %			3.8 %	3.8 %			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Of total European GDP 3.3 % – 4.5 %					In view of economic crisis, to safeguard 2010 figures		4.8 %	4.8 %
	Actual results							

Comment: Baseline: 3.3 % of EU’s active population (TERA consultants 2014, <http://www.teraconsultants.fr/en/issues/The-Economic-Contribution-of-the-Creative-Industries-to-EU-in-GDP-and-Employment>).

3.8 % of EU workforce (Ernst and Young France 2014, <http://www.createurope.eu/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/study-full-en.pdf>).

4.2 % of EU GDP (TERA consultants 2014); 4.4 % of EU GDP (Ernst and Young France 2014).

Source: 2016 Culture statistics, 2016 edition, Eurostat

2017 Eurostat. <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/culture/statistics-illustrated>

2018 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Culture_statistics_-_cultural_employment -8,7 mln persons

Unit of measure: Percentage of total European workforce

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: to support the capacity of the European cultural and creative sectors to operate transnationally and internationally

Indicator 1: the scale of international activities of cultural and creative organisations and the number of transnational partnerships created

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
7 000	available as of 2017-18		310 from MEDIA 426 from Culture sub-programme	7 600			8 000	8 000
Actual results								
						530		

Comment: The calculation of this indicator has been revised to include only partnerships of more than 3 organisations.

Source: Baseline: Latest known result at end 2012.

Unit of measure: Transnational partnerships involving at least 3 countries.

Indicator 2: the number of learning experiences and activities supported by the Programme which have improved the competences and increased the employability of cultural and creative players, including audiovisual professionals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
140 000				190 000			240 000	240 000
Actual results								

Comment: Art. 1, 2 c; Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1974 of 17 May 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing additional qualitative and quantitative performance indicators establishes the following new indicator that should replace the current one as soon as data are available: ‘Number of participants in learning experiences and activities, supported by the programme, having improved their competences and increased their employability (including the proportion of women).

Unit of measure: Professionals with learning experiences

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
MEDIA Sub-programme:			
New skills and networking: number of courses/workshops/events	09 05 01	49	7.5
Development of audiovisual projects (including TV production): number of projects	09 05 01	300	35
Support to co-production funds: number of co-production funds supported	09 05 01	0	0
Audiovisual markets, promotion tools and stands: number of projects	09 05 01	60	9.4
Total			51.9
CULTURE Sub-programme:			
Cooperation measures, such as activities stimulating peer learning + Support to Project selection	15 04 02	42	19.4
European networks, such as those providing capacity building	15 04 02	16	4.3
European platforms, such as those providing a structure for international professional development	15 04 02	7	3.8
Special actions, such as Prizes ⁽²⁾	15 04 02	4	6.3
Total			33.8

⁽²⁾ The four prizes in the areas of music, architecture, heritage and literature aim particularly at the circulation of artists and their works across borders.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MEDIA Sub-programme:								
New skills and networking: number of courses/workshops/events	F	45	50	48	53	54	49	49
	P	59	58	54	53	53	46	
Development of audiovisual projects (including TV production): number of projects	F	359	345	350	300	300	300	300
	P	345	299	280	278	311	281	
Support to co-production funds: number of co-production funds supported	F	7	5	5	6	5	5	0
	P	5	5	6	5	5	4	
Audiovisual markets, promotion tools and stands: number of projects	F	51	64	56	66	66	65	60
	P	48	61	62	69	70	68	
CULTURE Sub-programme:								
Cooperation measures, such as activities stimulating peer learning	F	40	48	37	44	35	40	42
	P	40	30	37	21	31	43	
European networks, such as those providing capacity building	F	10	-	17	10	20	16	16
	P	16	-	19	10	39	28	
European platforms, such as those providing a structure for international professional development	F	4	5	4	4	7	7	7
	P	3	2	4	7	15	15	
Special actions, such as Prizes ⁽³⁾	F	6	7	4	7	15	7	4
	P	5	7	5	4	4	4	

Specific Objective 2: to promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and transnational mobility of cultural and creative players, in particular artists, as well as to reach new and enlarged audiences and improve access to cultural and creative works in the Union and beyond, with a particular focus on children, young people, people with disabilities and under-represented groups

Indicator 1: MEDIA Sub-programme: the number of admissions for non-national European films in Europe and European films worldwide (10 most important non-European markets) in cinemas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Europe 69				71	71		71	71
	Actual results							
	103	91	89	98	94			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Worldwide 61				85	85		85	85
	Actual results							
	82	106	68	97	87			

Comment: The definition of the indicator as defined by the legal basis specifies the meaning of ‘worldwide’ (=10 most important non-European markets).

Unit of measure: Million in Europe

Indicator 2: MEDIA Sub-programme: the percentage of European audiovisual works in cinemas, on television and on digital platforms

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cinemas 59 %				59 %	59 %		59 %	59 %
	Actual results							
	67 %	66 %	66 %	66 %	68 %			
2009-2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
TV 39 %				39 %	35 %		35 %	35 %
	Actual results							
	38 % (2013)	31 %	28 %					

⁽³⁾ The indicator has been adapted to reflect the emerging reality of the scheme. This figure now takes into account only the four prizes.

2015	Milestones foreseen						2020
Digital platforms 27 %				27 %	27 %		27 %
	Actual results						27 %
		27 %	20 %	24 %/29 % VOD	30 %/27 % for TVOD, 26 %/20 % for SVOD		

Indicator 3: MEDIA Sub-programme: the number of people in the Member States accessing non-national European audiovisual works and the number of people in the countries participating in the Programme accessing European audiovisual works

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2009	Milestones foreseen						2020	
EU 288				288	288		288	288
	Actual results							
	287	293	258	258				
2009	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Participating Countries 298				300	300		300	300
	Actual results							
	291	298	262	262				

Comment: The second figure covers both national and non-national European audiovisual works. In addition to EU Member States, two third countries participate in the sub-programme MEDIA for the time being i.e. Norway and Iceland.

Unit of measure: Million people in the EU that are accessing non-national European audiovisual works

Indicator 4: MEDIA Sub-programme: the number of European video games produced in the Union as well as in the countries participating in the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
EU 21.3				25.0			30.0	30.0
	Actual results							
		22.0			21.0			
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
5 biggest markets 13.35				14.5			16.0	16.0
	Actual results							
		15.0						

Narrative: Baseline: in EU

Comment: The turn-over of the video-game sector is the best available proxy for this indicator. The number of video-games produced in Europe is currently unavailable.

Source: Research by International Software Federation of Europe.

Unit of measure: EUR billion

Indicator 5: Culture Sub-programme: the number of people directly and indirectly reached through projects supported by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen						2020	
					To be assessed in a Performance Monitoring Report to be published third quarter 2019		Increase of 5 % in comparison to 2017 results	Increase of 5 % in comparison to 2017 results

	Actual results						
				3.2	4.0		

Narrative: No baseline, first known results (2017) were available in 2018

Source: Reports from cooperation project beneficiaries (2014-2016). Creative Europe Culture Sub-Programme.

Indicator 6: Culture Sub-programme: the number of projects addressed to children, young people and under-represented groups and the estimated number of people reached

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
					To be assessed in a Performance Monitoring Report to be published third quarter 2019		Increase of 7 % in comparison to 2017 results	Increase of 7 % in comparison to 2017 results
	Actual results							
				1.6	3.5			

Narrative: No baseline, first known results (2017) were available in 2018 for the first time.

Comment: In contrast to previous programmes, the design of the new application e-forms and final reports will make it possible under Creative Europe to collect this information for the 4 measures under the Culture Sub-programme.

Source: Reports from cooperation project beneficiaries (2014-2016). Creative Europe Culture Sub-Programme.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
MEDIA Sub-programme:			
Distribution campaigns of European Non National films: number of projects	09 05 01	320	35.9
Network of cinemas screening majority of European films: number of cinema networks	09 05 01	1	10.9
Film festivals and events: number of festivals and events	09 05 01	70	3.2
Film literacy initiatives: number of projects	09 05 01	8	2
New marketing and advertising tools: number of projects establishing e.g. film community platforms	09 05 01	38	12
Total			64
CULTURE Sub-programme:			
Cooperation measures, such as those supporting international touring	15 04 02	55	26.1
European networks, such as those promoting audience building	15 04 02	12	2.9
European platforms, such as those fostering international careers	15 04 02	8	3.8
Literary translations and promotional support	15 04 02	62	3.6
Special actions, such as ECOC, European Heritage label and Heritage Days	15 04 02	4	5.1
Total			41.5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MEDIA Sub-programme:								
Distribution campaigns of European Non National films: number of projects	F	820	754	677	1 100	1 130	NA	NA
	P	1 077	1 065	1 089	1 041	1 334	NA	
Coordinated pan-European distribution of European films	F						20	20
	P						20	
Support to European distributors for the annual release of European non-national films	F						300	300
	P						263	
Network of cinemas screening majority of	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

European films: number of cinema networks	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Film festivals and events: number of festivals and events	F	72	87	77	67	67	65	70
	P	85	88	66	65	72	75	
Film literacy initiatives: number of projects	F	10	13	14	14	14	1	8
	P	16	12	16	7	8	1	
New marketing and advertising tools: number of projects establishing e.g. film community platforms	F	11	13	17	30	30	35	38
	P	17	18	22	37	30	38	
CULTURE Sub-programme:								
Cooperation measures, such as those supporting international touring	F	60	71	43	66	46	55	55
	P	23	54	34	60	53	27	
European networks, such as those promoting audience building	F	15	-	4	15	10	12	12
	P	7	-	4	18	37	28	
European platforms, such as those fostering international careers	F	6	6	6	6	8	8	8
	P	5	3	4	8	15	15	
Literary translations and promotional support	F	59	63	60	45	60	62	62
	P	76	69	60	45	61	68	
Special actions, such as ECOOC, European Heritage label and Heritage days	F	9	9	5	11	14	3	4
	P	5	9	2	3	3	7	

Regarding literary translations, projects applied on average for a lower amount than expected and therefore more of them could be supported.

Specific Objective 3: to strengthen the financial capacity of SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations in the cultural and creative sectors in a sustainable way, while endeavouring to ensure a balanced geographical coverage and sector representation

Performance

Indicator 1: the volume of loans guaranteed in the framework of the Guarantee Facility, categorised by national origin, size and sectors of SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
20				180	250			500
	Actual results							
					127	340		

Narrative: Baseline: MEDIA Production Guarantee Fund, end 2013

Comment: Baseline: Breakdowns by national origin, size and sectors of SMEs or organisations and by participating financial intermediaries categorised by national origin are provided in the annual report from the European Investment Fund.

Source: 2018: Based on the Q3/2018 EIF Operational Report of the guarantee facility. The results of the CCS GF are lower than planned due to budget profile of Creative Europe. Budget for the CCS GF was only available as from year 2016 (and not 2014 as originally planned). Two years delay in the creation of the financial instrument impacts its delivery in certain areas.

2019: Q3 2019

Unit of measure: EUR million guaranteed loans

Indicator 2: the volume of loans granted by participating financial intermediaries, categorised by national origin

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
35				45	250			700
	Actual results							
					410			

Narrative: Baseline: MEDIA Production Guarantee Fund, end 2013

Comment: Breakdowns by national origin are provided in the annual report from the European Investment Fund. Based on the Q3 Operational Report of the guarantee facility.

Unit of measure: EUR million guaranteed loans

Indicator 3: the number and geographical spread of participating financial intermediaries

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Financial institutions 2				7	8	9	10	10
	Actual results							
					9	13		

2012	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Member States 2				5	6	8	10	10
	Actual results							
					8	12		

Comment: Based on the Q3 Operational Report of the guarantee facility.
Unit of measure: Financial institutions

Indicator 4: the number of SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations benefiting from the Guarantee Facility, categorised by national origin, size and sectors

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Beneficiaries 48				1 500	3 000		7 000	7 000
	Actual results							
					477	1 302		
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Sub-sectors				5	5		5	5
	Actual results							
					71	80		
2013	Milestones foreseen						2020	
Participating countries 8				7	10		15	15
	Actual results							
					11	15		

Comment: Breakdowns by national origin, size and sectors of SMEs or organisations are provided in the annual report from the European Investment Fund. Based on the Q3/20118 EIF Operational Report of the guarantee facility. The results of the CCS GF are lower than planned due to budget profile of Creative Europe. Budget for the CCS GF was only available as from year 2016 (and not 2014 as originally planned). Two years delay in the creation of the financial instrument impacts its delivery in certain areas.
Unit of measure: Beneficiaries

Indicator 5: the average default rate of loans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen						2020	
10 %					9 %		8 %	8 %
	Actual results							
					0 %			

Narrative: Baseline estimated

Indicator 6: the achieved leverage effect of guaranteed loans in relation to the indicative leverage effect (1:5,7)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen						2020	
1:5.7				1:5.7	1:5.8	1:5.9	1:6.0	1:6.0
	Actual results							
			0		0	1:3.9		

Narrative: Baseline estimated

Comment: There is no EU wide financial instrument for the sector. An estimated ratio of 1:5,7 according to the ex-ante impact assessment for the Creative Europe programme. Based on the Q3/ 2018 EIF Operational Report of the guarantee facility. The results of the CCS GF are lower than planned due to budget profile of Creative Europe. Budget for the CCS GF was only available as from year 2016 (and not 2014 as originally planned). Two years delay in the creation of the financial instrument impacts its delivery in certain areas.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of loans provided by banks to operators	15 04 01	1 800	29
Number of capacity building workshops	15 04 01	6	0.5
Total			29.5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016 ⁽⁴⁾	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of loans provided by banks to operators	F	0	0	281	705	1 198	1 800	1 800
	P	0	0	0	207	630	1 697	
Number of capacity building workshops ⁽⁵⁾	F	0	0	7	6	5	5	6
	P	0	0	0	0	5		

Specific Objective 4: to foster policy development, innovation, creativity, audience development and new business and management models through support for transnational policy cooperation

Indicator 1: the number of Member States making use of the results of the open method of coordination in their national policy development

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
10	12	13	14	15	16	17	20	20
	Actual results							
	12	13	14		16	22		

Unit of measure: Member States

Indicator 2: the number of new initiatives and policy outcomes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
			10				20	20
	Actual results							
		2			13	2		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Network of Creative Europe desks	15 04 01	28	4.7
Studies, evaluations and policy analysis (includes also the subsidy for the European Audiovisual Observatory)	15 04 01	2	1
Transnational exchanges and networking	15 04 01	1	0.6
Testing new cross-sectoral approaches	15 04 01	1	1.4
Conferences, seminars and policy dialogue	15 04 01	5	1
Total			8.7

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Network of Creative Europe desks (EAC) ⁽⁶⁾	F	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
	P	28	28	28	28	39	28	
Studies, evaluations and policy analysis (This also includes the European audiovisual observatory) (co-manage)	F	4	8	6	6	7	7	2
	P	1	2	4	1	6	11	
Transnational exchanges and networking (co-manage)	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	2	1	1		0		
Testing new cross-sectoral approaches (CNECT)	F	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
	P	0		0		0	1	
Conferences, seminars and policy dialogue (co-manage)	F	4	5	6	6	5	5	4
	P	4	1	5	3	6	5	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

⁽⁴⁾ The first agreements with the intermediaries were signed in January 2017.

⁽⁵⁾ Start up of capacity building is 2018.

⁽⁶⁾ The two (2) Belgian desks are counted as one (1).

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
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Gender mainstreaming

Equality between women and men is a fundamental EU value and a driver of more diverse content and connecting with wider audiences. Creative industries, and in particular the media, have a considerable influence on our beliefs, values and perception of gender issues. The Commission has recognised the strategic importance of gender diversity to sustain a rich, highly creative audiovisual industry as well as more open, inclusive and competitive societies. In the last years also the stakeholders in the audiovisual sector became very aware of the challenges in this respect.

In 2019 MEDIA developed an active agenda on gender balance in close cooperation with 25 European audiovisual stakeholders' organisations. Common actions included awareness raising, collecting data and promoting good practices. In this framework data on gender balance in MEDIA was presented to stakeholders at the Berlinale film festival. It shows that MEDIA is ahead of market trends, for example in training programmes where more than 50 % of participants were women.

An annual awareness raising event was launched during the Cannes Film Festival called: 'Women on the move'. A special publication compiling good practices from the audiovisual industry and policy-makers of the EU was published on this occasion. MEDIA is also financing a new study on gender disparity among film critics in Europe in partnership with the 50/50 collective.

In 2019, 33 % of applicants and 34 % of beneficiaries were women, a result slightly higher than last year. A particularly positive result is that women constituted a big share in key, impactful positions: as much 45 % of authors of selected film concepts, and 47 % of authors and 37 % of directors of supported TV projects. Women also directed 27 % of the films awarded with selective distribution grants and authored 30 %.

However, more needs to be done. This is why since 2020 The Commission is introducing a new action dedicated specifically to mentoring activities for women, within the training scheme.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals***SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all***

The programme contributes to the political priorities of the Commission, in particular relating to jobs, growth and investment and the European Digital Single Market by supporting the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector, through capacity building and skills development and through testing new business models in a rapidly evolving digital context. By allowing participation of non-EU cultural and creative operators and the participation of third countries, the programme also contributes to making the EU a stronger global actor. At another level, Creative Europe helps address current political and societal challenges through the power of culture to reach the hearts and minds of citizens and boost confidence in our shared European values.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

The **Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility (CCS GF)** under Creative Europe is a facility under which the European Commission through the European Investment Fund (EIF) provides guarantees and counter-guarantees on debt financing to Financial Intermediaries in order to improve access to finance to SMEs from cultural and creative sectors. Thanks to the CCS GF, Financial intermediaries selected by the EIF are able to provide additional debt financing to SMEs in Participating Countries. In addition, the action provides expertise/capacity building to the financial institutions wishing to build dedicated portfolios of loans targeting cultural and creative SMEs. This may result in an increase in the number of financial institutions which are willing to work with cultural and creative SMEs as well as maximising the European geographical diversification of targeted financial products for the sector. With a total budgetary appropriation for CCS GF of EUR 121 million in the 2016-2020 period and a targeted leverage effect of 5.7 the financial instrument may leverage around EUR 690 million of additional funding for the cultural and creative industries. A top-up of EUR 60 million from EFSI was agreed in 2017 and, given the strong market demand, the European Fund for Strategic Investment is preparing a second top up of EUR 70 million.

HEADING 3: Security and citizenship**Statement on Financial Intervention of the Communication Policy Area**

Lead DG: COMM

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

The activities of the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) cover communication products and services directly addressed to citizens as well as executive and corporate services provided to the President, the College of Commissioners and across the communication domain of the Commission services, aligning the Commission's communication to the political priorities of the Commission.

EU added value of the programme

Joined-up, corporate communication of EU policies contributes to achieving a better image of the Commission and the European Union by raising public awareness about the EU as a whole, its values and its works to address current issues, in line with the political priorities of the Commission and detailed by the Commission in the annual Commission Work Programme. This includes further alignment of political and corporate communication as well as synergies and efficiencies across the communications domain of the Commission (for example, the new EUROPA website or the one stop-shop for communication framework contracts).

1. ***DG COMM's communication products and services directly addressed to citizens (1)*** provide information for and engagement with citizens and ensure communication services for citizens are made available through simple, clear and understandable messages, either via a mix of channels and media (traditional and new) or by directly communicating with citizens and stimulating exchange and engagement face to face. Together, this helps citizens to access up-to-date and user-friendly information on European Union policies and EU values. It contributes to citizens' increased awareness and understanding of European affairs, in turn, stimulating citizens' interest to directly engage with 'the faces of the Commission' be it locally, nationally or Europe-wide.
2. ***DG COMM's corporate communication products and services (2)*** are provided to the external communication domain of the Commission and reflect its role as domain leader in external communication, ensuring coherence in the Commission's messaging by aligning all Commission communication services to contribute to a coherent and effective corporate communication on the political priorities. This leads, step by step, to the definition of clearer corporate messages/narratives and distinctive visual branding (eventually brand recognition) and economies of scale, thus contributes to achieving a better image of the Commission and the EU.
3. ***DG COMM's executive services (3)*** are provided to the President and the College of Commissioners in support of the communication activities of President, College, Spokesperson's Service and Commission senior management by ensuring political and economic intelligence and media advice, and by feeding high quality country specific information and analysis from a variety of sources into the Commission's decision-making process. This leads, ultimately, to better informed European Union policy-making for citizens.

Implementation mode

The Directorate-General for Communication is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct (public procurement) management and grants.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

The Directorate-General for Communication Work Programme 2019 (i.e. Financing Decision) was implemented as planned. The Directorate-General for Communication 2019 operational budget overall implementation rate is 100 % and all communication activities were implemented as per management plan 2019 and annual activity report 2019.

-
- (1) Communication services for citizens include media support for the Spokesperson's Service, audiovisual and multimedia productions, Visitors Centre, Information outlet and Call Centre services, Representations' outreach and information events, back to school activities, and citizens dialogues / democratic conventions.
- (2) Corporate services include service mode of the new Europa website, implementation of corporate communication actions (campaigns and flanking measures), alignment/coordination of networks, central management of communication framework contracts and professionalisation measures as well as identifying further potential for Synergies & Efficiencies and Pooling & Sharing.
- (3) Executive services include activities creating media coverage and management of technical facilities (e.g. studios) related to Commissioners' visits and roadshows as well as Representations' political and economic reporting/analysis, analysis of stakeholder/citizens feedback, Eurobarometer polls and media monitoring and analysis).

Key achievements

DG Communication Headquarters, together with the Spokesperson's Service and the Representations in the Member States, communicate with the media, stakeholders and citizens on European policies and their direct impact on citizens' daily activities. As per its Annual Activity Report, the Directorate-General for Communication achievements in 2014 to 2019 are based on the general and specific objectives defined in its Strategic Plan.

The general overarching communication objective shared across the whole 'communication domain' of the Commission 2016 to 2019 was to ensure that 'Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision-making process and they know about their rights in the EU'.

To reach this general objective, DG COMM defined a number of specific objectives depending on the client groups targeted. As detailed in DG COMM Strategic Plan 2016-2020 intervention logic, there are 3 main focus groups: 1) College, Cabinets and Services; 2) Line DGs, and 3) Citizens, Media, Multipliers and stakeholders.

Specific objectives per target group are then for example 'use of political reports, analysis and feed-back by the College and Cabinets' or 'Building a coherent web presence' or 'Citizens are in direct communication with the Commission' amongst others.

Key achievements per specific objectives are detailed in the DG COMM Annual Activity Report and in this Programme Statement as illustrated by below, small selection:

- The coherence, relevance and cost effectiveness of the Commission's web presence on Europa further improved through the strengthening of governance, better editorial and visual alignment of websites across the European Commission and increased standardisation of Information Technology solutions. In 2019, more than 250 million unique visitors visited the Europa website compared to 200 million in 2018. At the end of 2019, the europa.eu domain continued to rank first in popularity worldwide among websites in the category government / society ⁽⁴⁾. Overall satisfaction rate of the external users increased to 94 % (from 60 % in 2014).
- Traditional and new media play an important role in relaying the Commission's political messages. To this end, in 2019, the Spokesperson's Service organised close to 250 midday briefings, 111 presentations of the President, Vice-Presidents and Commissioners in the pressroom, over 80 press conferences and around 55 technical briefings and more than 50 VIP corner press events.
- Citizens' Dialogues ⁽⁵⁾ serve as an important channel to trigger a broad debate on the future of Europe. In 2019, 484 Citizens' Dialogues were organised where President Juncker and the Commissioners along with Members of the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions, including the Presidents, and national and regional politicians engaged with citizens.
- Audio-visual productions and multimedia projects for the general public are now better focused on the priorities of the Commission, entailing fewer productions but of a higher quality and better serving general communication objectives:
 - the number of audiovisual products provided to the College is 716 in 2019,
 - the number of TV uptakes from 'Europe by Satellite ⁽⁶⁾' (in minutes) was 64 482 in 2019,
 - Investments in the media library activity have been made in 2019 to launch the Central Deposit, obligatory for archiving all the AV productions of the Commission.
 - A new version of the AV portal was released in March 2019.
- Social media is one of the fastest growing media channels that allows not only for pushing information but also for engaging with interested citizens. In 2019, 5 057 683 in followers/fans/subscribers were registered on the DC COMM managed social media corporate accounts.
- In 2019, over 1 200 events were organised at Representations and European Public Spaces– with a 84 % of participants agreeing that the event improved their knowledge on EU issues.
- Throughout 2019, the Europe Direct Network continued contributing to the communication about European Union matters, engaging proactively with civil society and promoting awareness and debate about the European Union. In 2019, these Centres organised 11 427 events. The European Documentation Centres, for their part, continued adapting to digital times and increased their outreach actions.

⁽⁴⁾ Source: Alexa.com. This ranking combines several parameters (traffic, number of visits, page views over three months) and presents a website 'popularity trend' compared to similar competitors.

⁽⁵⁾ Citizens' Dialogues are an innovative tool to reach out to and engage with citizens. They are instrumental in bringing new voices and ideas of citizens from all backgrounds into the discussion regarding the Future of Europe.

⁽⁶⁾ The European Union's TV information service which provides EU related audiovisual material via satellite and online to media professionals.

- The Europe Direct Contact Centre (EDCC) answered 123,000 individual questions from citizens in 2019, by phone and email and using all 24 official languages. This was 14 % more than in 2018. The satisfaction rate on queries replied by the Europe Direct Contact Centre reached 85.3 % compared to 84.2 % in 2018.
- In 2019, 83 % of the visitors to the Commission's Visitors' Centre declared themselves 'very satisfied' with the visits compared to 90 % in 2018.
- In 2019, about 67 510 pupils were addressed during 'Back to school' and 'Back to University' in 916 visits compared to 41 000 pupils in 789 visits in 2018.
- In 2019, over 1 590 000 copies of 63 publications, including the General Report, were disseminated for use during EU summits, Citizens' Dialogues, and events organised by Representations and Europe Direct Information Centres.

In the field of increased efficiency, DG COMM contributed in 2019, amongst other initiatives, by:

- further rationalising the Europa website;
- creating a Corporate Communication Contracts Team (i.e. a one stop shop) for centralised Framework contracts. Centralisation of Commission wide communication framework contracts has already brought efficiency gains in terms of human resources, corporate communication and better procurement practices;
- concluding a new Audiovisual Services framework contract.

Evaluations/studies conducted

In 2019, DG Communication concluded three studies, 'Synthesis Study of the Corporate Communication Campaigns', 'Study of Representations' Communication Activities in the Member States' and 'Study of the performance of the Europe Direct Contact Centre (EDCC)'.

The key findings of these studies were the following:

Synthesis study evaluating EC corporate communication campaigns

- The corporate approach has filled a gap in EC communication and has promoted greater cooperation between DGs under the leadership of DG COMM; this was facilitated by the thematic breadth of the corporate communication campaigns, which make it possible for information drawn from different policy areas to be communicated with a single and coherent 'EU' voice.
- Overall, the corporate communication approach has allowed EC communicators to reach more people more often, disseminating high quality and professional materials through channels and approaches that would have been otherwise beyond reach, based on research into target groups' needs and performance measurement.
- The evidence available suggests that corporate campaigns have achieved and, in some cases, significantly surpassed many of the objectives that have been set, for example in relation to overall campaign reach and recall but also in relation to message acceptance, awareness and understanding. However, the campaigns did not have sufficient focus and intensity to achieve a breakthrough and the budgets were not sufficient to cover all Member States.
- The study proposes a list of recommendations that will have an impact on the governance of corporate communication, on the approach to research, on the design, budget, procurement, management and evaluation of corporate campaigns, on the involvement of the REPs, EDICs and on work with other Institutions.

Study of Representations' Communication Activities in the Member States

- Representations at present tend to focus on setting broad objectives and monitoring mainly the outputs of the activities (e.g. number of people in attendance), without necessarily collecting other indicators related to the results and impacts (e.g. how have attendees' perception of the EU evolved from taking part in the activity).
- Main lessons learned by phase of activity (e.g. planning, implementation, and follow up) were; as regards the planning, Representations have a keen understanding of the overall needs of EU citizens but they have difficulty in defining SMART objectives for their activities; as regards the implementation and follow up of activities, there is a limited use of the information collected.
- The follow-up of the study relies on three pillars: exchanges of good practices between Representations, promotion of existing tools and materials and organisation of training sessions for the Representations on how to better plan, monitor and evaluate their activities. The aim of these efforts is to encourage the Representations to build or to strengthen a performance culture increasing the quality and impact of their local communication actions.

Study of the performance of the Europe Direct Contact Centre (EDCC)

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Study of the performance of the Europe Direct Contact Centre (EDCC)

- As regards effectiveness, the EDCC generally meets the requirements ensuring comprehensive access for the public to information on the EC and the combination of channels used seem to be good; there is higher KPI achievements than with the previous contractor. The quality of interactions is considered overall satisfactory by the users but it varies according to the channel, telephone contacts enjoying much higher satisfaction.
- The working arrangements with the relevant Commission services are globally effective regarding the quality of the relationship, flexibility in the organisational set up, timely escalating and treating of cases; there was an improvement compared to previous contractor. The EDCC is relevant for the Commission communication policy but it should support better DG COMM’s and other back offices listening function. Other areas of improvement identified concern the format of trainings, procedures and the stability of human resources.
- The EDCC has EU added value as it is unlikely that the services it provides to citizens could be delivered by Member States or other decentralised bodies; the main option for decentralisation would be EC Representations and EU Delegations.
- The results of the study have helped guide and inform the work on the future of the EDCC to continue improving the service that the Commission provides to citizens in response to their questions.

Concerning the forthcoming studies there are:

Two on-going studies:

- ‘Study of EC publications’ (October 2019-December 2020);
- ‘Study on Eurobarometer’ (December 2019-September 2020).

The planned studies to start in 2020 or later:

- ‘Study on EC social media accounts’ (October 2020-September 2021)’;
- ‘Study on youth audience sub-segmentation’ (May 2020-Mai 2021);
- ‘Study on the Europa site and online publications’ (October 2020-September 2021);
- ‘Study on target audience analysis’ (2020);
- ‘Monitoring of ongoing corporate communication campaigns’ (2021);
- ‘Study on Experience Europe’ (2022);
- ‘Study on the Green Deal corporate communication’ (2023);
- ‘Study on the Europe Direct Contact Centre’(2023);
- ‘Study on the Europe Direct Information Centres’ (2023);
- ‘Study on EC Visitors’ Centre’ (2024).

Forthcoming implementation

The commitment appropriations is EUR 87 149 000 as defined in the Directorate-General for Communication Work Programme 2020 (7). Its implementation is through direct (public procurement) management and grants.

Payment needs for 2020 and following years are estimated taking into account the average implementation rates of previous years, by budget line. Fresh commitments made on 2020 will implement payment appropriations between 30 % and 60 % of the amount committed – depending on the budget lines. The RAL (Rest à Liquider) carried over from previous years is implanted at around 80 %.

Outlook for the (2021-2027) period

Director-General for Communication’s 2021 budget focusses on its core business and includes coverage of new financing needs for DG Communication’s future-oriented activities, where the Commission needs to be up to speed with the constantly evolving communications industry and media environment, anticipating trends and challenges. For example for:

- Innovative communication services such as social media, including in particular more localised social media messaging via Representations;
- Graphic design and multimedia productions to comply with the increasing demand for attractive and visual media content.
- In identifying those new financing needs, DG Communication also took into account political developments such as for example:
- Increasing need for data analytics and fact checking / rebuttals in the context of disinformation / fake news to enhance the Commission’s rebuttal and myth busting capacity;
- Strong demand for authentic face to face events, e.g. Citizens’ Dialogues, Visitors’ Centre / Experience Europe info-point and local outreach activities of Representations and local / regional Information Centres and Information Services.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support - Heading 3	1,2	1,2	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,3	8,1

(7) C(2019)8514 dated 28.11.2019.

Operational appropriations - Heading 3	60,2	64,2	69,2	72,2	72,2	75,9	78,1	492,1
Total	61,4	65,4	70,3	73,3	73,4	77,1	79,4	500,3

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	77,118	100,00 %	72,800	98,96 %	79,403	29,63 %	76,760	22,82 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	77,378	99,71 %	73,869	98,93 %	79,625	29,55 %	77,539	22,79 %

(*) 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

Building on the recognition that policy and communication are the two side of the same coin, as set out in the Commission's contribution to the EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu on 9 May last year ⁽⁸⁾, the Directorate-General for Communication deals with Europe's unique communication challenge (in more than 24 languages) and the need to communicate effectively across a whole continent in times of increasing fragmentation and disinformation. The overall goal is to communicate simple, clear and understandable messages to citizens.

As outlined in DG COMM's Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 and the respective annual Management Plans 2016-2019, 'external factors and actions by other stakeholders are likely to enable or limit (the DG's) achievements'

Necessarily, the degree of control or influence of the Commission varies along the chain of steps (of the intervention logic): whereas the Commission has full control over the outputs of its own actions, various external factors and players exert influence on the final outputs, results and impacts of European Union (EU) action. This general observation applies to EU policy and law-making interventions, but it applies in particular to its communication actions.

Communication typically is a flanking measure, subject to externalities of two types. Firstly, communication actions and the perception of their effects are influenced by the content / substance of the dossiers supported by communication actions throughout the policy and decision-making process (legislation and enforcement as well as programmes / EU (co-)funding). Secondly, communication does not take place in a vacuum, but in a complex environment of 28 national public spaces and an emerging European Public Space, all of those heavily influenced by, among others, the following factors (mutually influencing each other):

- International, national and regional political factors
- Level of trust in political institutions (international, national) and in media
- Media habits/practice/attitude
- Technological developments, notably in the information and communications technologies

With these important factors and constraints in mind, DG COMM has established 3 main key performance indicators and follows their evolution to measure the fulfilment of the general objective:

1. Percentage of **European Union citizens having a positive image of the European Union** (impact indicator of the overarching objective): 45 % in spring and 42 % in autumn 2019 vs. a 2020 target of ≥ 50 %
2. Number of unique visitors to the EUROPA websites (interinstitutional and Commission domains including the Representations' and RAPID websites): 254 190 470 in 2019 vs. a 2020 target of 120 000 000.
3. Budget execution by commitments (output indicator defined in Management Plan): 100 % vs. a 100 % target.

In 2019, 42 % of European citizens have a positive image of the European Union. This continues the sustained upwards trend from a low of 35 % in 2016, which was mainly due to the impact of the migration crisis. While many factors are playing a role in this upwards trend, a clear and consistent focus on improving our corporate EU communication effort has clearly contributed. This is clearly supported also by the fact of the significant increase in unique visitors that have visited the Europa website.

The coherence, relevance and cost effectiveness of the Commission's web presence on Europa further improved through the strengthening of governance, better editorial and visual alignment of websites across the European Commission and increased

⁽⁸⁾ Europe in May 2019: Preparing for a more united, stronger and more democratic Union in an increasingly uncertain world The European Commission's contribution to the informal EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu (Romania) on 9 May 2019 (COM(2019)218 – 30.4.2019).

standardisation of Information Technology solutions. In 2019, more than 250 million unique visitors visited the Europa website compared to 200 million in 2018. At the end of 2019, the europa.eu domain continued to rank first in popularity worldwide among websites in the category government / society ⁽⁹⁾. Overall satisfaction rate of the external users increased to 94 % (from 60 % in 2014).

More details on specific objectives and indicators are found in the following sections.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision-making process and they know about their rights in the EU.

Indicator 1: Percentage of EU citizens having a positive image of the EU								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
39 %	Actual results							≥50 %
	39 %	37 %	35 %	40 %	43 %	42 %		

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: A simple, clear, understandable message is communicated to citizens explaining the direct impact of EU policies on their lives.

Performance

DG COMM’s communication products and services directly addressed to citizens ⁽¹⁰⁾ provide information for and engagement with citizens and ensure communication services for citizens are made available through simple, clear and understandable messages. This offer is provided either via a mix of channels and media (traditional and new media), or by directly communicating with citizens and stimulating exchange and engagement face to face. Below an overview of the main trends and explanations on the different indicators presented in this section.

- Whilst the Spokesperson’s Service manages traditional media relations and political communication messages, a key example of new media use is DG COMM’s management of the Commission’s presence on the **Europa website**. Here, a crucial change of structure, i.e. a merge of the two main entry points on the Europa site of political and information site ensured an impressive increase in the number of unique visitors (254 190 470 in 2019 as compared to 218 016 623 in 2018).
- 2017 saw a drop in the **unique visitors of the Europa websites** since the website reported data came from a new web analytics tool (Europa Analytics) based on the open-source platform Piwik. This new tool provides more accurate reporting than the previous, older tool (SAS Analytics) and this was reflected in 2017 reported data for all Europa websites. On average, the new corporate analytics tool records 60 % less unique visitors and visits than the previous one. This is due mainly to document downloads and internal site searches being recorded as separate indicators in the tool (e.g. as ‘downloads’ and ‘site searches’). See IPG: http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/services/analytics/faq_en.htm#section_3_5.

The following year in 2018, an increase in the number of visitors for the Europa Sites from 140 053 076 in 2017 to 218 076 623, mainly due for three reasons:

- New sites have been included in the traffic Europa analytics track (like EurLex, DG TAXUD or the consumers’ site);
- Traffic increased due to improvements on search engine optimization and other technical improvements;

⁽⁹⁾ Source: Alexa.com. This ranking combines several parameters (traffic, number of visits, page views over three months) and presents a website ‘popularity trend’ compared to similar competitors.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Communication services for citizens include media support for the Spokesperson’s Service, audiovisual and multimedia productions, Visitors Centre, Information outlet and Call Centre services, Representations’ outreach and information events, back to school activities, and citizens dialogues / democratic conventions.

- Specific events attracting high amounts of traffic took place in 2017 (GDPR changes, summertime public consultation).

This trend continued in 2019, when more than 250 million unique visitors visited the Europa website more than 350 million times. At the end of 2019, the europa.eu domain continued to rank first in popularity worldwide among websites in the category government / society.

- In 2019 the decrease in number of **multimedia downloads** is due to a replacement of the Audio Visual portal. The results shown are until March 2019. In 2020, a new version of the Audiovisual portal will be available which will not allow distinguishing previewed and downloaded photo items.
- In addition, intensified **social media and visual communication** contributed to the Commission’s more prominent presence on social media where the number of followers /fans/subscribers increased in 2019 on all five platforms (on Twitter from 1 100 000 to 1 192 111, on Facebook from 950 000 to 1 014 197, on Instagram from 230 000 to 366 925, on LinkedIn from 480 000 to 818 572 and on EUtube from 55 000 to 88 500).
- As regards direct contacts and exchange with citizens positive feedback from participants of Representation’s events and events organised by Representations in the **European Public Spaces** considerably increased: from 74 % agreeing in 2018 that they improved their knowledge of the EU due to the event to 84 % in 2019 (i.e. 9 % above the target of 75 %). Similarly, the satisfaction rate of users of the **Europe Direct Call Centre** increased from to 84.2 % in 2018 to 85.3 % in 2019.

2019 was a year of institutional transition with elections of the European Parliament held in May 2019, and the new von der Leyen Commission taking up office on 1 December 2019. This affected the total number of visits to the **Commission’s Visitors centre**, which, in 2019, was below target with 1 616 (compared to a target of 1 700. This was accompanied by a slightly decreasing satisfaction rate of visitors (83 % in 2019 as compared to 90 % in 2018) which probably reflects the uncertainties linked to the delayed start of the von der Leyen Commission). On the other hand, the performance of other face to face events like the Citizen’s Dialogues impressed in 2019 by going well beyond targets identified for 2019. The number of Dialogues organised was 484 (with a number of total participants of 56 471, also more than doubling the target of 20 000) with a multiplier effect via reporting through the media reaching 42 000 000 citizens (compared to a target of 25 000 000).

Together, these various information and outreach activities of DG COMM has helped citizens to access up-to-date and user-friendly information on European Union policies and EU values. They contributed to citizens’ increased awareness and understanding of European affairs, in turn, stimulating citizens’ interest to directly engage more with ‘the faces of the Commission’ be it locally, nationally or Europe-wide.

Indicator 1: Percentage of the 100 top press releases consulted in EN with more than 10 000 online views								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
43 %		60 %		65 %				
	Actual results							
		65 %	100 %	17 %				

Comment: Discontinued Indicator

Source: Rapid reporting – DG COMM. Website reported data: As of 2017, data comes from a new web analytics tool(Europa Analytics) based on the open-source platform Piwik It provides more accurate reporting than the previous, older tool (SAS Analytics) and this is reflected in this year’s reported data for all Europa websites. On average, the new corporate analytics tool records 60 % less unique visitors and visits than the previous one. This is due mainly to document downloads and internal site searches being recorded as separate indicators in the tool (e.g. as ‘downloads’ and ‘site searches’). See IPG: http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/services/analytics/faq_en.htm#section_3_5

Indicator 2: Number of multimedia productions downloads								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
96 143		120 000		150 000	130 000	130 000	140 000	140 000
	Actual results							
	146 094	179 964	119 700	112 326	137 861	37 231		

Source: AV Analytics and Web Analytics.

Indicator 3: Satisfaction rate on queries replied by the EUROPE DIRECT Contact centre								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
82 %				85.0 %	90.0 %	90.0 %	95.0 %	95.0 %
	Actual results							
	83.0 %	87.0 %	84.0 %	87.5 %	84.2 %	85.3 %		

Source: Ratings extracted from the EDCC citizens' enquiries database and submitted in monthly reports.

Indicator 4: Percentage of visitors to the Commission very satisfied with the visits								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
69 %	Actual results							90 %
	80 %	90 %	94 %	93 %	90 %	83 %		

Source: Forms filled in by each visiting group.

Indicator 5: Percentage of participants at Representations and European Public Spaces events agree that the event improved their knowledge of EU issues								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
71 %	Actual results							75 %
	71 %	77 %	75 %	75 %	74 %	84 %		

Source: Based on responses to questionnaires distributed after events.

Indicator 6: Number of unique visitors to the EUROPA website								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
258 298 695	Actual results							>250 000 000
	258 298 695	233 635 832	220 420 315	140 053 076	218 076 623	254 190 470		

Source: SAS Analytics 2017: Europa Analytics.

Indicator 7: Number of followers/fans/subscribers of the EU Commission social media corporate accounts including the Representations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Twitter 172 000	Actual results							1 000 000
	391 417	608 000	850 000	1 000 000	903 000	1 000 000		
	319 700	510 631	675 000	876 032	1 012 505	1 192 111		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Facebook 230 000	Actual results							800 000
	481 250	545 000	750 000	950 000	780 000	800 000		
	417 500	537 017	633 700	778 696	882 847	1 014 197		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Google+ 711 000	Actual results							1 800 000
	1 309 583	1 407 667	1 900 000	1 900 000	1 780 000	1 800 000		
	1 211 500	1 597 844	1 700 000	1 680 000	1 663 057			
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
LinkedIn 174 591	Actual results							575 000
	241 326	308 061	365 000	450 000	508 265	575 000		
	174 591	243 601	309 000	370 000	517 216	818 572		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUTube 22 500	Actual results							50 000
	31 000	35 000	45 000	50 000	46 000	50 000		
	28 100	33 372	38 500	43 100	50 531	88 500		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020

Representations: Twitter 88 000				540 000	613 000	735 000	883 000	883 000
	Actual results							
	164 000	306 000	420 000	511 000	559 000	607 373		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Representations: Facebook 150 000				670 000	980 000	1 324 000	1 788 000	1 788 000
	Actual results							
	251 000	374 000	500 000	727 000	887 000	970 005		

Source: Engagor (corporate social media monitoring tool) and the data available on the social media platforms themselves.

Indicator 8: Percentage of participants agreeing that the Citizens' Dialogue event improved their knowledge on EU issues								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
		30 %	70 %	80 %				
	Actual results							
		73 %	77 %					

Comment: Discontinued Indicator

Source: Based on information collected on the site through voting devices or on responses to questionnaires distributed after events.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
RAPID	16 03 02 03	1	0,5
Audio-visual productions and multimedia projects for the general public	16 03 01 02	200	0,7
TV uptakes from Europe by Satellite (in minutes)	16 03 01 02	140 000	3,3
Media library: conservation and availability to the public of audiovisual material (audio, video and photo), web development	16 03 01 02	61	1,8
Meetings with the media/HQ	16 03 01 02	1	0,1
Information events for journalists/REPs	16 03 01 02	650	0,5
Management of audiovisual technical facilities (number of AV products provided to the College – messages, interviews, statements, clips) (Heading 5)	16 03 02 02	850	5,6
Visits to the Commission	16 03 02 01	1 700	4,2
Number of Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs)	16 03 01 03	518	16,1
Organisation of events under the 10 priorities of the Juncker's Commission and information events by the Representations (Events&Actions database)	16 03 01 04	n/a	21,5
Communication actions on budget focused on results(BUDG)	16 03 01 04	n/a	0,1
European Public Spaces organise information events (Events&Actions database) (Heading 5)	16 03 01 05	1 600	1,2
European Public Spaces (Heading 5)	16 03 01 05	23	
Number of consultations kids' corner and teachers' corner (Heading 5)	16 03 02 04	1.5M	0,4
Publications, including Commission's General Report (Heading 5)	16 03 02 04	30	1,7
Operation of EDCC	16 03 02 03	1	4,1
Electronic/paper publications (REPs)	16 03 02 03	30	2,4
Local social media profiles regularly updated (REPs)	16 03 02 03	90	2,5
Number of Citizens' Dialogues	16 03 01 04	50	0,8
Management of EUROPA websites (COMM) and EU results website(BUDG/DIGIT)	16 03 02 03	n/a	6,6
House of European History (budget to DG EAC)	16 03 04	n/a	n/a

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
RAPID	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Audio-visual productions and multimedia projects for the general public	F	176	75	150	200	200	200	200
	P	64	125	107	84 ⁽¹¹⁾	103	198	

⁽¹¹⁾ Since 2016 the AV Corporate production team has refocused on the 10 priorities of President Juncker and by doing so, the number of productions has gone down. The aim is to go for fewer, but higher quality productions – each of them therefore requiring more production time. However, production is constantly adapted to the changing media environment, notably as regards formats needed for integrating into the increasing social media exchanges.

TV uptakes from Europe by Satellite (in minutes)	F	40000	85000	85000	85000	120000	130000	140000
	P	80091	94320	64113	70630	72273	64482	
Media library (in thousands): conservation and availability to the public of audiovisual material (audio, video and photo), web development	F	28,5	50,0	50,0	50,0	61,0	61,0	61,0
	P	47,0	48.6	50.0	60.1	61,4	60,8	
Meetings with the media/HQ	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Information events for journalists/REPs	F	540	560	580	600	620	630	650
	P	540	517	620	610	520	380 ⁽¹²⁾	
Management of audiovisual technical facilities (number of AV products provided to the College – messages, interviews, statements, clips)	F	900	800	800	800	600	800	850
	P	780	762	647	738	844	716 ⁽¹³⁾	
Visits to the Commission	F	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700
	P	1733	1736	1700	1568	1728	1616 ⁽¹⁴⁾	
Number of Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs)	F	500	515	518	518	518	518	518
	P	507	518	513	510	442 ⁽¹⁵⁾	442	
Organisation of events under the 10 priorities of the Juncker’s Commission and information events by the Representations (Events&Actions database)	F	N/A	3000	3000	2500	7200	7200	
	P	N/A	2989	2910	7900 ⁽¹⁶⁾	7300	6700 ⁽¹⁷⁾	
European Public Spaces organise information events (Events&Actions database)	F	1200	1200	1300	1350	1400	1450	1600
	P	1000	1208	1440	1150	1300	700 ⁽¹⁸⁾	
European Public Spaces	F	18	18	19	20	21	22	23
	P	18	18	18	18	18	18	
Number of consultations kids’ corner and teachers’ corner (in millions)	F	10,8	13,5	15,0	1,5	1,0	1,5	2,0
	P	11,8	11,1	10,5	0.67 ⁽¹⁹⁾	2.26 ⁽²⁰⁾	0.84 ⁽²¹⁾	
Publications, including Commission’s General Report	F	50	50	50	58 ⁽²²⁾	30	30	30
	P	50	50	48	65	54	63	
Operation of EDCC	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Electronic/paper publications (REPs)	F	50	50	30	30	30	30	30
	P	50	32	40	40	40	85 ⁽²³⁾	
Local social media profiles regularly updated (REPs)	F	67	70	90	90	90	90	90
	P	67	90	90	90	90	90	
Number of Citizens’ Dialogues	F	n/a	10	80	85	300	250	50
	P	n/a	53	73	317 ⁽²⁴⁾	842	484 ⁽²⁵⁾	

Specific Objective 2: A coherent and effective corporate communication is developed and maintained.

Performance

- (12) A decrease in information events for journalists is because the Representations intentionally reduced the number of events but increased the number of participants per event.
- (13) During 2019, the Audio-visual service had stronger focus on the priorities of the Commission, entailing fewer productions but of a higher quality.
- (14) 2019 was a year of institutional transition with elections of the European Parliament held in May 2019, and the new von der Leyen Commission taking up office on 1 December 2019 explains the decrease in visiting groups.
- (15) The number of Europe Direct information Centres (EDICs) decreased in 2018 as the Call for Proposals for the new generation of EDICs (2018-2020) enabled EDICs to obtain higher grants to optimise the outreach potential of the network within a stable global allocation. The budgetary framework for the 2018-2020 Europe Direct Information Centres had been set in the current Multiannual Financial Framework and allowed only for relatively small nominal increases until 2020.
- (16) The higher figure is due to both intensified activities of the Representations and improved reporting.
- (17) During 2019, a decrease in terms of events on the Juncker priorities, as the Representations are clustering events with bigger size so to ensure greater impact and multiplying effects.
- (18) The decrease was due as DG COMM focused more on the dissemination of various materials via social media and the promotion of specific online platform so fewer events were organised.
- (19) The way of measuring consultations of Kids’ Corner and Teachers’ Corner was modified in 2018/2019 to reflect visits rather than page views/consultations, as this is a more accurate way of measuring audience and aligns the methodology for calculating the figures with that used by other services, thus ensuring a corporate approach across the institution.
- (20) The result includes the number of visits to all four websites managed by DG COMM while the target had omitted two of the unit’s websites and concerned only Kids’ Corner and Teachers’ Corner.
- (21) The decrease in consultations was due to a delay in the promotion activity of the new Learning Corner website because of the need to ensure General Data Protection Regulation compliance by end of 2019.
- (22) The 32 titles in the ‘EU explained’ series of publications will be phased out and replaced by short citizen-friendly factsheets on the EU’s 10 political priorities. Both the ‘EU explained’ series and the factsheets will co-exist in 2017, resulting in a higher number of publications than in previous years, before stabilising at a lower number of far more regularly updated publications from 2018.
- (23) The number is higher due to the production of brochures/publications ahead of European Elections.
- (24) The number of Citizens’ Dialogues increased steeply in 2017 and 2018 due to the fact that they became a major channel for the debate on the future of Europe and the introduction of a second series of Dialogues with senior Commission officials.
- (25) The target of Citizens Dialogues for 2019 was 250 nevertheless; we achieved almost double the dialogues.

In 2019, DG COMM provided its *corporate communication products and services* ⁽²⁶⁾ to the external communication domain of the Commission, reflecting its role as domain leader in external communication, ensuring coherence in the Commission’s messaging by aligning all Commission communication services to contribute to a coherent and effective corporate communication on the political priorities.

- A key example of this type of corporate service is DG COMM’s management and governance of the Europa site for the whole Commission. Completion of the digital transformation project was achieved to a 100 % in 2018 and stabilised in 2019 at the 100 % level. The restructuring and merge of the two entry points of the Europa site (political site and information site) was characterised by a strong user-focus (increased number of unique visitors, see specific objective 1) and reinforced governance approach.

This corporate approach leads, step by step, to the definition of clearer corporate messages/narratives and distinctive visual branding (eventually brand recognition) and economies of scale, thus contributes to achieving a better image of the Commission and the EU.

Indicator 1: Digital Transformation/overall completions								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
547 websites, 3 000 000 web pages for all DGs		1 class transitioned 50 %, 3 classes transitioned 25 %, (8.3 % overall completion)	4 themes transitioned 100 %, 3 themes transitioned 50 %, (37 % overall completion)	15 themes at 100 %, (100 % overall completion)	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission, to be continuously improved and maintained.	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission, to be continuously improved and maintained.	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission, to be continuously improved and maintained.	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission, to be continuously improved and maintained.
	Actual results							
	133 websites cut for all DGs; 925 070 webpages cut.	8 classes at 15 %, (8 % overall completion)	2 themes at 60 %, 1 theme at 58 %, 1 theme at 46 %, 1 theme at 37 %, 1 theme at 32 %, 1 theme at 25 %, 1 theme at 20 %, 1 theme at 16 %, 1 theme at 1 %, (31 % overall completion).	15 themes at 100 %, (100 % overall completion)	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission to be continuously improved and maintained.	One coherent web presence for the entire Commission to be continuously improved and maintained.		

Source: Commission sites inventory.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Intra-muros expertise to create the new web presence (data analysis, user research, user experience, design, usability, content and communication)	16 03 02 03	43	6,0

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Intra-muros expertise to create the new web presence (data analysis, user research, user experience, design, usability, content and communication)	F	23	30	45	43	43	43	43
	P	23	28	36	37	36	36	

⁽²⁶⁾ Corporate services include service mode of the new Europa website, implementation of corporate communication actions (campaigns and flanking measures), alignment/coordination of networks, central management of communication framework contracts and professionalisation measures as well as identifying further potential for Synergies & Efficiencies and Pooling & Sharing.

Specific Objective 3: Country specific information and analysis are fed into College’s decision-making process

Performance

In 2019, DG COMM provided a variety of executive services ⁽²⁷⁾ to the President and the College of Commissioners in support of the communication activities of President, College, Spokesperson’s Service and Commission senior management by ensuring political and economic intelligence and media advice.

- Examples of such services are media monitoring and media analysis products and Eurobarometer surveys, summarised and visualised for the College or the Commission’s senior management. These target audiences are participate at different intervals in satisfaction surveys. For example, the latest results show a 70 % satisfaction rate for media monitoring products (5 % below the 75 % target) in 2018 ⁽²⁸⁾ and a 80 % satisfaction rate in 2019 for Eurobarometer (5 % above the 75 % target). Feedback from these surveys is systematically taken into account by DG COMM services to improve the next generation(s) those products.
- As regards the various political reporting products provided by the Representations, nature and frequency of the products were adapted following the 2016 satisfactions survey (which resulted in a satisfaction rate of 60 %) and the purely quantitative meaning was replaced by a stronger focus on qualitative and joined up / themed reporting whereby for example one Reports covers the reactions in all Member States on one topic (European Council; Negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, EU-ASEM summit etc.) which explains the stabilisation of the overall number of reports at a lower level (than at the beginning of this financial planning period, in 2019 totalling 572 reports as compared to 478 in 2018).

Thus, DG COMM was feeding high quality country specific information and analysis from a variety of sources (Representations intelligence, media analysis, Standard and specific Eurobarometer survey etc.) upstream into the Commission’s decision-making process. This contributed, ultimately, to better-informed European Union policy-making for citizens.

Indicator 1: Number of political and economic reports and analysis produced								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
940	Actual results							500
	940	634	606	437	478	572		

Source: Political reporting tool and statistics on ESO reports (DG COMM).

Indicator 2: Satisfaction rate on the media monitoring services								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							75.0 %
		60.0 %		76.0 %	75.0 %	70.0 %	75.0 %	
		76.0 %		80.0 %	70.5 %			

Source: DG COMM survey.

Indicator 3: Satisfaction rate concerning Eurobarometer products								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
	Actual results							75 %
				70 %	70 %	70 %	75 %	
					80 %	79 %		

Source: COMM.A1 survey – Survey conducted as of 2018 annually each Autumn.

⁽²⁷⁾ Executive services include activities creating media coverage and management of technical facilities (e.g. studios) related to Commissioners’ visits and roadshows as well as Representations’ political and economic reporting/analysis, analysis of stakeholder/citizens feedback, Eurobarometer polls and media monitoring and analysis).

⁽²⁸⁾ In 2019, no satisfaction survey was conducted. Its results would have been of only limited informative value due to the transition to the new Commission as well as the phasing-in of a new framework contract.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Production of media monitoring and other media analysis products	16 03 02 05	30	5,5
Production of Eurobarometer public opinion surveys	16 03 02 05	7	1,5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Production of media monitoring and other media analysis products	F	60	50	30	30	45	45	30
	P	51	21	30	48 ⁽²⁹⁾	41	92 ⁽³⁰⁾	
Production of Eurobarometer public opinion surveys	F	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	P	8	11	9	8	8	8	

⁽²⁹⁾ Due to a new project related to the Future of Europe (in the context of the 60 years anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, and the White Paper), we produced more media analysis products, hence the foreseen outputs have been increased until 2019.

⁽³⁰⁾ The number of reports indicated for 2019 increased significantly because of specific focus on EP elections and reporting on the European Parliament hearings.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

Lead DG: NEAR

Associated DGs: EAC, AGRI, EMPL, REGIO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance ('IPA II') shall support candidate countries and potential candidates in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by the beneficiaries to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. Through such support, IPA II shall contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiaries, providing their citizens with better opportunities and allow for development of standards equal to the ones we enjoy as citizens of the EU. IPA funds are a sound investment not only into the future of the enlargement countries: they serve also the Union's very own political, security and economic interests. It is a strategic investment in a stable, more secure, strong Europe based on common values. The IPA II Regulation⁽¹⁾ states that financial assistance shall mainly address five policy areas: a) reforms in preparation for EU membership and related institution and capacity-building, b) socioeconomic and regional development, c) employment, social policies, education, promotion of gender equality, and human resources development, d) agriculture and rural development, and e) regional and territorial cooperation.

IPA II should help beneficiaries in achieving their respective targets related to the 1993 Copenhagen criteria as well as the conditionality of the Stabilisation and Associations process. The success of pre-accession assistance is therefore to be measured against the criterion how effective the assistance was to enhance the capability of the beneficiaries to come closer to the accession benchmarks.

Current beneficiaries, listed in Annex I of the IPA II Regulation, are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

* Throughout the whole document, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR. 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

EU added value of the programme

The IPA complements the Enlargement policy of the Union by supporting political and economic reforms in beneficiary countries and contributes to meeting the broader European objectives of ensuring stability, security and prosperity in the immediate neighbourhood of the Union.

The EU's political influence and leverage allows engaging national authorities with greater authority and legal certainty than individual EU Member States. Furthermore, granting pre-accession assistance under one single instrument on the basis of a single set of criteria is more efficient than granting assistance from multiple sources (including the national budgets of the Member States) following different procedures and priorities. The funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, security of energy supply, improved transport connections, enhanced environmental standards, more effective action to combat climate change, etc.

Implementation mode

IPA II funded activities are implemented and managed in various ways. Under **direct management**, the implementation of the budget is carried out directly by the Commission either at headquarters or in the EU delegations. Under **indirect management**, the Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to the IPA II beneficiaries or entities designated by them; a development agency of an EU Member State or, exceptionally, of a third donor country; an international organisation or an EU specialised agency and public law bodies, including Member state organisations. In other words, the Commission entrusts the management of certain actions to external entities, while still retaining overall final responsibility for the general budget execution. Under **shared management**, implementation tasks are delegated to EU Member States (only for cross-border cooperation programmes with EU countries).

In the context of direct management, sector budget support is yet another tool for delivering pre-accession assistance and achieving sustainable results under IPA II. It consists of financial transfers to the national treasury account of an IPA II beneficiary once certain conditions have been fulfilled and requires performance assessment and capacity development, based on partnership and mutual accountability.

(1) REGULATION (EU) No 231/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2014/231-2014_ipa-2-reg.pdf

Financial assistance needs to be tailored to the specific situation of the individual beneficiaries. It is planned and programmed on the basis of indicative strategy papers setting out the priorities and objectives for each beneficiary and the multi-beneficiary programmes for the entire period up to 2020, and a breakdown of indicative financial allocations. The strategy papers define the results to be achieved by 2020 and the actions necessary to reach them, as well as indicators for monitoring progress and measuring performance.

Implementation of IPA II is based on a sector approach: reforms are promoted within the framework of pre-defined sectors closely linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, rule of law or growth and competitiveness. At the same time, IPA II assistance is tailored to the specific needs of each individual beneficiary, and takes into account the status of each partner in the overall accession process. Assistance is also provided through multi country programmes, providing a viable complement to national assistance.

In the policy area ‘agriculture and rural development’, assistance includes management by DG for Agriculture and Rural Development for the beneficiaries which are already operating under indirect (formerly decentralised) management. In addition, cross-border cooperation between candidate countries and potential candidates and Member States continues to be managed by DG for Regional and Urban Policy. Finally, IPA II helps beneficiaries building capacity and promoting mobility in higher education and for young people by contributing to the Erasmus+ Programme.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The Regulation establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) introduced an important innovation: a seven years strategic framework for the programming of the instrument. For this purpose, Indicative country and multi-country Strategy Papers (ISPs), covering the full duration of the multiannual financial framework, were established in partnership with the IPA II beneficiaries. The country ISPs set sector-level priorities for assistance. They are defined on the basis of the IPA beneficiary’s specific needs and capacities. The Multi-Country Strategy Paper addresses priorities for regional cooperation or territorial cooperation. The ISPs also contribute to the following goals of the IPA II Regulation: deliver assistance that is (1) targeted and adjusted to the specific situation of each IPA II beneficiary, and also (2) differentiated in scope and intensity, according to the beneficiary’s needs, level of commitment to reforms and progress in implementing them.

As laid down in the IPA II Regulation, Article 6(4), the 7-year ISP were ‘revised at mid-term and published in August 2018. The main objective of this review/revision was to take account of recent policy developments, political priorities and other changes registered in the region. This exercise also allowed allocating the performance reward as foreseen in Article 14 of the IPA II Regulation. Following a Strategic Dialogue with the European Parliament, inter-service consultation and comitology procedure, the European Commission adopted the Revised Indicative Strategy Papers in August 2018.

Twenty programmes were adopted in 2017, in particular:

- Ten annual action programmes (including one multi-country programme and one sector budget support programme)
- One multiannual programme to support connectivity;
- Five amendments to the multiannual sector operational programmes for Turkey and the Republic of North Macedonia.
- Two major projects forming part of the multiannual sector operational programme for the Republic of North Macedonia
- Two support measures

Total operational commitments for IPA II in 2017: EUR 2.1 billion.

In 2018, twenty-four programmes and five amendments were adopted in particular:

- Eight annual action programmes (including one multi-country programme and two amendments to the 2017 Multi-country programme)
- One multiannual programme to support connectivity;
- One multiannual programme to support Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX);
- One multiannual programme to support civil society and media;
- Nine cross-border cooperation programmes in the Western Balkans and a cross-border cooperation technical assistance programme;
- One special measure on supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina in managing the migration flows;
- One individual measure (support to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- One support measure for the 2018 Audit Programme;
- One special measure on education under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and one amendment;
- Five amendments to the multiannual sector operational programmes for Turkey and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Total operational commitments for IPA II in 2018: EUR 2.1 billion.

In 2019, seventeen programmes and five amendments were adopted, including in particular

- Eleven annual action programmes
- Two special measures on supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in managing the migration flows

- One individual measure (support to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- One Support Measure for sector evaluations of IPA Assistance to Turkey
- One Special measure on health, protection, socioeconomic support and municipal infrastructure
- One Support measure on monitoring and evaluation, audit and communication
- One (substantial) amendment to the Multi-Annual Action Programme for Turkey on Environment and Climate Action
- One amendment to the Annual Action Programme for Turkey for year 2016; and one amendment to the Annual Action Programme for Turkey for year 2018
- Two Amendments to multi-country action programmes.

Total operational commitments for IPA II in 2019: EUR 2.4 billion.

Key achievements

The following concrete results have been achieved:

Migration – Western Balkans

In 2019, the migratory flows on the Western Balkans route witnessed a significant increase on the previous year. According to the data provided by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, this trend was recorded at the majority of border sections in the region. The main route during 2019 led from Greece to North Macedonia and further to Bosnia and Herzegovina via Serbia. Pressure at the external borders of the EU remains high. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a total of EUR 30.2M IPA funds have been allocated, since early 2018, to provide basic accommodation and protection services to over 54,000 persons and reinforce migration management capacities of the BiH authorities. A special measure of EUR 27.5M was also awarded to Serbia in 2019.

Migration – Turkey

Turkey currently hosts close to 4 million refugees and the EU is committed to assist Turkey in dealing with this challenge. The EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, managing a total of EUR 6 billion (EUR 3 billion for 2016-2017 and EUR 3 billion for 2018-2019), provides for a joint coordination mechanism, designed to ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities in Turkey are addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The Facility is implemented as humanitarian and development assistance.

The 2016-2017 envelope of EUR 3 billion was fully contracted with 72 projects rolled out, showing tangible results

- 1.7 million of the most vulnerable refugees are provided with monthly cash transfers under the Emergency Social Safety Net;
- Education – a EUR 300 million grant – implemented in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of National Education – has supported the integration of Syrian children into the Turkish education system providing access to education to over 500 000 children. This support continues also under the second tranche and a new project with the Ministry of National Education was signed, worth EUR 400 million.
- Health – the Facility has delivered EUR 300 million in aid to ensure refugees can access healthcare services, with over 8 million primary healthcare consultations carried out and over 650 000 Syrian refugee children vaccinated so far. Furthermore, 179 migrant health centers are now operational with over 2 900 staff employed. The Facility will continue to provide assistance in health, education, municipal infrastructure and socioeconomic support, with a special focus on creating livelihood opportunities for refugees in Turkey.

EUR 2 billion under the second tranche come from the EU budget. The full operational budget of the second tranche was committed at the end of 2019 and out of the development strand, EUR 710 million was contracted at the end of 2019.

Connectivity agenda

The EU has set aside up to EUR 1 billion for connectivity investment projects and technical assistance for the 2015-2020 period, with a special emphasis on the preparation and financing of concrete regional infrastructure investment projects, but also on the implementation of technical standards and accompanying reform measures such as aligning and simplifying border crossing procedures, railway reforms, information systems (ITS), road safety and maintenance schemes, unbundling and third party access. Continued progress has been achieved on the implementation of the Connectivity agenda in 2019. The EU provided EUR 880,7 million under regional and national IPA envelopes for 39 transport and energy connectivity projects, which is expected to leverage overall investments of more than EUR 3.2 billion. The latest Connectivity Agenda package, endorsed at the Poznan Summit in July 2019, includes 6 transport projects and 2 energy projects aiming at the modernisation of a joint railway border station, installation of signaling and telecommunications equipment on more than 100 km of railway lines benefiting 2 million people living along the routes, building or upgrading over 30 km of motorways (including bridges, viaducts, tunnels and underpasses), construction of over 100 km electricity transmissionline and reconstruction of connected substations, construction of 68 km of interconnection gas pipeline. In 2019, construction works have been initiated on six connectivity projects.

Private Sector Support

The Western Balkans Investment Framework, financed through IPA, is increasingly at the core of fostering investments in the region. Together with the Western Balkans Enterprise Development & Innovation Facility (WB EDIF) and the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE), the European Commission has launched an EUR 150 million guarantee to enable investors, to scale-up

investments in areas contributing to EU policy objectives currently not, or not sufficiently, served. The Western Balkans Guarantee is fully programmed by the European Commission which intends to use it as a pilot instrument to prepare for larger guarantee schemes expected in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, in particular under the EFSD+. 2019 saw the establishment of the Fund and the launching of the first call. Between 4 to 8 projects will be selected during 2020 to implement guarantees aiming at mobilising investments of around EUR 1 billion to support socioeconomic development in the Western Balkans region.

Turkey

In Turkey, work under IPA II has continued to support investment and reforms, notably in the areas of institution-and capacity-building, socioeconomic development, employment, social policies, education, promotion of gender equality, human resources development, agriculture, rural development, regional development and territorial cooperation. For example:

The IPA Rural Development programme has been supporting the modernisation of the agricultural sector, promoting innovative approaches and reaching out to grass roots level in Turkey, including the peripheral and border regions. It is a flagship programme of the EU in Turkey. This is due to its great track record and the fact it provides direct benefits to the Turkish citizens involved in the agriculture and fisheries sectors in rural areas. Turkey is well advanced in the implementation of the programme and the absorption capacity continues to be strong. IPARD supports a wide spectrum of rural activities, from beekeepers to milk processors and farmers and very importantly, it has a specific focus on women and young entrepreneurs. The programme has started to reach the civil society and local authorities through LEADER and the National Rural Network. The call for application that was launched in September 2019 on LEADER Measure is a key tool to promote rural development via a bottom-up participatory approach. After almost 10 years of preparations, 55 Local Action Groups have been established in 12 IPARD provinces. The Turkish Rural Development Network is also an excellent tool for more stakeholders' involvement, policy improvement and publicity of rural development to a wider audience. Under IPARD II so far the eight calls for project proposals have been conducted with 17,000 applications submitted, 3,850 projects currently contracted and 2,800 projects completed. In response to heavy budget cuts, in order to ensure the continuation of IPARD, the programme has been modified (more strictly targeted) to give incentives to areas with highest value such as collective investments, rural employment and LEADER.

The IPARD projects have been setting a new benchmark for investments in the Turkish agri-food sector, fully in line with EU standards. Only the most sound and sustainable investments are supported by the programme, which improves the quality of investments in the sector overall.

The Turkish IPARD Agency operates to high standards and serves as a good institutional model. Funding is highly appreciated by the Turkish recipients and projects get good publicity and visibility in their locations throughout Turkey and in press. This is why IPARD creates good will towards the EU. IPARD II is a continuation of IPARD I and its success is thus due to a continuous work of both Turkey's and EU institutions for more than 10 years.

A map of IPARD projects is accessible on the website at <https://www.tkd.gov.tr/ProjeIslemleri/OrnekProjeler>; best practices can be reached at <https://ipard.tarim.gov.tr/>

The EU Civil Society Facility (CSF) has allowed the EU to directly support civil initiatives and rights-based projects proposed by individuals and civil society organisations to address particularly sensitive issues. The CSF flagship programme in Turkey is Sivil Düşün ('Think Civil'), a unique programme that has been implemented for 8 years. Through various support mechanisms, Sivil Düşün provides flexible, transparent and accessible support to rights-based work carried out by activists, civil society organisations, platforms, networks, civil initiatives, foundations, associations, rights-based cooperatives, non-profit companies, city councils, unions, as well as human rights and civil society units of universities. Since the launch of Sivil Düşün, around 4.250 applications in diverse thematic areas (more than twenty) were received, out of which over 1.130 actions were selected for implementation. Its constructive help-desk offers assistance to applicants and potential applicants across Turkey through various communication channels, with an average of over 2.000 requests per year. Support provided directly addresses the needs of the civil society, and a participatory approach is adopted in all stages. Support contributes to the inclusion and equal participation of disadvantaged groups and grassroots organisations through addressing their needs.

Since April 2014 Sivil Düşün has provided an effective platform for its beneficiaries to network and learn from each other through its CSO Forums, Info Days, trainings, round table and consultation meetings across Turkey. Always asserting a participatory and inclusive approach, Sivil Düşün encourages participants to share their experience and know-how in meetings, sessions, working groups and workshops, letting participants be in charge. In these thematic events and meetings over 5.000 participants, engaged in rights-based work, had the chance to learn from one another and were offered the chance to collaborate.

Through its multiple communication channels and tools, Sivil Düşün maintains its position as an established and effective communication hub for civil society, rights-based work and EU support in Turkey. Sivil Düşün's online and digital communication tools (website, social media channels, e-newsletter, digital library) are strategically employed to boost the visibility of assistance offered, showcase the work it supports, and provide valuable reference, support and consultation tools for civil society and individuals engaged in rights-based work. Sivil Düşün's website has received a total of more than 1 million web page views throughout its history and its social media channels receive around 20,000 views each month. For more information you can reach www.SivilDusun.net

The CSF also provides funding to support the core functions of Human Rights CSOs that are most at risk. This specific programme answers to calls from Turkish civil society, EU Member States and the European Parliament that the EU should help to reinforce those CSOs thus reinforcing actors able to provide some checks and balances, support human rights defenders and hold authorities

accountable in relations to their commitments towards EU values and principles. Support to CSOs is now extending to financing third parties, helping small CSOs, to grow and promoting Civil Society at grass-roots level. Under CSF 2017, there are also two media projects. These two projects aiming to improve the media situation in the country by way of supporting media pluralism and solidarity in the sector, both achieved good results in their one year of implementation. Some of their key achievements can be summarised as: the press freedom campaign reached at least 350.000 people, 'our rights' campaign reached approximately 56.000 people, 1033 journalists received professional trainings nationwide, broadcast studios in Istanbul and Izmir press academies were used 109 times, editorial support was provided for 188 mostly unemployed journalists. The projects also provide legal assistance to journalists, monitor their trials, provide mediation and judicial process support as well as psychological support to those in need. 31 media organisations/ journalists received website and online channels technical support for their efforts to enrich media pluralism in the country. The young journalism support programme touched the lives of 31 applicants and 1003 journalists attended the weekly gatherings in the press house in Ankara.

As part of the comprehensive Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) railway network, under IPA II, a financing agreement has been signed with Turkey for the construction of the fast track Halkali-Kapikule railway between Istanbul and the Bulgarian border. The EU made a large contribution (EUR 275 million) and works have started in 2019.

Western Balkans

In **Albania**, the EU focused its work in 2019 on five key priorities: the judiciary, fight against corruption and organised crime, public administration, and the protection of human rights.

In the justice sector reform, good progress was noted in terms of vetting of judges and prosecutors, establishment of new justice institutions and finalisation of legal amendments. Particularly good results were achieved with the increased recruitment of the School of Magistrates via the support of EURALIUS (Support to strengthening of Justice Reform in Albania) and coordination with Member State projects. Support to courts at all levels continued as well. The International Monitoring Operation (IMO) supported the vetting by providing international observers to the 'National Vetting Bodies'.

Progress was made in fight against corruption with the establishment of new institutions, including the Special Anti-Corruption and Organised Crime Structure, and several legal amendments (political party financing, Moneyval package). The institutional setting of the National Coordinator against Corruption itself was strengthened with the creation of an Anti-corruption Directorate and a network of anti-corruption coordinators in 16 institutions.

Positive development are noted in the fight against organised crime with implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 EU Country's report. PAMECA (Consolidation to Law Enforcement Agencies – Support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Albanian State Police and Prosecutor Offices) and SANCAS (Support to Anti-Cannabis Strategy) programmes supported the Albanian prosecution services and law enforcement agencies in enhancing their capacity to tackle organised crime and drug trafficking. This support was instrumental in increasing law enforcement capacities to carry out operations, including jointly with EU member States, against criminal organisations and to counter the production and trafficking of cannabis.

EU-funded assistance played a fundamental role in moving forward the public administration reform agenda, in particular in the policy development and coordination area by supporting the development of an integrated planning system and the rollout of regulatory impact assessments. The digital agenda was revised and new e-services rolled out to the citizens. The EU continued its financial assistance to local governance, focusing on enhancing the capacity of municipalities and their ability to benefit from EU funds and programmes, increasing the effectiveness and the transparency of public services, and fostering local democracy, in particular the inclusion of citizens in the decision-making process.

Finally, EU assistance contributed to the protection of human rights through assisting the authorities in identifying missing persons from the Communist era, thus contributing to the Western Balkans Strategy initiatives to support reconciliation and good neighborly relations.

In addition to supporting the five key priorities, EU assistance contributed to Albania's economic development through supporting public finance management, employment and skills, as well as environmental protection, in particular in the water and wastewater sectors.

In 2019, Albania finished two calls for the three entrusted IPARD measures (support to farms, support to primary processing and for diversifying economic activity). Request for entrustment of Technical Assistance measure was submitted in the autumn.

Examples of successful IPA projects implemented in Albania in 2019:

Since 2016, with the full support of the European Union, Albania has embarked on one of the most demanding and complex transformations in its recent history: judicial reform. In this framework, Albania has recently started a thorough and comprehensive vetting process of its 811 judges and prosecutors under the aegis of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) funded by the European Union with a budget of EUR 25,7 million. The IMO brings the best European judicial expertise to monitor Albania's vetting process. This includes the re-evaluation of the judges and prosecutors on the basis of integrity, ethical background, professional competence and background checking of their assets, and is one of the core elements of judicial reform. So far, 220 magistrates have been vetted. Together with the successful establishment of the new independent judicial institutions, the vetting monitored by the IMO has deeply transformed Albania's judicial architecture. The EU is helping the country in bringing its judicial performance closer to the EU standards as well as restoring public trust and confidence in the rule of law.

C.A.U.S.E, Confiscated Assets used for Social Experimentations, is an EU-funded project that aims to establish a model of sustainable re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime by civil society organizations (CSOs). With a budget of EUR 451,127 C.A.U.S.E is the first initiative of this kind in Albania and the Western Balkans applying an innovative approach that focuses on the promotion and development of the culture of social entrepreneurship to fight against organised crime. C.A.U.S.E provides opportunities, skills and financial support to CSOs to start a new project in an asset confiscated from organised crime. A social pastry shop, a multicultural coffee library and a social crafts garage are the first tangible enterprises in three different cities of Albania employing close to 30 youngsters, former convicts, women and girls at risk or former victims of organised crime. More than 1,500 youngsters, students and women benefit from the activities of these hubs that promote Vocational Educational Training, handicraft activity, employment of vulnerable people, Roma culture and gender equality.

In May 2019, the Commission published its opinion on the EU membership application of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, identifying 14 key priorities in the areas of democracy/functionality, rule of law, fundamental rights, and public administration reforms. As endorsed by the EU Council in its conclusions in December 2019, the country needs to address these priorities in order to advance on the EU path. The analytical report accompanying the Opinion also, for the first time, reviews the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina against all standards applicable to EU Member States, including on issues such as internal market, public procurement, competition policy, environment, food safety and consumer protection.

The adoption of countrywide strategies for transport, environment, agriculture, and energy satisfied an important precondition for IPA funding. Consequently, the 2019 and 2020 allocations demonstrate a steady increase compared to previous years. However, adoption of the countrywide Public Administration Reform and Public Financial Management strategies is still pending.

In the area of Competitiveness and Innovation, two programmes were completed, resulting in tangible results in terms of investment in new technologies, and development of new products and services and leading to increase in SMEs exports and sales and over 300 new local jobs. Improvements are reported in the efficiency, business standards, reduced costs and new innovations. New SME support instruments and inter-municipal cooperation have been introduced at municipal level.

Examples of successful IPA projects implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019:

Local Integrated Development Project (LID)

LID to which the EU contributed EUR 6 million, directly contributed to the improvements in the standard of living for more than 160,000 people in BiH, working with domestic authorities to enable and create mechanisms and resources needed to drive social and economic development. The Project prioritized assistance to the most vulnerable, including returnees, internally displaced persons, elderly, Roma, people with disabilities and long-term unemployed with special focus on women. It was implemented in 21 partner cities and municipalities prioritizing localities that are home to large returnee population and were affected by the May 2014 floods.

Main results:

Agriculture:

- A total of 506 farmers were supported in growing non-GMO soybeans, walnut, strawberry, cherry and raspberry;
- 436 soybean farmers generated a profit of 4 million KM in sales for 2017 and 2018 alone
- SME support:
- 71 SMEs were supported through the project in modernizing their production capacities, training their staff and accessing foreign markets, creating 432 new jobs.
- In addition, the project support eight greenfield investments with an additional 247 jobs created;
- In total, 679 new jobs were created with the project investment of some 1,8 million KM (equating to some 2600 KM per job).
- Livelihoods support for the vulnerable
- During 2017. and 2018, 10 public works projects were implemented for the long-term unemployed providing seasonal work for some 314 vulnerable individuals.

Support to start-ups: 17 new start-ups were created through the project in the three years of project implementation.

Infrastructure upgrades: A total of 38 infrastructure projects servicing more than 161,000 people were implemented in the course of the project, valued at almost 10 million KM. This includes water and sanitation facilities, schools, kindergartens, sports centres and business support infrastructure, among others.

Public administration reform and financial management: Through increased efficiency and better revenue management, partner LGs were supported in generating close to 10 million KM in development funding. This largely came in the form of cuts to operating expenses with an average reduction of 4.1 % across all operational expenses and all partner local authorities.

Good governance: Seven municipalities were supported in modernizing their servicing through the introduction of ICT solutions, to include document management, tax collection and disaster risk reduction.

Flood Recovery – Housing Interventions Programme in Federation BiH and Republica Srpska: The EU Programme worth EUR 15 million represents the next phase in the EU's efforts to alleviate the catastrophic effects of the 2014 million floods. The intervention, launched in September 2017, aims to provide durable housing solutions, coupled with improved livelihood

opportunities, for 2,895 most vulnerable people whose homes were damaged or destroyed in floods and landslides. The Programme prioritizes assistance to socially and economically marginalized groups, including, but not limited to, the elderly, low income households, persons with disabilities, minorities, returnees and those internally displaced.

Main results achieved so far: The construction of 285 and rehabilitation of 562 housing units is completed. Construction of additional housing units is ongoing. Within the economic component in total 204 households from 36 municipalities in BiH received aid packages. Assistance packages were delivered to households in the spring and fall of 2019 and in the spring of 2020. In the area of agricultural production, households received greenhouses with accompanying equipment and raw material for planting peppers, tomatoes and spinach, hives and raw materials for beekeeping, small agricultural machinery and equipment, and raw material for sowing corn.

Through the area of self-employment, six beneficiaries of the Program have been supported for which training has been organized to acquire the skills needed to develop and run their own small businesses. Upon completion of the training, the beneficiaries registered their small businesses and were provided with the necessary equipment and tools to operate. In the first year of operation, all participants in economic empowerment are provided with mentoring and counseling services to help them achieve the best results in the years to come.

The 2019 programme for **North Macedonia** included for the first time a budget support element aimed at improving the employment of young people, with a special focus on 15-29 year olds in the least developed regions, who are insufficiently trained to access the labour market.

A significant portion of the 2019 programme is allocated to the improvement of North Macedonia's competitiveness by the harmonisation of the internal market related legislation with the EU acquis and its enforcement, and to improving the access of start-ups and SMEs from underdeveloped regions to financing and business advisory services.

The programme also focuses on Rural Development and Competitive Sustainable Agriculture, in particular addressing the excessive fragmentation of agricultural land, need for irrigation, weak support system for agricultural producers, the need for innovative solutions in agriculture and related food industry, lack of a system for collecting and treating animal by-products, the need for a stronger forestry sector or the weaknesses in the control system on hazards to public, animal and plant health.

EU for Inclusion is an action financed in North Macedonia to reduce poverty and improve social, education and economic inclusion of people belonging to the most vulnerable groups. The support focuses on improving housing, education and economic opportunities for Roma and people living in deep poverty, on the improvement of the accessibility of educational facilities and on establishment of non-residential community-based services and support the vulnerable groups of people accessing them.

Under the Multi-annual programme for Transport and Environment additional funding was allocated for Environment focusing on wastewater management and for the construction of a key rail project in the Orient/East Med Corridor section Kriva Palanka-border with Bulgaria.

Four IPARD measures have been entrusted in North Macedonia so far – for investments in (1) farms, (2) primary food processing, (3) diversification of economic activity and (4) Technical Assistance. Five calls for project proposals were held by the end of 2019. Implementation of IPARD has significantly improved in the country in 2019, compared to the previous years.

Examples of successful IPA projects implemented in North Macedonia in 2019:

Modern customs and quality border control system, resulting in more effective customs controls, decreased administrative costs for citizens and business and improved transit traffic and cargo shipments along the European corridors 8 and 10. The EU invested EUR 6.5 million in a new electronic system for processing transit declarations and two new border terminals and modern customs clearance facilities of a total of 13,500 m², equipped with the latest technology inspection equipment, the necessary access and exit roads, parking and service support space. The EU investments allowed the country to meet all conditions to become a full member of the Convention on Common Transit Procedure and to ensure the full implementation of Additional Protocol 5 on Trade Facilitation of the CEFTA parties. The certification of 15 companies as authorised economic operators supports the trade with CEFTA countries. The expansion of the terminal Tabanovce, at the border with Serbia, provided for 30 % increase in the number of passing vehicles on the road border crossing entrance and exit while the number of passing transit vehicles in both directions can reach 30 % of the total cargo vehicles. The time for completing border crossing procedures for passengers and cargo shipments shortened due to one stop border crossing point ensuring clearance for both Serbia and North Macedonia. The new terminal parking lot at Kjafasan, at the border with Albania, now accommodates 45 bays for import and 25 bays for export cargo vehicles which facilitates customs procedures and shortens the time transporters spend at the border, thus reducing costs. The project created favourable infrastructural conditions for customs and border controls leading to enhanced trade and improved security of the borders and safety of the citizens.

The quality of both surface waters and ground waters is being detrimentally affected by the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated sewage. With the constructed Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) the whole population of the Eastern part of the country totaling 54,676 people, directly benefits from the properly treated waste water. All agricultural holdings also benefit from better environmental conditions when producing their agricultural products. The health of the citizens and the nature are better preserved. The volume of untreated municipal wastewater discharged into Strumica River was reduced in this way minimizing negative impacts on the quality of water resources, nature and health in Strumica region. In Montenegro, the focus in 2019 was

primarily in the areas of transport and environment and climate change. The programme is delivered through a mix of direct and indirect management.

The implementation of programmes from previous years also continued, focusing on a range of sectors including social, rule of law and agriculture, and competitiveness and innovation.

Additional support was provided as part of the multiannual education, employment and social policies programme. Social programmes continued aiming to address the integration of Roma and other vulnerable groups.

Of particular note, sector reform contracts in Integrated Border Management (IBM) and Public Administration Reform (PAR) continued their key work during 2019. For PAR this primarily focused on enhancing the professionalism and quality of the civil service and to match its resources with the needs of EU integration. Montenegro has entrusted for IPARD measures supporting investments in farms and primary processing and held three calls by the end of 2019. Request for entrustment for diversification of economic activity measure was submitted in 2019.

Under the IPARD funded project ‘Construction of new building and purchase of equipment for meat processing’ (IPARD contribution – 1,686,660.88 EUR) by Podgorka DOO, North Macedonia has funded the largest investment project in agriculture by improving environmental protection, quality and safety of food, and increasing employment of local population.

In Serbia, the support in 2019 focused on three key sectors: democracy, rule of law and competitiveness and innovation. Actions under the democracy and governance sector support the participation of Serbia in Union Programmes, and provide assistance to the national authorities to address some of the challenges arising from the European integration and negotiation process.

In the area of rule of law and fundamental rights, the aim is to contribute to strengthening the rule of law and to help Serbia achieve the obligations stemming from accession negotiations on judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security in line with the EU acquis. In addition, a specific action will contribute to enhance Serbia’s civil protection mechanism and reduce vulnerability to disasters.

In the area of competitiveness and innovation, focus is given to improve the business efficiency of SMEs and to enhance research and development by improving the excellence of scientific research and the relevance for the economy. The whole IPA programme is delivered through a mix of direct and indirect management.

Serbia also continued implementing three sector budget support programmes in the areas of public administration reform, integrated border management and education with good overall progress on reforms and tangible results. The assistance to governance and accession related priorities supported the opening of negotiating chapters in the area of financial services and free movement of capital.

Assistance provided through the EIF guarantee facility improved access to finance for SME’s contributing to the improvement of business environment and contributing to economic growth.

Finally, work on the important migration related assistance to Serbia continued with adoption of Special Measure as regards strengthening the response capacity of Serbia to manage effectively mixed migration flows in a value of EUR 27.45 million.

Serbia received the entrustment for the first two IPARD measures already in 2018. By the end of 2019, Serbia has launched five calls for project applications under IPARD. In November 2019 it submitted entrustment applications for two new measures: (1) Technical Assistance and (2) diversification of economic activity.

Examples of successful IPA projects implemented in Serbia in 2019:

The EU’s support to the reform in the education sector focused on improving the capacities of teachers in pre-university education for delivery of the learning outcome based curricula in order to improve student’s skills and competences. A total of 18,657 education professionals were trained to implement learning outcome based curricula according to the developed and accredited programme, (this equals to 23.93 % of the education professionals). In addition, the Sector budget support helped ensure that 104 textbooks in minority languages for primary school for all subjects were provided in time for the beginning of the school year.

A total of 546 state-financed scholarships were awarded to Roma secondary school students, providing them with opportunities to continue to learn and develop. In order to reduce Roma children drop-out rates, and improve the conditions for Roma children and students (girls and boys), a total of 243 pedagogical assistants were contracted to work with them.

Finally, in order to support a social partnership linking education and labour market, a total of 12 Sector Skill Councils were established by the Government and approximately 250 members were appointed, including 211 social partners’ representatives.

Serbia – The Innovation Fund – The EU support to the Innovation Fund of the Republic of Serbia can be seen as a real success story. The Innovation Fund is the key state institution supporting innovative activities and managing funding for stimulating innovation. Until today, out of more than 1 000 applications, 132 innovative projects of enterprises have been supported with EU funds with the following results:

- the revenue of financed companies increased by 225 % in six years – from EUR 6 million to EUR 20 million;
- 480 high-end jobs were created;
- exports increased for EUR 8.4 million.
- more than 33 national and 25 international patent applications were filed (from Europe to the USA, Australia and Japan).

- Most of the funds in the 2019 Annual Programme for Kosovo were dedicated to reduce the environmental impact of the Kosovo B power plant. Furthermore, an additional action is set to support innovation in Kosovo by increasing efficiency and productivity of the private sector through use of ICT. In December 2019, works started for the construction of biomass heating plant in Gjakova.

Kosovo continued the implementation of two sector reform performance contracts on public administration reform and public financial management, with the payment of the fixed tranches effected.

On 28 January 2019, Kosovo government has inaugurated the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Trust Fund (the first such fund in the region), to which the EU is contributing under IPA. The Fund will help municipalities in the implementation of their municipal energy efficiency action plans which will contribute to the achievement of the national energy efficiency targets. The Fund will target energy efficiency measures that will contribute to better comfort level for the students in schools, for the healthcare centers/hospitals, the service level in the municipal services buildings, and other public buildings, but also in street lighting, etc. The Fund should start disbursements in 2020.

Examples of successful IPA Multi-Country Programmes projects implemented in 2019:

Regional Housing Programme

The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) will provide housing to more than 36,000 vulnerable persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. It is an excellent example of the European Union commitment to addressing the consequences of the 1990s conflicts. The European Union is the largest donor, with EUR 234 million representing over 80 % of all contributions. In 2019, 7,200 additional beneficiaries received a new home. This brings the total of housing units delivered by end of 2019 to 6,468, offering a quality and durable housing solution to 19,400 people. The programme has also given extra assistance to improve the lives of re-housed people, including making sure they can access services (health, education, etc.) and benefit from rights (pensions, allowances, documentation, etc.). Additionally it has also supported local businesses and job creation.

Erasmus+

The focus on youth significantly increased in 2019 with the doubling of support for Erasmus+ to 66 million EUR a year. Around 50,000 academic mobilities between 2015 and 2020 would have taken place.

Evaluations/studies conducted

During 2019 four evaluations were completed.

- A study report covered EU support for Rule of Law in Neighbourhood Countries and Candidates and Potential Candidates of Enlargement (2010-2017) and was conducted by DG NEAR to provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of the scope and performance of implemented and on-going EU support for Rule of Law. The second evaluation assessed the Twinning instrument in the period 2010-2017 in order to inform the debate on the future of this delivery mechanism to support enlargement and neighbourhood countries in meeting their respective commitments in the framework of their relationships with the EU. The third evaluation was an ex-post evaluation of EU assistance to Croatia in the period 2007-2013, focusing on capacity development results and providing specific emphasis on Rule of Law, Economic Governance and Public Administration Reform. Finally, the evaluation of Sector approach under IPA II assistance assessed and provided evidence on the use and scope of sector approach in planning, programming and implementation processes under IPA II.
- In addition, a Staff Working Document on Economic Governance was finalised and published following the completion of the corresponding evaluation at the end of 2017, in accordance with the Better Regulation principles.
- Several strategic evaluations covering the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions were under implementation (thematic evaluations on EU info centres, civil society, migration and local authorities and a country evaluation of Serbia) in 2019.
- In addition, several new evaluations have been launched in 2019 (on IPA-IPA CBC programmes, gender equality, and country evaluation for Montenegro) as well.

Forthcoming implementation

Programming of IPA II 2020 started in 2019 for the Western Balkans. The parallel programming of IPA II 2019 and 2020 was undertaken because:

- The last two years of programming correspond to the timeline set in the Western Balkans Strategy for the Flagship Initiatives (2019-2020), as well as in the political commitments of the Sofia Declaration;
- It was necessary to frontload the funding for the connectivity projects pipeline, as well as to endow the Western Balkans Guarantee Facility.

In 2019, the European Commission adopted the 2020 programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (part 1), Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia, Serbia (part 1). The programmes for Kosovo (part 2), Serbia (part 2), Turkey, Multi-country and programming of the performance reward just allocated to North Macedonia and Albania are well advanced but still outstanding.

The political priorities of the Commission towards the Western Balkans continued to be supported through the 2020 IPA II interventions, in particular the fundamentals of enlargement, such as rule of law and democratic governance, economic growth and jobs, as well as other important priorities such as the connectivity agenda and security.

Following the adoption of the Western Balkans Strategy, of the Sofia Declaration, and of the Enlargement package, a stronger focus was put on the regional dimension of competitiveness, research and innovation and to the measures the beneficiaries need to adopt with a view to setting up the Regional Economic Area. Support to education and employment also remained a priority with actions aimed to support the reform of the vocational training systems, as well as employment and social services focusing on young people, women and vulnerable groups (including Roma).

Concerning Turkey, the synchronised programming of the last two budget years of IPA II provides space for the strategic planning of IPA III in 2020. As set out in the revised Indicative Strategy Paper, in order to increase impact, EU financial assistance shall be concentrated on the areas where reforms or investments are most needed and tailored to take into account the capacities of Turkey to meet these needs. Assistance shall be planned in a joined-up, coherent and comprehensive manner and taking into account that IPA is only one of the means to achieve the necessary progress. Following the final vote on the 2020 EU budget, the level of resources for 2020 reached EUR 168 million, a further significant cut compared to the draft budget. The allocations will target two main objectives: Democracy and Rule of Law (including the participation in EU programmes and agencies and the support to civil society through the Civil Society Facility); and IPARD. No funds are envisaged for support to other economic and social reforms.

Considering that the mode of indirect management is not delivering with sufficient speed and efficiency, direct management will be prioritised, with the exception of the IPARD programme for which there is strong administrative capacity in Turkey and good absorption.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 14 June 2018, the Commission adopted its legislative proposal for a regulation establishing the new Instrument for Pre-Accession, IPA III. This proposal is part of a set of new proposed instruments for EU external action under the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2017.

The new instrument will be clearly aligned with the priorities of the Western Balkan Strategy from February 2018 ‘A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans’, particularly to maximise the impact of the six flagship initiatives included in the Strategy. These flagships aim to support the implementation of robust economic reform programmes and enhance the focus on reforms necessary for future membership. At the same time, IPA III will be sufficiently flexible to adapt to the evolving situation in Turkey and reflect developments in our relations with the country. The new instrument will increase steer from the Union, as its programming is proposed to be based on priorities rather than country envelopes. This allows rewarding performance and progress towards key priorities and increased flexibility to respond to the evolving needs of the partners in their path towards accession.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)	2014 – 2020	11 698,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	50,7	41,7	41,8	44,6	45,2	46,0	46,7	316,8
Operational appropriations	1 426,8	1 531,2	1 635,5	2 073,0	1 995,4	2 347,4	1 523,8	12 533,2
Executive Agency	1,0	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,7	0,6	5,5
Total	1 478,6	1 573,7	1 678,1	2 118,4	2 041,4	2 394,1	1 571,1	12 855,5
<i>Of which contribution to Erasmus+</i>	<i>30,3</i>	<i>31,9</i>	<i>32,9</i>	<i>33,9</i>	<i>31,0</i>	<i>44,2</i>	<i>33,0</i>	<i>237,2</i>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	2 394,090	99,96 %	1 304,958	99,47 %	1 656,684	20,07 %	1 402,792	14,95 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	3 039,880	98,46 %	1 755,673	83,48 %	1 799,239	19,71 %	1 725,094	13,77 %

(*) 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 Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPAI) is making progress towards achieving its overall objectives and some IPA indicators are on track to be achieved. For other indicators more work is needed, for instance: although there has been reduction of cases in early stage of preparation in fundamental areas of the political accession criteria in the enlargement countries (indicator 1 of the Specific objective 1: Support for political reforms), the overall number is still not reduced due to backsliding in Turkey.

IPA II is a unique instrument that supports IPA II beneficiaries to cope with ambitious political and economic reforms and to progressively align to the European Union's rules, standards, policies and practices on their path towards EU membership. These main principles will not change under IPA III. However, IPA III programming will be also built on a stronger performance-based approach, to be assessed on a yearly basis and closely linked to the revised enlargement methodology, whereas the IPA II performance reward was granted only twice under the current instrument. It will also accelerate the projects' implementation by reducing the time gap between their selection and effective contracting.

The Commission will select the actions on the basis of their policy relevance, namely on their alignment with the Programming Framework and with the specific recommendations of the enlargement package for the countries. The second selection will then focus on technical maturity assessed against the actions documents and supporting documents. Only actions that are sufficiently technically mature (meaning, when most preparatory activities have been finalised) will be considered ready for adoption.

In line with the commitment to a merit-based enlargement process outlined in the revised enlargement methodology, the final selection of actions will also take into account the assessment of the performance of the IPA III beneficiaries in the enlargement agenda, their commitment to and progress in implementing reforms, with particular attention to key areas of the political accession criteria.

The Facility for Refugees in Turkey continues to deliver much-needed assistance to refugees and host communities in Turkey in all the priority areas it covers, i.e. basic needs, education, healthcare, protection, socioeconomic support and municipal infrastructure. The Facility Steering Committee meets on a regular basis and follows, monitors and steers the implementation of the facility. Six-monthly monitoring reports, which are publicly available, confirm that the facility is continuing to achieve its goals. The Commission is currently assessing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on projects under the facility and will discuss possible remedial action with implementing partners and the Turkish authorities

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance ('IPA II') shall support candidate countries and potential candidates in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. Through such support, IPA II shall contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiaries.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Support for political reforms.

Performance

Indicator 1 is particularly relevant since it shows the results of the enlargement policy, including financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance as regards two main fundamentals of the enlargement strategy (i.e. the rule of law and fundamental rights and public administration reform). The Commission supports the candidate countries and potential candidates to address the core issues measured by these indicators. These indicators provide also greater transparency in the enlargement process and should facilitate greater scrutiny of reforms by all stakeholders.

In terms of progress recorded in the 2019 enlargement reports, candidate countries and potential candidates made 'some progress' (12 cases) and 'good progress' (6 cases) towards meeting the political criteria. In Turkey there was backsliding in public administration reform, fight against corruption, functioning of the judiciary, and freedom of expression. In terms of readiness, there was six cases of 'early stage of preparation' in these areas of functioning of judiciary (Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Turkey), fight against organised crime (Kosovo), fight against corruption (Turkey) and freedom of expression (Turkey), and four case of 'early stage/some level of preparation'. Under the 'moderately prepared' category, there has been no change since the 2015 baseline, with five cases on public administration reform. However, the 2019 report noted improvement in North Macedonia, which reached 'some level of preparation/moderately prepared' in two areas: functioning of judiciary and fight against corruption.

There was limited visible progress towards meeting the 2020 target under this indicator. The enlargement countries need to implement difficult and time-consuming reforms to advance on the fundamental areas of political criteria, including sustainable and

far-reaching political and societal transformation. These reforms are extensively supported through IPA II financial assistance. The Commission put a particular emphasis on these areas in its Western Balkans Strategy of February 2018, including enhanced support to the countries, and in its communication of February 2020 on a revised EU accession methodology, which will put an even stronger focus on these fundamental reforms.

Indicator 2 takes the scores from eight publically available external sources taken in three groups:

1. Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank);
2. Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House);
3. Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank).

It should be noted that the indicators are based mostly on perceptions and do not necessarily reflect the impacts made by the EU assistance and policy in these areas. Overall, the trend is not as expected. There are also many external factors, which might influence overall scores (such as political instability, security situation, etc.), which make these indicators only subject to be indirectly influenced by EU action.

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of enlargement countries on fundamental areas of the political accession criteria. These areas are: Judiciary, Fighting organised crime, Freedom of expression, Fight against corruption and Public administration reform

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
5					Reduced number of cases			A majority of countries are moderately prepared in these areas
	Actual results							
		5	4	5	6			

Narrative: Baseline: Five cases of early stage of preparation in these areas (i.e Albania on the Judiciary, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Public Administration Reform and Kosovo on the Judiciary, Fighting organised crime, and Fight against corruption).

Comment: This composite indicator aims at showing where the candidate countries and potential candidates stand in terms of their preparations for meeting five key areas of the political criteria, namely the functioning of the judiciary, fight against corruption, fight against organised crime, freedom of expression and public administration reform. In each of these areas, the state of play (i.e. the readiness) in the candidate countries and potential candidates is assessed according to the following five-tier standard assessment scale: Early stage – Some level of preparation – Moderately prepared – Good level of preparation – Well Advanced.

Results for 2014 are not available since the assessments, used for the preparation of this composite indicator, have been first done in 2015.

Assuming that there will not be any backsliding on these areas, the target implies that by 2020:

- at least 3 more candidate countries and potential candidates become moderately prepared on the functioning of the judiciary;
- at least four more become moderately prepared on the fight against corruption;
- at least four more become moderately prepared on the fight against organised crime;
- at least four more become moderately prepared on freedom of expression.
- As for the public administration reform area, a majority of candidate countries and potential candidates are moderately prepared in this area already in 2015.

This composite indicator is based on a careful analysis of the situation under each of the areas. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results in each area. Accordingly, these aspects are given more weight than legal alignment and institutional framework in the overall assessment. These indicators have been introduced in the enlargement reports of 2015. Annual enlargement reports provide a detailed assessment of each area, used for the preparation of this composite indicator. For further details, please see the latest Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy.

Source: Annual enlargement country reports – European Commission;

Indicator 2: Weighted score based on 8 external sources

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Western Balkans: 51.53				> 52				> 55
	Actual results							
	51.55	50.56	49.77	48.84	47.69			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Turkey: 51.77				> 53				> 55
	Actual results							
	50.60	48.72	44.41	42.15	39.62			

Methodology: Eight external sources are taken in three groups, each weighted one third 1. [Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank); 2. Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House); 3. Government

Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank)]

Source: Values: 1 (Worst) – 100 (Best). Based on:

- Corruption Index (Transparency International) -<http://www.transparency.org/country>
- Control of Corruption (World Bank)-<http://web.worldbank.org>
- Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders)-<https://rsf.org/index2014>
- Freedom of Press (Freedom House)-<http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
- Government Effectiveness (World Bank)-<http://web.worldbank.org>
- Rule of Law (World Bank)-<http://web.worldbank.org>
- Regulatory Quality (World Bank)-<http://web.worldbank.org>
- Voice and Accountability (World Bank) -<http://web.worldbank.org>

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1.Measures to support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Western Balkans, of which (EUR million indicative as per CSPs)	22 02 01 01	8	189.3
2. Measures to support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Turkey	22 02 03 01	1	150,0
Total		9	339,3

Expenditure related output covering: Specific Objective 1 – Support for political reforms AND relevant part for Specific Objective 3 – Support for progressive alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis, including preparation for management of Union Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Measures to support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Western Balkans	F	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
	P	8	9	9	8	8		
Measures to support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Turkey	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	2	2	1	1		

Specific Objective 2: Support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Performance

Candidate countries and the potential candidates made some progress on meeting the economic criteria (indicator 1), according to the 2019 enlargement reports. In Turkey, there has been backsliding in the area of functioning market economy, although the country remained at a ‘well advanced’ stage of preparation. Albania, Montenegro and Serbia remain at a moderately prepared level, while North Macedonia has progressed to a good level of preparation. On competitiveness, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia remained moderately prepared, while Albania remained at some level of preparation. In terms of cases of early stages of preparation, this indicator remained stable in 2019 compared to the baseline, with four cases, on functioning market economy and competitiveness in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Although countries have registered some or good progress in 2019, there was still limited progress towards meeting the 2020 target for this indicator. The enlargement countries face challenges in advancing on the fundamental areas of economic criteria, which are interlinked with the political criteria. The Commission put a particular emphasis on these areas in its Western Balkans Strategy of February 2018, including enhanced support to the countries, and in its communication of February 2020 on a revised EU accession methodology, which will put an even stronger focus on these fundamental reforms.

The ‘Distance to frontier’ indicator by the World Bank (indicator 2), which shows the distance of each economy to the highest performance observed across all economies, has already met its milestone and target. Same for the milestone of the indicator ‘Average of exports and imports of goods and services as percentage of the GDP’, which has already been achieved for the Western Balkans countries.

Indicator 3: ‘Average of exports and imports of goods and services/ GDP – %’ has seen growth albeit with fluctuations from year to year. Please note that this is a high level indicator and that European Commission activities only indirectly contribute to it.

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of candidate countries and potential candidates on fundamental areas of the economic criteria These areas are: functioning market economy and competitiveness in the EU

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
4					Reduced number of cases			A majority of candidate countries and potential candidates reach a good level of preparation in these areas
	Actual results							
		4	4	4	4			

Narrative: Baseline: Four cases of early stage of preparation in these areas (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina on functioning market economy and competitive pressures; Kosovo on functioning market economy and competitive pressures).

Comment: This composite indicator aims at showing where candidate countries and potential candidates stand in terms of their preparations for meeting key areas of the two economic criteria, namely the existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union. In each of these areas, the state of play (i.e. the readiness) is assessed according to the following five-tier standard assessment scale: Early stage – Some level of preparation – Moderately prepared – Good level of preparation – Well Advanced. This composite indicator is based on a careful analysis of the situation under each of the areas. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results in each area. Accordingly, these aspects are given more weight than legal alignment and institutional framework in the overall assessment. Annual enlargement reports provide an assessment of the areas, used for the preparation of this composite indicator. Results for 2014 are not available since the assessments, used for the preparation of this composite indicator, have been first done in 2015.

These results indicators are particularly relevant since they show the results of its enlargement policy including financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance as regards one main fundamental of the enlargement strategy (i.e. economic criteria). To the Commission supports including through financial support the candidate countries and potential candidates to address the core issues measured by these indicators. These indicators provide also greater transparency in the enlargement process and should facilitate greater scrutiny of reforms by all stakeholders. Assuming that there will not be any backsliding on these areas, the target implies that by 2020:

- at least two more candidate countries and potential candidates reach a good level of preparation on the functioning market economy;
- at least three more reach a good level of preparation on the capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union.

Source: Annual enlargement reports – European Commission.

Indicator 2: World Bank’s ‘Distance to frontier’ (Doing Business) score

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Western Balkans: 59.63				70.00				72.00
	Actual results							
	68.66	68.63	70.97	72.31	72.54	71.95		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Turkey: 65.30				71.00				73.00
	Actual results							
	69.96	67.30	67.98	69.14	74.33	75.25		

Comment: The indicator shows the distance of each economy to the ‘frontier’, that means the highest performance observed on each of the indicators across all economies: 1 (Worst) – 100 (Best). The last DB Report has updated the methodology: both baseline values have been slightly revised upward. Milestones and targets have been slightly adjusted accordingly.

Source: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/distance-to-frontier>

Indicator 3: Average of exports and imports of goods and services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Western Balkans: 42.24 %				52.00 %				55.00 %
	Actual results							
	48.64 %	52.76 %	48.77 %	52.76 %	52.08 %			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Turkey: 20.46 %				32.00 %				35.00 %
	Actual results							
	25.02 %	23.93 %	23.45 %	27.05 %	30.08 %			

Comment: The indicator shows the degree of economic convergence of candidate countries and potential candidates towards the European average. The projections are based on a hypothesis of growth rate of 1.9 % in the EU area and 3.35 % in both Western Balkans and Turkey. Excluding Kosovo. Excluding Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Source: Eurostat

Unit of measure: As percentage of GDP

Indicator 4: GDP per capita (current prices-PPS) as percentage of EU level								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Western Balkans: 32.65 %	38.00 %							43.00 %
	Actual results							
	35.00 %	32.00 %	36.00 %	35.00 %	34.00 %			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Turkey: 49 %	60 %							65 %
	Actual results							
	64 %	66 %	64 %	67 %	64 %			

Comment: The indicator shows the degree of economic convergence of candidate countries and potential candidates towards the European average. Data excludes Kosovo because there is no GDP data.

Source: Eurostat

Indicator 5: Number of economic entities benefitting from IPA II assistance performing modernisation projects in agri-food sector								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Western Balkans:	520							5 250
	Actual results							
	0		0		118	1 812		
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Turkey:	120							1 200
	Actual results							
	0	0	0		335	1 086		

Comment: IPA resources for modernisation and upgrading of farms and food companies are very limited compared to the sector size in respective candidate countries and potential candidates and therefore targets are set only for the supported projects financed from the budget and not for the sector. The specific contracts in IPA II agriculture and rural development assistance are implemented in accordance with the N+3 rule, which means that a given budget allocation in this programme may actually be implemented (contracted and paid within a period of 3 years, following year N). The initial estimate of 5.250 will be implemented during the years 2018 – 2023. Targets are based on the information provided in country programmes, approved by the Commission decision for 7 years. Calculations of targets in the programmes are based on indicative financial allocations for the entire programming period. Should these allocations be revised, targets will have to be revised as well. This will be the case for Turkey, for which allocations have been significantly cut. Targets will be revised after the next programme modification, once reduced budget has been reflected in the programme. For Turkey, the initial estimate of 1.200 will be implemented during the years 2018 – 2023. This explains deviations in other relevant indicators, namely specific objective 2 – indicator 6 and specific objective 3 – indicator 2. In 2014-2017 no effective expenditure was made/projects implemented. Contracting and payments so far made only in North Macedonia and Turkey, forthcoming in Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia. These are cumulative values for the entire programming period. The target for budget year 2020 will be fully implemented as an output by the end of 2023 (N+3).

Indicator 6: Overall investment in physical capital in agri-food and rural development implemented by beneficiaries of IPA II assistance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Western Balkans:	53							710
	Actual results							
	0	0	0		2	120		
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Turkey:	200							1 586
	Actual results							
	0	0			167	655		

Comment: In 2014 no effective expenditure made/projects implemented. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented as output by the end of 2023.

Unit of measure: In EUR millions

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Measures to support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Western Balkans, of which (indicative as per CSPs)	22 02 01 02	6	396,9
Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	05 05 03 02	4	84
2. Measures to support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Turkey	22 02 03 02	5	0
Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	05 05 04 02	1	18,2
Total		16	449,1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Measures to support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Western Balkans	F	9	9	10	10	10	10	10
	P	10	9	10	10	10		
Measures to support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis – Turkey	F	6	6	10	6	6	6	6
	P	6	7	7	6	6		

Expenditure related outputs covering: Specific Objective 2 – Support for economic, social and territorial development AND the relevant part from Specific Objective 3 – Support for progressive alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis, including preparation for management of Union Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthening of the ability of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II-Regulation to fulfil the obligations stemming from Union membership by supporting progressive alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis, including preparation for management of Union Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Performance

According to the annual enlargement country reports, regular progress has been recorded for the indicator linked to alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis. The 32 cases of early preparedness include the following: 14 cases in Bosnia Herzegovina, 8 cases in Kosovo, 4 cases in Turkey, 3 in Albania, 2 in North Macedonia, 1 in Montenegro and none in Serbia. For a more detailed analysis and the summaries of the findings on readiness and progress of enlargement countries towards the alignment to the 33 acquis chapters, please refer to the 2019 country reports.

IPA II rural development programmes (IPARD) have reached the target for Turkey and are making rapid progress towards the target for Western Balkans in relation to ‘Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector’ (second indicator under this objective).

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of candidate countries and potential candidates on alignment to the acquis								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cases of early stages of preparation: 50 cases of early stage of preparation in the 33 chapters. Moderately prepared: No majority of candidate countries and potential candidates which are moderately prepared in 10 out of 33 chapters					Reduced number of cases			A majority of countries are moderately prepared in at least 30 out of 33 chapters
	Actual results							
		50	43	26	32			

Comment: This composite indicator aims at showing where the candidate countries and potential candidates countries stand in terms of their preparations for fulfilling the obligations stemming from EU membership, including the alignment to the 33 acquis chapters. In each of the acquis chapters, the state of play (i.e. the readiness) is assessed according to the following five-tier standard assessment scale: Early stage – Some level of preparation – Moderately prepared – Good level of preparation – Well Advanced.

This composite indicator is based on a careful analysis of the situation under each of the 33 acquis chapters. Particular emphasis is given to the

importance of implementation and track records of concrete results in each chapter. Annual enlargement reports provide a detailed assessment of these acquis chapters, used for the preparation of this composite indicator. For further details, please see the latest Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy. These result indicators are particularly relevant for DG NEAR since they show the results of its enlargement policy including financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance as regards the third criteria. DG NEAR role is to support including through financial support the candidate countries and potential candidates to address the issues measured by these indicators. These indicators provide also greater transparency in the enlargement process and should facilitate greater scrutiny of reforms by all stakeholders. Results for 2014 are not available since the assessments, used for the preparation of this composite indicator, have been first done in 2015. The 2017 figure does not include Bosnia and Herzegovina because it has not been scored that year.

Availability of Data: Cases of countries preparedness in 33 chapters.

Source: Annual enlargement country reports – European Commission

Indicator 2: Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Western Balkans:	0							3 325
	Actual results							
	0	0	0		49	1 812		
	Milestones foreseen							2023
Turkey:	0							1 115
	Actual results							
	0	0	0		323	900		

Comment: In 2014 no effective expenditure made/projects implemented. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented as output by the end of 2023. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented as output by the end of 2023.

Expenditure related outputs

The Expenditure related outputs designated for Specific Objective 3 – Support for progressive alignment with and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis, including preparation for management of Union Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development are split in the Expenditure related outputs of the following specific objectives, depending on their relevance:

Specific Objective 1 – Support for political reforms

Specific Objective 2 – Support for economic, social and territorial development

Specific Objective 4: Strengthening regional integration and territorial cooperation involving the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II-Regulation, Member States and, where appropriate, third countries within the scope of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Performance

Concerning regional integration and territorial cooperation most of the cross-border cooperation programmes were implemented. Only the Serbia-Kosovo, Greece-Turkey and Cyprus-Turkey programmes were not due to the political issues. The planned funds have been re-allocated to actions with civil society organisations.

Indicator 1: Number of cross-border cooperation programmes concluded among IPA beneficiaries and between IPA/EU Member States								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
IPA-IPA: 8				10				10
	Actual results							
	8	8	9	9	9	9		
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
IPA-EU: 12				12				12
	Actual results							
	0	10	10	10	10	10		

2010	Milestones foreseen						2020
Total CBC programmes: 20				22			22
	Actual results						
	8	18	19	19	19	19	

Comment: The Serbia-Kosovo, Greece-Turkey and Cyprus-Turkey programmes have never been prepared due to the political issues.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation**	22 02 04 01	24	603,6
Contribution to Erasmus+	22 02 04 02	1	32,4
Contribution to the Energy Community for South-East Europe	22 02 04 03	1	4,7
Cross-border cooperation (CBC) – Contribution from Heading 4	13 05 63 02	12	34,8
Participation of candidate countries and potential candidates in ERDF ETC – Contribution from Heading 4 (IPA II)	13 03 64 02	1	10
Total		39	685,4

* Expenditure related outputs include communication, monitoring, evaluation and audit actions.

** Multi-country programmes include contributions by the Union budget to financial instruments.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
05 05 03 02 – Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	27,5	46,8
05 05 04 02 – Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	29,1	20,0
22 02 01 02 – Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	129,6	145,7
22 02 03 02 – Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	37,2	43,0
22 02 04 01 – Multi-country programmes, regional integration and territorial cooperation	158,2	162,1
Total	381,6	417,6

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
88,6	210,3	216,5	191,7	379,2	381,6	417,6	1 885,5

(*)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).

Justification

Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-markers on climate mitigation and climate adaptation. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if climate mitigation/adaptation is marked as ‘principal objective’ and 40 % if it is marked as ‘significant objective’.

Rio-markers apply to actions funded in all sectors; however, past trends indicate that relevant actions tend to concentrate in the sectors of rural development, environment, energy and management of natural resources – hereby tentatively associated to Specific Objective 2 (Support for economic, social and territorial development). However, climate-related expenditure might contribute also to achieving Specific Objective 3 (Strengthening the ability of the beneficiaries to fulfil the obligations stemming from Union membership) as well as Specific Objective 4 (Strengthening regional integration and territorial cooperation).

IPA II supports the beneficiaries in their efforts to align to the EU2020 Strategy, which includes increasing energy efficiency in the industry, in transport and housing and increasing the share of renewable energy sources. Support in this area is channelled to the beneficiaries in particular through financial instruments; in the first instance the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) and the Green for Growth Fund (GGF).

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific objectives 2, but also 3 and 4	74,8	94,6
Total	74,8	94,6

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
0,0	0,4	11,7	22,5	70,2	74,8	94,6	274,2

(*)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

Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-marker on bio-diversity. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if bio-diversity is marked as ‘principal objective’ and 40 % if it is marked as ‘significant objective’.

Rio-markers apply to actions funded in all sectors; however, past trends indicate that relevant actions tend to concentrate in the sectors of rural development, environment, energy and management of natural resources – hereby tentatively associated to Specific Objective 2 (Support for economic, social and territorial development). However, biodiversity-related expenditure might contribute also to achieving Specific Objective 3 (Strengthening the ability of the beneficiaries to fulfil the obligations stemming from Union membership) as well as Specific Objective 4 (Strengthening regional integration and territorial cooperation).

Gender mainstreaming

The Commission is committed to the implementation of EU Gender Action Plan II, 2016-2020 (GAP II), as well as the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment in international fora and agendas. The GAP was endorsed on October 26, 2015 by the Council which confirmed in its Conclusions that gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU legal and political framework. A number of actions to address gender equality, such as the implementation of specific programs on gender equality, are undertaken: for example, IPA II funded ‘Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’ (EUR 5 million) programme gives a particular focus to the most disadvantaged groups of women.

In 2019, gender commitments under IPA amounted to EUR 763,33million, an increase compare to 2018 (EUR 587 million).

Data reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if gender equality is marked as ‘principal objective’ and 40 % if it is marked as ‘significant objective’. Gender markers apply to actions funded in all sectors respectively specific objectives.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Enlargement policy supports the candidate countries and potential candidate make progress towards meeting the political and economic criteria for accession as well as their ability to align with, implement and enforce EU rules and regulations. Accordingly, there is a strong focus on the fundamentals of the rule of law, human rights, public administration reform and economic governance. Through preparing the enlargement countries to join the EU, enlargement policy also makes a major contribution to fostering sustainability in these countries and their ability to meet the SDGs, with a key focus on SDGs 8 and 16.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The GAP II contributes to the achievement of the 17 SDGs, specifically delivering on the SDG 5 (‘achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’).

In 2018, 223 actions were reported in the Enlargement negotiations sub-region, of which 188 were aligned to GAP II thematic priorities. These encompass actions by seven EU Delegations – to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. This reflects an increase of 11.5 % in reported actions – up from 200 actions in 2017 – largely due to the report from North Macedonia. Thematic priority C was by far the most commonly addressed (105 actions), while priorities D (51) and B (48) were the focus of a similar number of actions.

Under the thematic priority B, objective 7 on violence against women and girls was the focus of 29 actions in five countries. The objective was addressed by 56 % of actions reported under thematic priority B. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, actions varied widely, with the EU supporting gender justice, including for rural women, child protection, and greater efficiency among the high judiciary and prosecutors. In Kosovo, the EU Delegation supported social services and the reintegration of violence survivors. In Montenegro, it contributed to a gender-transformative programme to name and shame instances of sexual harassment and VAWG. The EU Delegation to Serbia promoted the project ‘Raise Voice for Silent’ to enhance the identification of security risks with a view to preventing femicide in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights’ 2015 programme. As

a result, the Government of Serbia declared the 18th of May as ‘Remembrance Day for Murdered Women Victims of Violence’. In Turkey, the EU Delegation supported civil society and the development of a model for VAWG-related data collection. Objective 9 was addressed by the EU Delegation to Turkey. Actions to protect and prevent gender-based violence in crisis situations were implemented in the framework of Facility for Refugees in Turkey under IPE and in the framework of the EU Regional Trust Fund for the Syrian Crisis MADAD.

Under the thematic Priority C, the number of actions that addressed objective 14, decent work nearly halved compared to 2017. A focus was placed on women’s employment in sustainable development programmes, especially in the fields of agriculture and rural development – as in the case of the EU Office’s work in Kosovo. Partnerships with local actors were a priority for the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina to create viable conditions for rural women’s employment, the development of micro-enterprises, access to legal aid, and women’s entrepreneurship in the framework of the EU integration reforms related to economic policy. However, most programmes focused on the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and promoting women’s participation in the labour market. The most frequently selected indicators were 14.1, ‘income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution’, and 14.6, ‘informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex. Objective 15 was the focus of 40 actions (37 %). This marks a significant increase in support for ‘women’s access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’. Actions were implemented in six countries, including five regional actions implemented by the EU Delegation to Kosovo and North Macedonia, as well as by the EU Delegation to Turkey. The EU Delegations to Albania and EU Office in Kosovo also addressed women’s participation in agriculture and rural development, as well as in sustainable tourism in Albania. The EU Delegation to Turkey focused on responding to refugees’ labour demands. Overall, the most frequently selected indicators were 15.8, on the ‘number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services’, and 15.6, on the ‘number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support’.

Compared to 2017, actions which addressed objective 13 on education and training decreased by 10 % in 2018. Overall, indicator 13.10 was the most frequently selected indicator under thematic priority C. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey supported 11 programmes targeting Syrian women’s resilience and empowerment, vocational training and social cohesion, the integration of Syrian children into the Turkish education system, and young Syrians’ access to higher education.

Under thematic Priority D, EUD focused on objective 18. Support was particularly provided for women’s organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia. In Albania, the EUD bolstered civil society and human rights defenders, including in rural areas, while promoting the rights, inclusiveness, dignity and equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Lessons learned included the need for building women’s organisations expertise on EU accession processes and gender equality challenges. They also point to the importance of documenting results and investing in research on the role of women’s organisations in transforming gender norms as a means of evoking substantial change. Objective 17 ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’ was the second most targeted objective. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, The EUD continued to engage in the ‘Women’s Dialogue Initiative’, selected as a good practice in 2017. In Kosovo, the EU Delegation promoted youth’s engagement in democracy and evidence-based policymaking, as well as young women’s participation in political parties and decision-making processes. In Montenegro, the EUD supported the establishment of the Women Political Network. The EU Delegation to Serbia supported civil society organisations in the framework of UN Women’s global HeforShe solidarity campaign. In Turkey, the EU Delegation fostered networks between women academics, politicians and students in the framework of a programme spearheaded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The new strategy for the Western Balkans includes 6 flagship initiatives. Among them, the ‘flagship initiative to enhance support for socioeconomic development’ contributes to the achievement of SDG 8.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The strategy for the Western Balkans also provides a significant contribution to the achievement of SDG 16 through the ‘flagship initiative to strengthen the rule of law’; the ‘flagship initiative to reinforce engagement on security and migration’ and the ‘flagship initiative to support reconciliation and good neighbourly relations’.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Guarantee Facility I and II under the Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF)

The Financial Instrument of the European Union for the Guarantee Facility contributes to achieving the objectives of enhancing socioeconomic growth of the Western Balkans.

Its major objectives are the creation of preconditions for the emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential companies. The instrument will guarantee SME loan portfolios issued by commercial banks for new SME lending. This will entail improving SME access to lending by potentially lowering the cost of borrowing or providing better lending condition.

Guarantee Facility for Serbia under the Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF)

The Financial Instrument of the European Union for the Guarantee Facility contributes to achieving the objectives of enhancing socioeconomic growth of the Republic of Serbia.

Its major objectives are the creation of preconditions for the emergence and growth high-potential companies in Serbia. The instrument will guarantee SME loan portfolios issued by commercial banks for new SME lending with focus on innovative companies and start-ups. This will entail improving SME access to lending by potentially lowering the cost of borrowing or providing better lending condition.

Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF) under the Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility

The Financial Instrument of the European Union for the Enterprise Expansion Fund (ENEF) contributes to achieving the objectives of enhancing socioeconomic growth of the Western Balkans.

Its major objectives are the creation of preconditions for the emergence and growth of innovative and high-potential companies. The instrument will finance development and expansion capital in established SMEs with high-growth potential in their respective markets through equity participation. The Fund provides equity and quasi-equity funding (such as preferred shares, convertible bonds, mezzanine or subordinated debt) on a selective basis.

Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) under the Western Balkan Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility

The Financial Instrument of the European Union for the Enterprise Innovation Fund (ENIF) contributes to achieving the objectives of enhancing socioeconomic growth of the Western Balkans. Its major objectives are the creation of preconditions for the emergence and growth of early stage innovative companies through equity investments. ENIF targets innovative companies with high growth potential, which are at early stage to later stage across a spectrum from pre-revenue and very early revenue through companies with established revenues and close to profitability. Under the instrument, equity and quasi-equity investment can be used.

Western Balkan Guarantee

The Western Balkans Guarantee is a fully funded guarantee scheme and a pilot instrument to prepare for larger guarantees expected in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, in particular under the EFSD+, the successor of the current European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD). The objective of the Western Balkans Guarantee is to enable investors, particularly from the private sector, to scale-up investments in areas that directly contribute to sustainable socioeconomic development and regional integration, particularly boosting the region's competitiveness and job creation. In the context of considerable investment needs and constrained fiscal space, the guarantee will achieve this by crowding-in private capital to support private investment in areas contributing to key EU policy objectives. Between 4 to 8 projects will be contracted during 2020 and 2021 to implement guarantees aiming at mobilising investments of around EUR 1 billion to support socioeconomic development in the Western Balkans region.

Other mixed instruments:

European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)

The European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE) is a form of public-private-partnership. Its objective is to attract capital from the private sector thereby leveraging public donor funds that will assist the development of the private sector in the region. EFSE extends loans to local commercial banks and micro-finance institutions in the Western Balkans for on lending to micro and small enterprises and households. European Investment Fund (EIF) manages the EFSE, the latter generating impacts at three different levels:

- supporting micro and small enterprises as the backbone of the local economies, thereby contributing to generating income and creating employment,
- satisfying the basic need of decent shelter,
- strengthening local financial markets.

Green for Growth Fund (GGF)

The mission of the Green for Growth Fund, Southeast Europe is to contribute, in the form of a public private partnership with a layered risk/return structure, to enhancing energy efficiency (EE) and fostering renewable energies (RE) in Southeast Europe and Turkey, predominantly through the provision of dedicated financing to businesses and households via partnering with financial institutions and direct financing.

Refinancing Financial Institutions (local commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions such as microfinance institutions and leasing companies and other selected financial institutions) providing loans to households, businesses, municipalities and public sector for energy efficiency measures or renewable energy projects. Investments through Financial Institutions will constitute the majority of GGF's investments.

Providing direct financing to Non-Financial Institutions (energy service companies, renewable energy companies or projects, small scale renewable energy and energy efficiency service and supply companies) that meet GGF energy saving and/or emissions targets, and comply with the technical criteria and GGF exclusion list.

SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey

The overall objective of the SME Recovery Support Loan for Turkey is to mitigate the crisis impact for Small and Medium Enterprises and contribute to the development of the Turkish economy and employment sector. The main objective is to support SMEs with concrete productive investments by providing access to attractive and longer-dated debt financing. The co-financing of loans is to be provided to local commercial banks operating in Turkey (the ‘financial intermediaries’) for the benefit of eligible investments carried out by SMEs.

More information regarding the Financial instruments can be found at the documents accompanying the Draft Budget as per Art. 38(5) FR, Art. 49(1)(e) FR, Art. 140(8) FR.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

The conflict in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Over 5.7 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries with the crisis going into its 10th year. Despite the move of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to Europe in 2015/2016, the primary burden of hosting the refugees continues to fall on the neighbouring countries in the region. Lebanon (1 million) and Jordan (700,000) host the largest numbers of registered refugees per capita in the world. In Lebanon, one in five people is a refugee, while one in 15 is a refugee in Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey continues to host the largest number of refugees in the world, 3.7 million. Iraq and Egypt continue to host large numbers of Syrian refugees along with refugees from many other countries. Many of the refugees have now been in these host countries for many years and struggle to make ends meet. They are increasingly vulnerable and face extremely high rates of poverty. The impact on the neighbouring countries hosting the refugees, has been profound.

Since its establishment in December 2014, an increasing share of the EU’s support to help Syrian refugees and support Syria’s neighbouring countries cope with the refugee crisis is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The Trust Fund reinforces an integrated EU aid response to the crisis and primarily addresses longer-term resilience and early recovery needs of Syrian refugees, host communities and their administrations in neighbouring countries, in particular Lebanon, Jordan & Iraq. The Trust Fund’s programmes support basic education and child protection for refugees, training and higher education, better access to healthcare, improved water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as support to resilience, women empowerment and fighting gender based violence, economic opportunities and social stability. The scope of the Fund includes support to internally displaced persons in Iraq and support in the Western Balkans to non-EU countries affected by the refugee crisis.

Overall, EUR 1.9 billion has been mobilised in voluntary contributions from the EU budget, 22 EU Member States and Turkey. Almost all of this, EUR 1.9 billion has already been allocated by the Trust Fund Board to finance concrete actions helping refugees and host countries alike.

IPA Contribution to the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis: EUR 361.7 million up to 31 December 2019 ^(?).

^(?) DG budget EU TF in response to Syrian crisis annual accounts 2019

HEADING 4: Global Europe**Instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the European Agency for Reconstruction****Lead DG: REFORM****I. Overview*****What the programme is about?***

The Aid programme aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, with particular emphasis on:

- the economic integration of the island;
- improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU; and
- the preparation for the EU body of laws (also referred to as the EU acquis) following a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.

Specifically, the Aid Programme contributes significantly through private sector development schemes, facilitating the involvement of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and human capital development. Measures to be financed under the Aid Programme are exceptional and transitional in nature and are intended, in particular, to prepare and facilitate, as appropriate, the full application of the EU acquis in the areas where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession, following a solution to the Cyprus problem.

EU added value of the programme

The programme is the only EU funding for the Turkish Cypriots, who are EU citizens. There is very little assistance from individual Member States due to difficult legal and political circumstances in the de-facto divided island. The EU programme supports reunification efforts and prepares the Turkish Cypriots for the lifting of the suspension of the application of the acquis in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control. The EU contribution, in supporting the political process, economic integration and improved living standards, will be vital. Economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community in order to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus is mentioned very prominently in the Aid Regulation.

Implementation mode

The Aid programme is implemented under direct management, through the organisation of calls for tender and calls for proposals and under indirect management through the conclusion of contribution agreements with International Organisations or Members States Agencies.

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

The Aid Regulation dates from 2006 ((EC) No 389/2006) and the Commission continues to deliver assistance to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community, and by working under six objectives:

- Objective 1: Developing and restructuring of infrastructure;
- Objective 2: Promoting social and economic development;
- Objective 3: Fostering reconciliation, confidence building measures, and support to civil society;
- Objective 4: Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU;
- Objective 5 and 6: Preparing the Turkish Cypriot community to introduce and implement the acquis, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession

The Aid Programme remains ready to accommodate developments in the settlement process and to finance confidence-building measures resulting from this process, as done in the case of the opening of two new crossing points within the framework of the latest round of talks between the leaders in Cyprus in 2018.

Difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme have included problems arising from the non-recognised status of the beneficiary ⁽¹⁾, as well its poor absorption capacity (lack of coordination across beneficiaries, lack of long term coherent planning) and disputes with contractors, notably when it comes to works contracts. Those difficulties are addressed through programming of the financial assistance under the Aid Programme based on project maturity, policy relevance and track-record of past implementation. The underlying aim is to bring more tangible and visible impact in the priority areas with an annual programming resulting in a streamlined and compact set of actions. In addition, under this programming approach, the beneficiary is involved at an early stage and the EU Coordination Centre is progressively taking a more active role in prioritisation and self-assessment of projects.

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ⁽²⁾ 2014-2020 provides a multi-annual perspective to the programme with a provision for stable, annual funding. The assistance programme is, however, of an exceptional, transitional and temporary nature, aiming to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus. Council Regulation No 1311/2133, laying down the MFF, allows for a revision in the case that a reunification is achieved during the MFF period (in the absence of this, no major changes of strategy can be made).

Between 2006 and the end of 2020, EUR 591,6 million was programmed for operations under the Aid Regulation with EUR 240,1 million in the 2014-2020 period.

Key achievements

Major infrastructure investments, with a strong environmental and bi-communal focus, are under implementation and will continue to be programmed through the Local Infrastructure Facility and/or through targeted direct interventions. Continued support is provided for strengthening the private sector and labour market measures, with an emphasis on innovation and increasing employability. Likewise, concrete measures have been put in place aimed at eradicating animal disease and improving food safety standards. The ‘confidence building measures’ (support for the Committee on Missing Persons and for the Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage) have shown solid progress and good bi-communal acceptance. Two new Green Line crossing points, specifically requested as a confidence building measure were opened in 2018 and in July 2019. The Commission played an active role in reaching a technically acceptable solution to both communities on the interoperability of mobile phones across the island. Intensive efforts continue on the preparation for the implementation of the acquis.

The Commission reports annually on implementation of the Regulation ⁽³⁾. Some examples and more details of the recent programme achievements are:

- The contract for the construction of the New Nicosia Trunk Sewer was concluded in 2018 and the works are under implementation. The Nicosia branch includes the construction of approximately 13 km of sewers and force mains and four pumping stations. The works include odour treatment systems to avoid odour nuisance for the citizens. A contract for the irrigation works in Morphou was also awarded in 2018 and the implementation of the works is ahead of schedule, with a provisional acceptance expected around Easter 2020.
- The contract for the remedial works of the Famagusta sewerage network, amounting to EUR 20.5 million, was signed in April 2019. The remedial works at the sewerage network include parallel replacement of 31 kilometres of existing sewers in corrugated polyethylene, renewal of 2,347 existing house connections, and replacement of approximately 326 ‘blind’ tee pieces. It also includes the remedial works at the pumping stations. The entry into force of the contract and the commencement of the works are subject to obtaining clearance from the Republic of Cyprus on the use of the land and validation of the ‘design visa’ by the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Civil Engineers.
- The European Commission concluded a new ‘Local Infrastructure Facility’ contribution agreement with the United Nations Development Programme to continue supporting the well-established mechanism for EU-funded infrastructure investments. The contribution agreement concluded in December 2018 amounts to EUR 17.7 million over a four year period (December 2018 – December 2021), to be replenished by a complementary envelope of EUR 5.7 million in the first quarter of 2020. The facility aims to provide support for the identification, screening, development, procurement, and physical implementation of relevant local infrastructure investments.
- Actions to set up a sustainable integrated waste management plan have been funded allowing the collection and transport of solid waste to the central landfill to be optimised and the recycling of valuable resources are nearly completed, expected for first semester 2020.
- Around 500 grant awards were attributed to farmers, private sector development, community development, civil society and lifelong learning establishments. These helped farms and businesses to modernise and improve competitiveness, and schools along with other educational establishments to improve teaching methods and meet the labour market needs. Work

⁽¹⁾ The Commission operates in a unique political, legal and diplomatic context. Ad hoc arrangements are needed to implement the programme while respecting the principles of sound financial management. In EU-funded programme, in normal circumstances, agreements with a beneficiary government would establish the legal framework for development assistance. No such agreements can be made to the TCc: the EU acquis is suspended and the beneficiary is not recognised.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation 2015/623 of 21 April 2015.

⁽³⁾ The 12th annual report, covering 2017, was published on 22/06/2018 (COM(2018) 487 final).

in the communities and with civil society organisations helped develop advocacy, improve community services and civic engagement. The European Commission also signed in November 2018 a contribution agreement with Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas (NI-CO) for EUR 3 million to implement a three-year project for the establishment of an innovation centre in Nicosia Old Town to provide services to entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers.

- A high level of output was achieved by the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP), which has exhumed 1,221 sets of remains, of which 969 were genetically identified (December 2019 figures). The CMP's objective is to recover, identify, and return to their families, the remains of 2002 persons. The CMP establishes the fate of those persons declared missing by both communities as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-64 and 1974. The Aid Programme has financed more than 75 % of the CMP costs since 2006.
- With respect to confidence-building measures, the interoperability of mobile phones across the island was established on 11 July 2019, with the aim of improving communication between the communities and bringing all Cypriots closer together. The Commission played an active role in facilitating the discussion between actors of the two communities and acted as catalyser and facilitator to secure a solution that could be implemented technically.
- The bi-communal Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage (TCCH) was established in 2008 for the promotion and protection of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island. EU contributions under the Aid Regulation started in 2011 reaching an amount of nearly EUR 20 million to date. By the end of 2019, a total of 57 restoration works have been completed and over 100 cultural heritage sites have benefitted from this assistance, while 28 projects are in the pipeline for the next two years.
- A EUR 1 million support facility for the first time in history targeting all bi-communal Technical Committees has also been concluded in 2019 with the purpose to help the Technical Committees to overcome structural and practical obstacles, which they face in their daily operations. Since then, 6 committees have benefited from the assistance and the facility has been widely acknowledged as revitalising their work.
- The Commission, through its EU Infopoint and other projects, has carried out a range of communication and visibility actions (1,172) in 2014-2019 providing information about EU policies, priorities and actions in support of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc), and promoting European culture. This has considerably enhanced the visibility of the EU in the northern part of Cyprus.
- The Aid Programme supports scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and professionals, which provide both experience and a route to qualifications abroad and contribute to the image of the EU among Turkish Cypriots. Students and professionals from the TCc have no or only limited access to EU scholarship programmes. Since 2007, 13 annual grant schemes have delivered over 1,500 grants for study in EU places of learning.
- Intensive efforts continue on the preparation for the implementation of the acquis in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus where the government does not exercise effective control upon the entry into force of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. Preparation for the acquis takes place mainly through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument (expert missions, training courses, workshops and study visits) with around 1,190 TAIEX actions in 2014-2019. TAIEX allowed for the drafting of some 200 legal texts covering 17 areas of the EU acquis.

Contribution to policy achievements

The main policy objective under the legal base (Regulation (EC) No 389/2006) is the reunification of Cyprus and the Aid Programme has supported this with a distribution of resources among the objectives specified in the Regulation.

Evaluations/ Studies conducted

By year-end 2018, DG REFORM had concluded a contract for the implementation of the first Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) exercise aiming at reviewing a minimum of 16 actions in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. It will assist DG REFORM with respect to the monitoring of and reporting on EU funded projects under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

The ROM reviews and support missions to be carried out are the following:

- a) ROM reviews of strategic projects for which such ROM reviews may have a particular usefulness or for innovative projects.
- b) ROM reviews of projects signalled as having implementation problems and where EC services or EUPSO have identified a need for an outside expert review to assist in addressing the problems, identifying causes and options for solution and making recommendations.
- c) Support to improve the current monitoring systems of projects and, where relevant, to help operational Programme Managers to set-up a ROM-compliant monitoring system.

The ROM reviews will focus on service contracts and grants schemes and will cover a significant number of contracts, both recently closed and ongoing. The implementation of the Results Oriented Monitoring contract has started in end 2018 and will

continue for a period of two years. 12 projects have been assessed so far and a project management training has been delivered to more than 30 participants. The recommendations issued by the ROM experts have been very useful for the project managers to improve the implementation of the projects. A few illustrations:

- Further EU support is needed to ensure the capacity increase of Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations (CSOs). The current project provides a comprehensive ‘toolbox’ that largely responds to the needs of the Turkish Cypriot CSO community. As recommended, the project design has been improved in the tender for the upcoming support.
- For the EU Info Point contract, it was considered that the scope could be expanded in terms of the support it provides to other EU funded projects with communication and visibility rather than just sharing visibility products developed by projects. The content of the actions should reflect better the TCc context e.g. by ensuring more input from local partners. These issues are being dealt with in the inception phase under the new EU Info Point contract.
- For the assistance to grant beneficiaries and the Contracting Authority regarding grant agreements, monitoring and evaluation experts have been mobilised, procedures have been simplified and workshops for experts have been organised.

The project management training combined theoretical and practical knowledge which was tailored to the need of the participants. Project managers from EU Coordination Centre, EUPSO and grants implementing partners benefited from this hands-on training. It is expected that 6 to 7 additional projects will be subject to a ROM review in 2020.

A contract for the evaluation of the Aid Programme provided during the period 2013-2018 was concluded in December 2019 and the conclusions of this independent evaluation are to be received before year-end 2020.

Forthcoming implementation

The Cyprus settlement process remains in suspense following the failure of the June/July 2017 multilateral conference in Crans-Montana. This uncertainty remains a major and permanent unknown as progress in the settlement process would entail a potential significant revision of the programme, with an increased focus on providing support to carry forward the results of the negotiations.

The mandate of the Aid Regulation remains unchanged in the meantime and the Commission stands ready to provide support. A maximum degree of flexibility is therefore necessary. The situation and needs for 2020 cannot be easily predicted.

The 2020 annual action programme for a total envelope of EUR 36.6 million is foreseen for adoption in the second half of 2020. Confidence-building actions will continue. The programme will also provide a continued support to infrastructure scheme, notably in the modernisation of the energy sector and necessary upgrade to the monitoring systems of the grids at consumer level to facilitate the development and integration of renewable energy facilities. Objective 2 will also be largely covered by projects aiming at promoting social and economic development (technical assistance to farmers, continued support to improve food safety, consumer and animal health, modernising the education sector, extended support to entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers through tailored advices and by exploring the possibility of micro-credit in the Turkish Cypriot community).

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On the basis of the proposal made by the Commission, the Instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community remains unchanged for the period 2021-2027. In the Commission’s proposed structure for the new Multiannual Financial Framework, the programme ‘Support to the Turkish-Cypriot Community’ is part of Heading 2 ‘Cohesion and Values’ in ‘Regional Development and Cohesion’ cluster.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 of 27 February 2006 establishing an instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the European Agency for Reconstruction	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	31,5	30,6	33,2	34,8	34,5	35,1	35,8	235,5
Total	31,5	30,6	33,2	34,8	34,5	35,1	35,8	235,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	35,122	100,00 %	34,500	100,00 %	35,762	0,00 %	37,000	21,28 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	36,299	97,63 %	35,387	100,00 %	36,704	0,00 %	37,083	21,23 %

(*) 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 programme is the only EU funding for the Turkish Cypriots, who are EU citizens. There is very little assistance from individual Member States due to difficult legal and political circumstances in the de-facto divided island. The EU programme supports reunification efforts and prepares the Turkish Cypriots for the lifting of the suspension of the application of the *acquis* in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control. The EU contribution, in supporting the political process, economic integration and improved living standards, is vital. Economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community in order to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus is mentioned very prominently in the Aid Regulation.

In this context, it is of the utmost importance that the MFF for the period 2021-2027 continues to provide a stable source of funding in favour of the Turkish Cypriot community.

The Aid Programme is implemented in a unique diplomatic, legal and political context. Major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme arise from the non-recognised status of the beneficiary as well as from disputes with contractors, notably when it comes to works contracts. Those challenges are further exacerbated by the lack of absorption capacity and resources on the beneficiary side as well as by the deficiencies in available data and statistics. This often results in serious delays in the preparation of projects and in bringing them to maturity, which – over the years – has led to a substantial amount of uncommitted funds. This ‘backlog’ was successfully addressed in the recent period through better programming, more efficient handling of tendering procedures, and smoother internal procedures and coordination within DG REFORM.

Action programmes are designed in a way to ensure targeted and compact set of actions, while providing for efficient and effective implementation of the Aid Programme. They are based on a high-level programme evaluation and address the identified and urgent needs. The most recent exercises followed a renewed approach towards programming of assistance based on project maturity, policy relevance and the track record of past implementation. In addition, under this programming approach, the beneficiary is involved at an early stage and the EU Coordination Centre, the TCc body in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Aid Programme, is progressively taking a more active role in prioritisation and self-assessment of projects. The process is intended to be further improved and refined, and efforts are being undertaken to trigger a more strategic approach on the Turkish Cypriot side in this respect.

The assistance is implemented through direct and indirect management, taking account of the different types of constraints. Recently, innovative mechanisms on delivering aid have been initiated with the purpose of bringing coherence and streamlining priority infrastructure actions (Local Infrastructure Facility), improving the entrepreneurship ecosystem through enhanced linkages between research and business (Innovative Entrepreneurship), and supporting the bi-communal Technical Committees to carry out their activities more effectively. The underlying aim is to bring more tangible and visible impact in the priority areas with an annual programming resulting in a streamlined and compact set of actions.

Since the Aid Regulation has been adopted, the TCc has benefited from a financial assistance amounting to EUR 555 million. The Aid Programme is implemented in a territory whose existence is not recognised and whose ‘institutions’ cannot be strengthened. This means that we are operating with perennially weak partners and this impacts negatively on the efficiency and effectiveness of our intervention. This unique situation has got a certain number of consequences when it comes to programme implementation:

- The property rights have to be respected when it comes to works contracts. This limits, in terms of geographical areas, the scope of our intervention. In addition, the procedures for property clearance is long and cumbersome and is delaying the implementation of our works contracts
- Development of IT system is an area where we have encountered difficulties and inefficiency. As a recent example, in our support to the eradication of animal disease, we have financed the development of an Animal Identification Registration database. The database is not yet functional. As a consequence, it was decided to refrain from supporting development of IT systems except in very well justified circumstances.

Despite the inherent difficulties linked to the nature of the Aid Programme, we have not experienced specific shortcomings or difficulties with the implementation of the Aid Programme. This is notably confirmed by that audit conducted in 2012 by the

European Court of Auditors (Special Report 6/2012) which was generally positive about the intervention methods and results. The ECA main conclusions were:

1. The Commission succeeded in developing a programme where the objectives of the instrument were reflected in the interventions funds;
2. The programme addresses and appropriately prioritises all sectors referred to in the regulations objectives;
3. The programme has assisted many different beneficiaries across the TCc and some important results have been achieved.

The main policy objective under the legal base (Regulation (EC) No 389/2006) is to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc). The Aid Programme has supported this with a distribution of resources among the six objectives specified in the Regulation. The below provides some illustrations of what has been achieved for each of the objective:

1. Objective 1: Developing and restructuring of infrastructure.

Major infrastructure investments, with a strong environmental and bi-communal focus, have been funded and will continue to be programmed through the Local Infrastructure Facility and/or through targeted direct interventions. In total, 260 kilometres of water supply networks and more than 100 kilometres of sewerage pipes have been financed through the Aid Programme.

Since 2014, some EUR 80 million have been invested in projects mainstreaming climate actions and contributing to the Europe 2020 priorities, notably through the following:

- The large wastewater treatment plant in Nicosia was inaugurated in 2014. This is the largest such plant on the island and serves 300,000 'population equivalent' in both communities.
- Actions to set up a sustainable integrated waste management plan have been funded allowing the collection and transport of solid waste to the central landfill to be optimised and the recycling of valuable resources is nearly completed.

The EU remains committed to providing the citizens of Famagusta with a functional and hygienic sewerage system. An initial work contracts, for an approximate value of EUR 10 million has been concluded in 2020. The Contractor has built a sewer network and pumping stations that both Parties agree are riddled with defects (reserve slops; defects joints, ...). As a consequence of the importance of the defects and the impossibility to fix them, the EU has decided to launch a tender aiming at repairing the existing one by constructing a network in parallel of the defects one. A contract has been awarded for an approximate value of EUR 20 million and the works are expected to be started in 2020.

2. Objective 2: Promoting social and economic development.

EU actions support, amongst others, rural development, human resources development and regional development. In total, since 2006, more than 500 grants have been awarded to farmers, local communities, schools, and SMEs.

More specifically, 230 rural development grants have been concluded for an approximate value of EUR 28 million and 200 farmers received training in husbandry practices to improve water use efficiency and farm hygiene. The targeted support to farmers through facilitating investments and purchase of equipment enables them to upgrade their material and to secure their survival in a difficult and closed economic environment. Concrete measures have been put in place, aimed at eradicating animal disease and improving food safety standards.

Access to credit has been and remains a major problem in the Turkish Cypriot community. The Aid Programme has also supported the promotion of security growth and job creation through conclusion of 160 grant agreements with SME and start-ups, complementing by access to credits and capacity building, supporting local businesses. The SME grant scheme permitted companies to benefit from EU support enabling them to improve their competitiveness and thereby ensuring their survival in a difficult economic environment.

3. Objective 3: Fostering reconciliation, confidence building measures, and support to civil society.

The main achievements are the following:

- A high level of output was achieved by the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP), which has exhumed 1,221 sets of remains, of which 969 were genetically identified (December 2019 figures). The CMP's objective is to recover, identify, and return to their families, the remains of 2,002 persons. The CMP establishes the fate of those persons declared missing by both communities as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-64 and 1974.

- The bi-communal Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage (TCCH) was established in 2008 for the promotion and protection of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island. The work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage provides technical support and helps building trust between the two communities. The Committee is supported in its work by archaeologists, architects, art historians and town planners from both communities. The Technical Committee works to provide a mutually acceptable mechanism for the implementation of practical measures for the proper preservation, physical protection and conservation of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The protection of cultural heritage is an integral part of the ongoing process of broadening areas of cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The protection of cultural heritage in this context stimulates sustainable development and mutual understanding. The conservations include religious sites (Orthodox, Muslim, Latin, Armenian and Maronite), but also mills, fountains and hamams. Local communities attend completion events and for some this provides an opportunity to visit sites that they never visited before.

EU contributions under the Aid Regulation started in 2011 reaching an amount of nearly EUR 20 million to date. By the end of 2019, a total of 57 restoration works had been successfully completed and over 100 cultural heritage sites had benefitted from this assistance, while 28 projects are in the pipeline for the next two years. For information purposes, the following large flagship projects have been completed so far: Upgrading to Kyrenia Shipwreck Gallery; Agios Panteleimonas monastery in Myrtou/Camlibel; Apostolos Andreas monastery in Rizokarpaso; Othello Tower in Famagusta; Famagusta Walls complex (2017)

- Strengthening the civil society as a key actor in the development of a culture of dialogue, participation in the community life and the promotion of values of tolerance, peace and active citizenship and the promotion of reconciliation, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek communities. Sixty projects and more than 80 civil society organisations have been supported since the inception of the Aid Programme with a total support of EUR 13 million. These grants fund a variety of actions in the fields of environment, human rights, art and sport and encourage citizens' engagement and cross-community exchanges.

The active citizenship mechanism proves to be particularly successful from the perspective of the final beneficiaries. Also called **Grow Civic**, it is an 'in-kind' support for activists, citizen's initiatives, platforms, networks, and Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs). The maximum amount that an activist/CSO can request at one time is EUR 3,000 (and up to EUR 10,000 overall the TA's duration) Greek Cypriots can apply to it provided they are working with a TC partner. This mechanism has supported more than 61 actions since 2016 and requests have been made in very different areas (human rights, health, animal health, environment, sports, etc.)

4. Objective 4: Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU.

The Aid Programme supports scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and professionals, which both provide experience and a route to qualifications abroad and contribute to the image of the EU among Turkish Cypriots. Students and professionals from the TCc have no or only limited access to EU scholarship programmes. Since 2007, 13 annual grant schemes have delivered over 1,500 grants for study in EU places of learning, involving more than 100 universities, covering 23 EU countries of destinations and securing the training of 20 different professions

- Objectives 5 and 6: Preparing the Turkish Cypriot community to introduce and implement the acquis, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession.

Preparation for the acquis takes place mainly through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument (expert missions, training courses, workshops and study visits) with around 1,190 TAIEX actions in 2014-2019. TAIEX allowed for the drafting of some 200 legal texts covering 17 areas of the EU acquis.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the *acquis communautaire*.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the *acquis communautaire*.

Indicator 1: Reconciliation and confidence building: 'Tendency to trust the EU as an institution'								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
57 %	Actual results							60 %
	66 %	51 %	52 %	52 %	53 %	0		

Comment: The 2014 figure may have been the result of re-starting the settlement talks and high optimism.

Source: Eurobarometer

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises having received EU support in the form of a grant								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
290	Actual results							420
		330		370	370	420	420	
		330	330	330	380	407		

Methodology: Cumulative

Comment: The actual results for the period 2015-2017 have been adjusted to reflect the effective number of enterprises having received EU funding. In the course of 2019, it is expected that some more 30 to 40 enterprises will benefit from an EU Support in the forms of grant.

Indicator 3: Cross-green-line trade volume in process of progressive increase								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
3 411 593	Actual results							8 500 000
	6 500 000	5 270 000	5 500 000	8 500 000				
	3 520 045	3 613 989	4 374 968	4 790 964	4 856 892	5 423 076		

Comment: Trade across the Green Line has developed more slowly than anticipated as a number of obstacles to trade, identified in the annual reports on implementation of the Green Line Regulation, remain in place. To take one example, the Republic of Cyprus still does not allow the crossing of processed food products and materials for contact with food. The Commission is engaged in contacts with the Republic of Cyprus to address this issue. Trade across the Green Line increased by 1.4 % last year. The 2017 targets were set too high and the targets for the years 2020 are most probably too ambitious as we expect a roughly similar increase in the years to come.

Source: Republic of Cyprus

Indicator 4: To increase EU visibility in northern Cyprus: Communication actions								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
49	Actual results							90
	50	90	90	90	90			
	53	188	138	120	330	343		

Comment: The high results obtained as of 2015 is due to a very active, new 'Infopoint' project, which delivered a much higher output than expected. We expect this trend to be continued in 2019 and 2020 with approximately 300 actions on a yearly basis. This is the consequence of the increased level of activity with the aim to improve the EU visibility of EU funded projects in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Source: European Commission

Unit of measure: Actions/year

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. development of infrastructure actions	13 07 01	3	
2. social/economic development actions	13 07 01	7	
3. reconciliation, confidence building actions	13 07 01	3	
4. bringing TCs closer to the Union	13 07 01	0	

5/6. preparation for acquis	13 07 01	160 Actions	
7. horizontal actions	13 07 01	5	
Total		178	36.6

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
The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30 % of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)
The share of early school leavers should be under 10 % and at least 40 % of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Waste water re-use	0,0	0,0
Renewable energy	5,5	5,0
Solid waste recycling	2,8	3,0
Total	8,3	8,0

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
3,0	13,2	14,3	10,8	11,2	8,3	8,0	68,8

(*)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 Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community includes assistance for infrastructure development and environment as objectives of the Aid Regulation. Major infrastructure works have been completed. Additional infrastructure works, in the sector of environment, have been contracted and will be continued to be contracted in 2020 and 2021:

- 2015 and 2017 Annual Programmes: sewerage networks, connections to wastewater treatment, water re-use (works): EUR 15.4 million for works, supervision and Technical Assistance contract.
- A substantial amount – EUR 22.8 million (including supervision costs) (2016 Annual Programme) – has been contracted in February 2019 for the repair works of the Famagusta sewage network.
- A global envelope of EUR 23.4 million has been allocated in the 2017-2019 Annual Programme for the 'Local Infrastructure Facility' to finance prioritised and shortlisted infrastructure projects submitted by the local communities. In addition, an approximate budgetary envelope of EUR 4.7 million is expected as part of the 2020 Annual Programme. EUR 17.7 million has been contracted by 31 December 2018, to be increased by EUR 5.7 million (made available as part of the 2019 Annual Programme) expected to be contracted in Q1 2020. The budgetary envelope to be made available through the 2020 annual programme is expected to be committed in early 2021 after adoption of the financing decision.
- An approximate budget of EUR 5 million is scheduled to be programmed as part of the 2020 Annual Programme to modernise the energy sector and to upgrade the monitoring systems of the grids at consumer level to facilitate the development and integration of renewable energy facilities.

In addition, TAIEX activity targets several issues related to the EU environmental acquis.

All the actions listed above can be considered direct or indirect climate actions (both for mitigation and adaptation). Environmental infrastructures (solid waste management system, sewer systems) will allow direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Targeted actions in the energy sector also aim to facilitate the production of renewable energy. Multi-stakeholders capacity building activities in water and waste sector as well as TAIEX assistance in the EU environmental acquis will allow mainstreaming climate change issues and derived actions at different levels.

Gender mainstreaming

Through its assistance to civil society, the programme has provided support to different Women's Associations and Networks. Specific consideration to gender mainstreaming is given, amongst others, for the selection of projects to be funded through the Local Infrastructure Facility and under the calls for proposals such as for civil society and rural development.

Programming will ensure that EU guidelines on gender mainstreaming will be applied to all new projects.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals***SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all***

4. Quality Education – via grants the programme helps in promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The aid programme has provided training for teachers in curriculum development, invested in vocational education and training as well as providing equipment for schools, including science laboratories

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – the programme helps in building resilient and sustainable infrastructure and fosters innovation.

The Aid Programme has assisted in providing solid waste disposal sites compliant with EU standards as well as tackling the problem of disposal of animal by-products

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12. Responsible Consumption and Production – Through assistance to SMEs to upgrade standards, the programme promotes sustainable production patterns.

The SME grant scheme permitted companies to benefit from EU support enabling them to improve their competitiveness and to upgrade and improve their production patterns.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – through assistance to Civil Society Organisations and public awareness, the programme promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

The programme has specifically targeted the problem of human trafficking and awarded grants to organisations working on both awareness-raising and legal changes. Draft legislation to recognise human trafficking as a crime has been introduced.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

Lead DG: NEAR

Associated DGs: EAC, REGIO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is the main financial instrument for implementing the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and provides the bulk of EU funding to the 16 ENP partner countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Syria ⁽¹⁾, Palestine ⁽²⁾, Tunisia, and Ukraine. Union support under the ENI is also used to enable the Russian Federation to participate in particular in cross-border cooperation (CBC) and other relevant multi-country programmes, including in cooperation on education (Erasmus+).

The ENI is designed to promote development, institution and capacity building, democracy, rule of law and good relations and integration of partner countries into the EU market.

EU added value of the programme

The EU has a strategic interest in seeing greater prosperity, economic development better governance, state and societal resilience in its neighbourhood and in promoting stability and security in the region. Although the responsibility for this lies primarily with the countries themselves, the EU can effectively encourage and support their reform and modernisation efforts. The objective of the European Neighbourhood policy (ENP) is to build, together with partners, a prosperous, secure and stable neighbourhood based on shared values and common interests. By acting at the Union level and by streamlining financial resources the EU has greater leverage to achieve a common goal: prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the EU and its neighbours. The EU provides financial resources to support partners' own reforms and thus stimulates their transition and modernisation programmes. In addition, the EU has a leading role in bringing together donors, including major actors outside the EU, to work together on providing a comprehensive response to the new challenges in the region.

Regional cooperation programmes within the framework provided by the Union for the Mediterranean and the Eastern Partnership are structured around common goals and allow partner countries to discuss and seek solutions to common problems and challenges.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is the lead DG for the programme implementation.

The vast majority of ENI funding is used for bilateral cooperation, tailor-made to each Neighbourhood partner country. In this context, our assistance to partner countries in the Neighbourhood is framed by jointly agreed documents (Partnership Priorities, Association Agendas and equivalents) between the EU and each partner country. These documents sets out strategic priorities and serve as the political framework guiding the priorities for cooperation.

In addition to bilateral cooperation, ENI funding also supports regional, Neighbourhood-wide and Cross Border Cooperation programmes. These programmes are designed to complement bilateral cooperation programmes.

ENI funded activities are implemented and managed in various ways. Under direct management, the implementation of the budget is carried out directly by the Commission. Under indirect management, budget implementation tasks are delegated to and carried out by entities entrusted by the Commission. They can be the ENI beneficiaries or entities designated by them, an agency of a Member State or, exceptionally, of a third donor country, an international organisation or an EU specialised (but not executive) agency. In other words, the Commission delegates the management of certain actions to external entities, while still retaining overall final responsibility for the general budget execution. Under shared management, implementation tasks are delegated to EU Member States for cross-border cooperation programmes.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

From 2017 to 2019 the Commission adopted Annual Action Programmes, Multi-Annual Action Programmes, Special Measures and Individual Measures reaching EUR 7.7 billion in commitment appropriations, out of which EUR 2.5 billion in 2017 (100 % budget execution reached), 2.5 billion in 2018 (100 % budget execution reached) and EUR 2.7 in 2019 (100 % budget execution reached). Commitments included allocation through the ENI 'umbrella programme' of:

⁽¹⁾ EU Cooperation with Syria is currently suspended due to the political situation since May 2011.

⁽²⁾ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

- EUR 196.5 million (2017);
- EUR 204.3 million (2018);
- EUR 215.1 million (2019).

In 2017 the following programmes were adopted:

- 15 Annual Action Programmes (including 1 regional East, 1 regional South, 1 Neighbourhood wide)
- 6 Special Measures (1 on Israel and 1 on Syria, 2 on Ukraine, 1 Palestine, 1 Libya)
- 2 Special Measure for the 2017 ENI contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa
- 2 Special measures for the 2017 ENI contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis

In 2018 the following programmes were adopted:

- 15 Annual Action Programmes (including 1 regional East, 1 regional South and 1 Neighbourhood wide)
- 2 Multi-annual Action Programme for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (1 for Palestine and 1 for Egypt)
- 4 Special Measures (1 on Israel, 1 on Libya, and 1 on Syria, 1 on Belarus)
- 2 Special measures for the 2018 ENI contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis
- 1 Special measure for the 2018 ENI contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa
- 1 Individual measure for Support to Democratisation in the Southern Neighbourhood through the European Endowment for Democracy (EED)

In 2019 the following programmes were adopted:

- 12 Annual Action Programmes (including 1 regional East, 1 regional South and 1 Neighbourhood wide)
- 3 Multi-Annual Action programmes for 2019 and 2020 (1 for Azerbaijan, 1 for Jordan, 1 for Lebanon)
- 3 Special Measures (1 on Israel, 1 on Libya, and 1 on Syria)
- 2 Special Measures for the ENI contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis.
- 1 Special Measure for the ENI contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa.

Key achievements

The ENI proved to be a flexible and responsive instrument addressing the priorities established under the European Neighbourhood Policy framework and react to needs and challenges in the region, including to protracted crises.

Southern Neighbourhood

Through the ENI, the EU has responded to the **Syrian crisis** by supporting the broader needs of the Syrian population inside the country and in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Part of that funding has been channelled for implementation to the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (EUTF). As of 30 June 2019, the results monitoring showed that the EUTF had reached more than 4.3 million people with access to various services; over 28,000 people had been trained and almost 2,000 local facilities had their capacities strengthened as part of different capacity development initiatives. This information is based on 56 ongoing and 7 concluded EUTF projects, equalling funding of EUR 1.3 billion. The EUTF activities are deployed mainly in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey and tackle the education, livelihoods, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors. Education-related actions show good progress, with 284,518 children having access to basic formal and non-formal education 14,872 teachers trained; 238 education facilities constructed or refurbished; 5,982 young people with access to higher and further education. Protection-related components have guaranteed access to psychosocial support and specialised services to 313,814 beneficiaries, including through child protection and gender-based violence support. The EUTF 32 actions aiming at better livelihoods, through better employability and increased financial capacity of the target groups, continue to show positive progresses. Actions in the livelihoods sector have so far reached 1,385 organisations, mainly MSMEs and more than 217,038 individuals, of which 65 % are women and around 60 % belong to the Syrian refugee community. Within the 16 actions that provide support in the health sector 2,580,033 individuals have been reached by primary healthcare consultations and health education activities, 5,530 staff has been trained in primary, secondary or tertiary healthcare services and 92 health infrastructures have been upgraded, refurbished and equipped, in the region. In the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, the EUTF so far benefits 178,297 people. 104 out of 224 planned water and waste-water facilities have been completed.

To tackle economic fragility in **Jordan**, actions in 2019 were devoted to economic growth and job creation (EUR 35 million), to support to education and vocational training (EUR 45 million) and to youth inclusion (EUR 10 million).

In **Lebanon**, the ENI continues to support a wide variety of activities benefiting citizens directly. Examples of this are the reforms in the Justice system, improving access to water services and private sector development, which were completed in 2019.

Lebanon – EU support to Justice Sector Reform: Automation of Court procedures: The EU's court automation programme (EUR 8 million) supported Lebanon's judicial system to improve its operational performances, reduce inefficient manual court procedures, which are important cause of backlogs contributing in particular to the high number of pre-trial detentions in Lebanon. Manual operations in the complex justice sector lead to unnecessary delays that in turn may result in the denial of court access and in dwindling public confidence. In order to render the Lebanese judicial system more efficient, transparent and independent, in 2019 the EU successfully completed the implementation of the programme for the automation of 12 pilot courts in Lebanon addressing systematic delays in the administration of justice, enhancing the speed and fairness of judicial proceedings and in turn increases the trust of citizens and businesses in the legal system. EU support targeted a number of 12 pilot courts in the areas of Beirut, Jdeideh and Jounieh, and in full alignment with the Master Plan for automation of the Ministry of Justice. Software applications were developed and hardware infrastructure setup, including networks and Data Centres. These projects in a nutshell supported the development of the judiciary ICT infrastructure and systems required for the justice sector to gradually reach modern standards of effectiveness with regard to judicial dossier/document management, archiving, decision-making and final rulings. In addition, the EU programme provided substantial tailor-made IT training to 3,100 judiciary staff (i.e. judges and office clerks) allowing them to deal with and follow-up of cases through the IT system.

Lebanon – Improving access to water services at municipal level: Under ENI and EUTF funding several initiatives have been funded in the water sector to improve access to water services for Lebanese Municipalities hosting refugee population. The approach proposed by EU projects combined infrastructural improvements with social activities (to promote subscription to the service and its financial sustainability) and with technical assistance to the Regional Water Establishments in charge of the operations. Most of the targeted Municipalities are located in remote areas neglected by previous national investments. Through 17 different projects, EU funds (approximately 87 M euro since the beginning of Syrian crisis) have supported more than 600.000 beneficiaries with tangible improvement of their water services. Approximately 80 % of the beneficiaries are Lebanese living in hosting communities and the remaining 20 % Syrian refugees.

Among the achievements of the projects are the following:

- Construction or rehabilitation of approx. 500 km of main pipelines;
- Construction or rehabilitation of more than 20 Municipal or Regional Water reservoirs for a total capacity of more than 20 000 m³;
- Drilling and equipping more than 25 boreholes and rehabilitation of 20 existing pumping stations;
- Installation of solar pumping in 4 deep boreholes;
- Installation of more than 10 000 water meters to promote a change in the management of the service and conservation of the water resources;
- 2 Municipal Wastewater treatment plants with approx. 40 km of sewer lines;
- Improvement of Water and Sanitation access in more than 40 schools, 5 Health Centres and in Detention centres.
- Several trainings for 3 Regional Water Establishments for operation, maintenance, communication toward citizens, financial management and business development;

Most of the projects presented elements of piloting for better water conservation practices and application of green technologies have been shared in several national conferences supported by EU (Lebanese Water Forum).

Lebanon – EU Support to Private Sector Development. The flagship programme Private Sector Development Programme (PSD-P) (EUR 15 M) came to an end in 2019 after three years of activities promoting the productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs with a value chain approach: more efficient and cost-effective use of inputs and resources; facilitating access to finance; market access; and creating jobs as a result of increased production and sales. The programme had been working on agri-business and wood processing sectors in Tripoli, Akkar, Bekaa. It is estimated that the programme benefitted more than 2,600 beneficiaries along the value chain. Some of the programme achievements include: increase in the quantity and quality of agricultural production through provision of technical and business support, establishment of demo plots, etc. certification of farmers, enabling them to access new and more demanding markets; reinforcement of existing agriculture cooperatives; increase in sales through marketing events (farmers markets; prospective visits; attendance to fairs; testing events; organization of international exhibitions; etc.), support to the development of marketing strategies and creation of new brands.

As a response to **migration challenges in Africa**, the Commission continued to activate its dedicated financial instruments. The pace of implementation of the North of Africa window of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa) continued to increase considerably with new programmes approved for a total amount of EUR 807 million, including expansion of ongoing actions with top-up in order to respond to increasing needs coming from the region. The Commission increased its engagement in the protection of vulnerable migrants and the fight against trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants, including through support to border management. Assistance to Libyan municipalities to promote alternative livelihoods and support the resilience of local communities hosting migrants remained a key priority. The EUTF for Africa also adopted a large new budget support programme to support the actions of the Moroccan authorities on the management of migratory flows. The EUTF adopted also new programmes to promote mobility and legal migration from North Africa region as a safe alternative to irregular migration and in line with the priorities of the new Commission.

In **Libya**, in 2019, amidst crisis, the ENI continues to support a process of institution building activities in the broader area of governance (EUR 28 million) as well as private sector development, notably through support to SME's (EUR 4 million).

Tunisia benefits from one of the largest shares of the ENI South country allocations with approximately EUR 300 million in financial assistance yearly. To support its economic transition programmes launched in 2019 contribute to re-inforce economic governance (business climate, public policies) and job creation in rural areas (EUR 170 million) with in parallel, social inclusion and fight against poverty (EUR 100 million). The EU supports a wide variety of sectors directly benefiting Tunisian citizens. Examples of this are programmes on cultural cooperation, support to small and medium-sized enterprises, gender equality and social cohesion and local infrastructure:

Tunisia – Tfanen programme. Implemented by EUNIC network, this programme embodies a truly European approach. Through different calls for projects (cultural offer, cultural production, local engagement, enhancement of heritage, support for festivals, professionalization), the Tfanen project supports around a hundred actions throughout the territory, thus ensuring excellent visibility for the EU. All activities are fully carried out by Tunisian partners for the Tunisian public. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs – and its decentralized regional institutions, cultural centres, and libraries -is associated with the major actions, benefits from training, workshops (regional labs) and studies on cultural policies. Projects are also accompanied by ad hoc expertise, which can be mobilized on demand. For its relevance, impact and sustainability, this EUR 6 million project has been extended with an allocation of additional funds (EUR 20 million including EUR 5 million on top up and EUR 15 million in the context of the EU4YOUTH program). Tfanen complements EU support in the Culture sector, through twinning with the Tunisian Ministry, membership in Creative Europe and the formulation of a Tunisian cultural policy strategy.

Tunisia – Support to small and medium size enterprises. The Programme in support of Service Competitiveness ('PACS Program') implemented by the EBRD aims to strengthen the services sector by focusing on the following sub-sectors: Information and communication technologies (ICT); Transport and Logistics; Professional services; Tourism and crafts. More than 600 SMEs have benefited from technical assistance actions since the start of the program; about 140 market and sector development activities have been implemented, including visibility events, training for consultants and women entrepreneurs and workshops to disseminate good practices. A total of 10 professional associations have benefited from capacity building actions; around 450 women entrepreneurs have been trained. The EBRD attaches great importance to regional development with more than 67 % of its technical assistance projects carried out outside the capital Tunis. In one year of consultancy project, 79 % of beneficiary clients in Tunisia increased their turnover, 58 % improved their productivity and developed their activity, 61 % increased the job creation rate and 27 % of clients were able to obtain external funding to support their development objectives.

Tunisia – Moussawat – gender equality. The programme, of EUR 7 million, achieved important results in 2019: it strengthened the capacities of institutional actors to understand the issue of the gender approach and to integrate it into the development plan, into training courses, into statistics, and in the budget to make it gender sensitive. This was possible thanks to the introduction of the gender approach in the organic budget law in 2019. In terms of combating violence against women, the program supported 6 reception and accommodation centers for women victims violence and a free hotline. The State has, for the first time, allocated a budget to finance part of the operation of these centers from 2020. Another significant achievement has been the Tunisia's request for accession to the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention in October 2019 and the updating of the national strategy. The program also enabled the creation of support centers for entrepreneurship and initiatives in the craft, honey and cosmetology sectors.

Tunisia – Proville programme. In Tunisia, the EU acts to strengthen social cohesion and local infrastructure. With support from the European Union and the French development agency (AFD), the EUR96.7 million Proville programme has been enabling Tunisia's Urban Rehabilitation and Renewal Agency (ARRU) to improve the living conditions of inhabitants of deprived urban areas and support the reform of city policy. The programme sought to uphold basic urban infrastructure and public services, as well as to develop social, community and economic facilities in more than 155 underprivileged neighbourhoods.

In **Morocco**, programming 2019 focussed on social sectors, supporting Moroccan national strategies to integrate its education sector, and improve its health system, including through advance regionalisation (EUR 105 million), and continued its support to public administration reform with a view to improved delivery for citizens (EUR 40 million). Democracy consolidation is addressed through support to the Parliament and to the Human Rights National Council (EUR 9 million).

In **Palestine**, in a context marked by unpredictability of revenues due to the fiscal crisis, PEGASE has continued not only to provide predictable support to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of key public services to the Palestinian population but particular efforts have also been made by the services to frontload the EU's PEGASE contribution for 2019 (EUR 167.3 million) in order to alleviate the fiscal crisis. The EU's political and financial support to UNRWA in 2019 was of critical significance in maintaining the agency's operations and in preserving basic services to Palestine refugees. The 2018-2019 EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI) programme between Israel and Palestine aimed to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and the positive engagement of citizens of the region. The new EUPI programme for 2020 will follow the same approach including with a focus on grass-root organisations. It will soon be published.

In **Egypt**, the ENI continues essential support for the reform and development of the energy and water sectors (EUR70m), social development through a project of support for basic education (EUR 25 million), public economic governance (EUR8million) and fundamental rights and gender equality with support for ending of Female Genital Mutilation (EUR 7 million). The EUR 9 million 'Support for Partnership, Reforms and Inclusive Growth programme (SPRING)' implemented with four international NGOs (INGOs) came to an end in 2019, having supported grassroots socioeconomic civil society activities in the most deprived areas of Egypt. In Luxor, Esna and Armant, where communities have been facing significant poverty and socioeconomic challenges affecting the most isolated rural areas, the programme supported 81 multi-sectoral micro-projects implemented by 61 community-

based organisations. Over 9,000 women, children, youth, farmers and vulnerable households received direct support through income generation, vocational training, innovative environmental solutions impacting the rural areas, access to productive resources, health and nutrition services. In the most deprived villages of Sohag and Qena Governorates, the programme benefitted some 23,000 residents, mostly women and youth belonging to disadvantaged households. 214 innovative partnerships for socioeconomic development were set up, between community-based organisations, local authorities and the private sector (business associations or enterprises). In Beni Suef and Assiut Governorates, the programme supported income-generating activities for women, with the involvement of 151 community development organisations and agricultural cooperatives. In Alexandria and Beheira, 97 cooperation protocols were signed so to facilitate sustainability. Overall the programme supported some 150,000 direct beneficiaries of which over 70 % were women, 471 civil society organisations and 553 mostly rural communities.

In **Algeria**, the EU continues to provide support to the economic sector with a view to diversify economy away from the hydrocarbon production through development of the tourism sector and related job opportunities for youth and support to innovation capacity of the Algerian research system. The PAP-ENPARD (pilot projects in agriculture and rural development) is one of the first sector programmes where a classical technical assistance component was combined with a call for proposals. The main service contract mobilizes a team of key experts based in Algiers and in the 4 regions of intervention, as well as a significant number of short-term experts for training and studies. The call resulted in five additional grant contracts, implemented by consortia of international and local NGOs. This expanded the zone of intervention from 4 to 17 regions, spanning from natural parks in remote mountain areas in the North of Algeria to the oasis in the South. The PAP-ENPARD managed to federate this great variety of activities and actors around a shared understanding of local development and the importance of a bottom-up drive. Working under the same PAP-ENPARD label, the NGOs also found space for exchanges, collaboration and mutual learning among themselves as well as with other stakeholders activated through the technical assistance component. The Ministry also chose to invest in long-term sustainability: some of the results were developed into tools to be handed over to other departments and institutions that will integrate them in their own line of work or in other projects. The PAP-ENPARD was extremely active and very effective in terms of public communication, thus offering multiple opportunities for EU visibility and media coverage in and outside Algiers. In 2019, success stories linked to PAP-ENPARD (rural development) were featured on social media (in English, French and Arabic) through the EU Neighbours hub.

At regional level, ENI funds continued supporting institutions, such as **the Union for the Mediterranean**, networks and fora to foster dialogues from political to technical levels in energy, transport, environment, economy and job creation as well as civil society organisations. Blending, through the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, continued to be a powerful instrument to leverage investments. In 2019, 17 new investments proposals were approved for a total amount of EUR 308 million in climate change and environment sectors as well as to support SMEs.

Eastern Neighbourhood

The EU remains a major partner for countries of the **Eastern Partnership**. In addition to the bilateral agreements in place, the Eastern Partnership multilateral framework has been guided by the result-oriented and jointly owned agenda ‘20 Deliverables for 2020’. In 2019, as the partnership marked its 10th anniversary, the European Commission carried out a broad and inclusive consultation to define the future policy objectives. Overall, there is a consensus that the Eastern Partnership is robust and delivers tangible benefits to the daily lives of people across the region. On 18 March 2020, the European Commission put forward a proposal for the long-term policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020. These aim at increasing trade, strengthening connectivity and deepening economic integration with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, environmental and climate resilience, supporting the digital transformation, and promoting fair and inclusive societies.

In **Armenia**, the EU provides companies with funding, training, and export support to new markets, including through the EU4Business initiative. Since 2009, the EUR 40 million of funds invested by the European Union have triggered additional loans of over EUR 450 million and additional financial assistance; this benefitted 25 000 SMEs and created over 3 200 new jobs. Under Erasmus+ (2014-2020), close to 2 500 students and academic staff from Armenia have studied or taught in Europe, and 1 250 Europeans went to Armenia. In addition, over 8 000 young people and youth workers took part in short-term exchanges, mobility, training and volunteering projects.

In **Azerbaijan**, EUR 227 million of EU-backed loans have been provided for 12 500 Azerbaijani companies since 2009. This is one of the ways in which the EU contributes to economic diversification and modernisation and improving the business and investment climate in the country. Also, in the past 10 years, over 25 ministries and public institutions in Azerbaijan have participated in almost 50 projects bringing EU public sector expertise to their Azerbaijani counterparts. Upgraded air quality monitoring and introduction of a mandatory health insurance are examples of successful EU and Azerbaijan cooperation.

Belarus has access to EUR 10 million for key projects in energy efficiency and environmental protection through the EBRD-managed Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership. The first project – Puhovichi Solid Waste – has helped to leverage total investments of EUR 7 million. A new investment grant for wastewater treatment facilities in 6 cities in Belarus was also approved at the end of 2019. EU support has helped to improve energy efficiency in educational facilities for the benefit of 2 000 school and pre-school children, and support to modernisation has improved the living conditions of 10 000 citizens and reduced electricity bills for 10 municipalities. In the area of transport, under the TEN-T indicative investment plan, a total of 890 km of road and 200 km of rail improvements will bring better connectivity, improved road safety and use of intelligent transport systems. First works on renovation of the M7 road (Minsk – Lithuanian border) will start in 2020.

In **Georgia**, the EU is modernising agriculture through the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD), by supporting the rollout of the agriculture cooperative model, leading to the establishment of 1,200 cooperatives in the country. The EU's financial and technical support to them aims to help farmers improve their working conditions and income. EU support has also helped establish 59 information and consultation centres around the country, which have trained over 250 000 farmers. Through Local Action Groups, the EU has supported 360 local development initiatives in rural areas, which have provided better employment conditions for over 1 000 households and improved living conditions for over 10 000 people.

In **Moldova**, the EU actively supports improvements in transport, environment, agricultural sector (via its ENPARD programme) and energy. Thus, a road bypass around Ungheni, fully funded by the EU, was opened on 3 August 2018. Around 700 kilometres of roads have been or will be rehabilitated in the Republic of Moldova thanks to EU support. Public transport has been improved in Chişinău and Bălţi with modern trolley buses. New drinking water supply infrastructure was built with EU support. As a result, approximately 15 700 people have access to sufficient and safe drinking water. Biomass heating systems have been installed in more than 225 schools, kindergartens, community centres and village halls, making heating cheaper and diversifying the country's energy sources. 47 of these sites were also equipped with solar hot water systems. 35 new biomass businesses were set up and over 400 new jobs have been created. The EU is also co-financing a permanent interconnection between the electrical networks of Moldova and Romania.

In **Ukraine**, more than EUR 15 billion have been mobilised in grant and loans since 2014 to support reforms in economy, governance, environment, connectivity and society. The Deep and Comprehensive free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) is a major milestone in bilateral trade offering new economic opportunities to both sides. The DCFTA triggers reform of Ukraine's legal framework and will improve the overall business climate in Ukraine, including by curbing corruption. The DCFTA supported the continuous increase of bilateral trade between the EU and Ukraine since its provisional application in January 2016, with bilateral trade reaching EUR 44.6 billion in 2019. Governance reforms have received more than EUR 300 million since 2014, via programmes on decentralisation (U-LEAD with Europe), anti-corruption (EUACI), the rule of law (PRAVO), public administration reform (EU4PAR) and public finance management (EU4PFM). The U-LEAD with Europe programme (EUR 130 million) supports the decentralisation reform improving transparency and accountability of local and regional authorities as well as their capacity to offer better services. The EU supports anti-corruption institutions in Ukraine with an overall commitment of EUR 30 million to the fight against corruption. The EU contributes substantially to the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund (EUR 104 million) and supports raising awareness and public support for energy efficiency investments.

In addition to bilateral programmes, **regional programmes** benefitting more than one country have also achieved results, such as:

- Since the launch of the Eastern Partnership in 2009, The EU has supported more than 125 000 enterprises, backing EUR 2 billion worth of loans, and sustained over 250 000 jobs and helped the creation of around 34 000 new jobs.
- EU-EaP trade has nearly doubled turning the partner countries into the EU's 10th largest trading partner. The EU is the first trading block for four partner countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), while for Armenia (over EUR1.2 billion worth of trade in 2018) and Belarus the EU is the second biggest trading partner. These trade relations have also led to diversification in exports of goods from partner countries, and to their better integration in global value chains. Furthermore, the number of companies exporting to the EU from Georgia has increased by 46 %, from Moldova by 48 % and from Ukraine by 24 %. This clearly reflects the mutual benefits of EaP.
- ERASMUS + has enabled more than 30 000 students and academic staff from the Eastern Partnership countries to study or teach in EU countries, since 2009. In September 2019, the first European School outside EU borders successfully launched in Georgia in 2018 welcomed its second cohort of 30 students. Preparations are ongoing for the third year.
- 'EU4Business' – an umbrella initiative covering all EU support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Eastern Partnership region – improves SMEs access to finance and the business environment across the region. With an active portfolio of almost EUR 320 million of EU support (complementary to other forms of support), since 2016 EU4Business has supported at least 90 000 jobs in the region and more than 18 000 SMEs.
- A decision on extending the Trans-European Transport Network to the eastern Neighbourhood by 2030 was reached in 2016 as a concrete step towards better connections and a streamlined approach to infrastructure investments. This decision complements reforms in the sector in view of making transport more secure, safer and more environmentally friendly.
- Over 300 municipalities, covering 20 million people in the Eastern Partnership countries, signed up to the EU's Covenant of Mayors. This aims to reduce their CO2 emissions by almost 20 million tonnes by the end of 2020, which is equivalent to planting almost 500 million trees.

Beyond the Eastern Partnership multilateral framework, ENI funds continued to support two other policies, namely the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy, promoting effective regional cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood and beyond.

Evaluation /studies conducted

A study report covered EU support for Rule of Law in Neighbourhood Countries and Candidates and Potential Candidates of Enlargement (2010-2017) and was conducted by DG NEAR to provide an independent, evidence-based assessment of the scope and performance of implemented and on-going EU support for Rule of Law. The second evaluation assessed the Twinning instrument in the period 2010-2017 in order to inform the debate on the future of this delivery mechanism to support enlargement and neighbourhood countries in meeting their respective commitments in the framework of their relationships with the EU.

In addition, a Staff Working Document on Economic Governance was finalised and published following the completion of the corresponding evaluation at the end of 2017, in accordance with the Better Regulation principles.

Several strategic evaluations were under implementation (thematic evaluations on EU info centres, civil society, migration and local authorities and a country evaluations of Armenia) in 2019. In addition, several new evaluations have been launched in 2019 (gender equality, and country evaluations for Moldova, Morocco and Tunisia) as well.

Forthcoming implementation

Southern Neighbourhood

External factors such as political instability and the security situation are hampering the progress in the Southern Neighbourhood. Cooperation with the North Africa partner countries is challenging and subject to the evolution of the situation notably in Libya. We expect the situation in the Middle East to remain a matter of concern. Across the region, the impact of ongoing conflicts, insecurity and poor governance will foreseeably continue to destabilise our partners, to disrupt trade and investment and, therefore, to limit opportunities for the population. Consequently, ENI cooperation will continue focusing in 2020 on stabilising the region with the objective to promote both sustainable development and good governance. Programming priorities for 2020 are being shaped on the basis of Partnership Priorities, which constitute the political framework for the Single Support Frameworks/Multi-annual Indicative Programmes, currently in place for most partner countries and for regional South until the end of 2020. In the case of Palestine ⁽³⁾, a European Joint Strategy is valid until the end of 2020. In addition, we will support service provision, on which pressure is already high, and encourage an enabling environment for business with a view to promote economic growth and create enough jobs to help the countries cope with the demographic trends. It should be noted that large numbers of refugees and displaced persons exacerbates all these structural deficiencies. Therefore, greater efforts will be put to support state accountability towards their citizens.

Eastern Neighbourhood

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the 2020 programming takes place after the 10 year anniversary of the Eastern Partnership. The 2020 programming constitutes the last year's programming of the current multi-annual financial framework. This last programming exercise will be key to showcase concrete results to citizens towards completion of the '20 deliverables for 2020'. Targeted support will continue across all the Eastern Partnership priorities reconfirmed at the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017 (stronger economy, stronger governance, stronger connectivity, stronger society). Programming priorities for 2020 are being shaped on the basis of the Association Agendas and/or Partnership Priorities, which set out strategic priorities and serve as the political framework for the Single Support Frameworks/ Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes for the period 2017-2020 (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Regional East) and 2018-2020 (Azerbaijan and Ukraine). In the case of Belarus, until an agreement on Partnership Priorities is reached, continued use of Special Measures is likely to be made. To maximise impact, the full alignment between policy and its implementation will be ensured, in close coordination with EU Member States and International Financial Institutions. Complementary use will be made of TAIEX and Twinning as a catalyst for reforms, while strategic communication – factored into EU programmes from the start and running in parallel to their implementation – will support the successful implementation and illustrate delivery of results on the ground. At regional level, beyond the Eastern Partnership multilateral framework, due consideration will be given to supporting the other two policies, namely the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 14 June 2018, the European Commission adopted the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This proposal is part of a set of new proposed instruments for EU external action under the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. It is the result of an ambitious plan to streamline the external action architecture and make the financing instruments more flexible, more coherent and more effective.

It is proposed that the biggest share of external action funds, would be channelled through the NDICI contributing to poverty eradication and promotion of sustainable development, prosperity, peace and stability, including the European Neighbourhood through bilateral and multi-country programmes under the geographic pillar.

These actions could be further complemented through activities under the thematic pillar (support to human right and democracy, civil society, stability and peace), the rapid-response pillar (conflict prevention and respond to situations of crisis or instability, as well as EU's foreign policy needs and priorities) and the emerging challenges and priorities cushion (emerging challenges and priorities).

It is proposed that the NDICI would contain an investment framework for external action to raise additional financial resources for sustainable development from the private sector. It will consist of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+) and the External Action Guarantee, with increased guarantee capacity. The new instrument proposes to preserve the core specificities of the European Neighbourhood Policy, on which basis the EU develops a special relationship with neighbouring countries.

⁽³⁾ This designation shall not be construed as a recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

The European Neighbourhood Policy specificities are maintained and reinforced, notably co-ownership, differentiation and the performance-based approach ('more for more'), the differentiation approach, thus providing incentives for jointly-agreed political and economic reforms.

Cross-border cooperation between EU Member States and partner countries, both in the Eastern and in the Southern Neighbourhood, is also proposed to continue in view of the positive results achieved so far.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument	2014 – 2020	15 432,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	57,5	44,6	45,4	47,8	48,3	51,1	50,9	345,6
Operational appropriations	2 254,7	2 338,4	2 277,2	2 430,5	2 427,8	2 685,0	2 618,0	17 031,7
Executive Agency	2,8	2,8	2,4	2,4	2,3	1,9	1,9	16,5
Total	2 315,0	2 385,8	2 325,0	2 480,7	2 478,4	2 738,0	2 670,8	17 393,8
<i>Of which contribution to Erasmus+</i>	<i>103,3</i>	<i>93,4</i>	<i>98,0</i>	<i>104,8</i>	<i>82,0</i>	<i>98,7</i>	<i>90,1</i>	<i>670,4</i>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	2 737,998	99,98 %	1 870,464	99,66 %	2 683,227	23,60 %	1 840,587	22,56 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	2 771,516	99,86 %	1 903,040	99,06 %	2 691,152	23,76 %	1 860,259	22,50 %

(*) 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 European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is making progress towards achieving its objectives. The performance has been delivering mixed results, with some indicators achieving their milestones and some only partially. For the indicators under General objective 1⁽⁴⁾, there have been positive developments. Note that the statistical data usually becomes available later in the year. For example, the World Bank most recent data on GDP per capita cover 2018. However, there is a positive development in Eastern Neighbourhood, with growth for third year in a row and at this rate the target might be reached.

Also under Specific objective 1⁽⁵⁾, for example under indicator 2, which is a composite indicator based on eight external sources, the progress has been more modest than anticipated in foreseen milestone and target. This is to a great extent also due to the indicators being based mostly on perceptions and the fact that they do not necessarily reflect the impacts made by the EU assistance and policy in these areas. There are also many external factors, which might influence overall scores (such as political instability, security situation, etc.).

On Specific objective 6, it should be noted that the Eastern High-Level event dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the EaP held in May 2019 highlighted strong achievements in 3 out of 4 Priority Areas: 1) Stronger economy, 2) Stronger connectivity, and 3) Stronger society. However, more progress is needed in the areas of rule of law, fighting corruption, shrinking spaces for civil society and lack of media independence. The following are some concrete examples of achievements:

- Stronger economy: over 1 250.000 loans to SMEs (over half in local currency);
- Stronger connectivity: 100 000 families could reduce energy bills thanks to EU support on energy efficiency;

⁽⁴⁾ Establishing an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and the partner countries by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the Treaty on EU.

⁽⁵⁾ Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and fight against discrimination in all its forms, establishing deep and sustainable democracy, promoting good governance, fight against corruption, strengthening institutional capacity at all levels and developing a thriving civil society including social partners

- Stronger society: more than 80 000 youth exchanges including through ERASMUS+ programme;
- Stronger governance: public service delivery one stop shops in place in all 6 EaP countries.

One of the essential elements of the ENI regulation is the incentive-based approach, also referred to as ‘more for more’. Indeed, the share of available resources offered to partner countries is adapted primarily to their progress in building and consolidating deep and sustainable democracy and in implementing agreed political, economic and social reform objectives.

On the other hand, the mid-term review of external action instruments, published in December 2017, has highlighted the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence between various external action instruments. This issue is being addressed in the Commission proposal for a Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), which has been designed to reinforce a policy-driven approach to EU cooperation. The aim is to make it more strategic and responsive to the EU’s interests as well as both to the political priorities of the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and the general policy framework. It also simplifies the current architecture providing a common, integrated framework for the Union’s external action policies, while preserving their specificities, in particular for development cooperation and the Neighbourhood policies. Having a broad financing instrument would better serve the goals and priorities of the European Neighbourhood policy. Cooperation with EU neighbours will gain from being financed by the NDICI, as it would give more means and flexibility in support of the special relationship between the EU and its Neighbours. It will be better equipped to address challenges that span across regions covered currently by different instruments. Additional funding could be mobilised easily through the ‘Emerging challenges and priorities cushion’. The possibilities offered by the ‘Cushion’ would make the EU prepared to challenges that may raise in the future. Some features currently reserved to the European Development Fund would also be extended to the Neighbourhood, including the ability to carry-over unused funds from one year to the following one or to reuse decommitted funds. This is particularly appropriate for the management of actions in the Neighbourhood, which is characterised by a highly volatile environment requiring continuous adaptation.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Establishing an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and the partner countries by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the Treaty on EU.

Indicator 1: Number of comprehensive agreements and individual ENP Action Plans in place with interested neighbouring countries

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 5 AA & 5 AP				The negotiations and conclusions of agreements and ENP action plans show a positive trend.				15 Association or similarly comprehensive Agreements in force and 16 Action Plans or similar documents adopted by 2020. NB: This level of target comes from the objectives of European Neighbourhood Policy and takes into account the 16 Neighbourhood countries (10 in the South and 6 in the East).
	Actual results							
	3 & 3	3 & 3	3 & 3	4 & 4	5 & 5	5 & 5		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 8 AA				The negotiations and conclusions of agreements and ENP action plans show a positive trend.				16 Association or similarly comprehensive Agreements in force and 16 Action Plans or similar documents adopted by 2020. NB: This level of target comes from the objectives of European Neighbourhood Policy and takes into account the 16 Neighbourhood countries (10 in the South and 6 in the East).
	Actual results							
	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
CBC: 2 ENPI CBC Programmes								900 projects implemented by ENI CBC programmes (there are 950 projects financed under the current ENPI CBC)
	Actual results							
	CBC: adoption of ENI CBC	13 ENI CBC joint	2 more ENI CBC JOPs	7 more FAs signed (23	Partnership	All FAs in force; 411		

	implementing rules and of one ENI CBC support programme	operational programmes (JOPs) adopted	adopted (15 overall) and 16 Financing Agreements (FAs) signed	overall)		projects contracted, including 47 LIPs (484 overall)		
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Narrative:

South:

Baseline 2012: Association agreements in force with 8 of the 10 southern partners (i.e. excluding Libya and Syria). Three First generation Action Plans (or equivalent documents) adopted or in place: Israel, Egypt and Palestine. 2nd generation action plans for Jordan and Morocco approved. Political agreement on the second generation of the Tunisia and Lebanon Action Plans but formal adoption by Council pending.

2014-2018: 8 AA, 8 AP or similar documents (Partnership Priorities).

2019: 8 AA still in force for the southern countries. No AA with Syria and Libya due to crisis situations in these countries. 8 AP or similar documents (Partnership Priorities) in force.

East:

Baseline 2012: Five Partnership and Cooperation Agreements in force, one Association Agreement (Ukraine) initialled on 30.03.2012. Negotiations for Association Agreements ongoing with 4 countries: Republic of Moldova (launched in January 2010), Armenia, Azerbaijan & Georgia (July 2010). Five Action Plans in force.

2014-2020: three Association Agreements entered in force with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered provisionally into force with Armenia, and Partnership Priorities (PP) signed with Azerbaijan (with whom the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force since 1999 is still the basis for relations). All the five countries count with equivalent documents to Action Plans (Association Agendas for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; a CEPA Roadmap for Armenia, and the PP for Azerbaijan).

Comment: Libya: Discussions on the negotiations for a Framework Agreement are stalled due to the crisis situation since June 2014. Ratification of Association Agreement is suspended. Preliminary discussions on future EU-Israel and EU-Palestine Partnership Priorities have been initiated.

The UE has adopted Compacts with Jordan and Lebanon. The second phase of the ENI programming (2017-2020) was launched and Single Support Frameworks for 2017-2020 are being finalised with the Governments of Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Palestine has materialised the Joint Programming process in the first-ever European Joint Strategy in the Neighbourhood that will cover 2017-2020. With Morocco, the EU has deployed every effort in maintaining a constructive relationship throughout the year in the area of technical and financial cooperation, amid a tense atmosphere pertaining to the ECJ ruling on the agreement on the free trade of agricultural products. In Libya the EU focused on reactivating initiatives in order to support the Government of National Accord and to contribute to improving the living conditions of Libyans and migrants stranded there. A policy dialogue on cooperation issues was established in 2016 in order to better define the needs and possibilities to expand our assistance.

Unit of measure: Agreements (AA) & Action plans (AP) in force

Indicator 2: GDP per capita as percentage of EU-28 (current prices)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 10.86 %				increase				increase
	Actual results							
	11.94 %	9.94 %	8.86 %	9.89 %	10.54 %			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 14.76 %				increase				increase
	Actual results							
	14.58 %	11.35 %	15.18 %	12.94 %	12.58 %			

Comment: The indicator shows the degree of economic convergence of Neighbourhood countries towards the European average. The projections are based on a hypothesis of growth rate of 1.9 % for the EU area and 3.5 % for both Neighbourhood South and Neighbourhood East.

Availability of Data: The 2014 value does not include Libya, Lebanon and Syria, for which data are not available. The 2015 value on Neighbourhood South only includes Algeria, Morocco, Jordan and Palestine, for which data on GDP are available. The 2016 and 2017 value only excludes Syria.

Source: World Bank

Unit of measure: As percentage of EU-28 in current prices

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and fight against discrimination in all its forms, establishing deep and sustainable democracy, promoting good governance, fight against corruption, strengthening institutional capacity at all levels and developing a thriving civil society including social partners.

Performance

Indicator 1 assesses how the ENP partner countries progress in implementing the political reforms agreed in bilateral legal (for example: Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association Agreements) and political (for example: ENP Action Plans, Association Agendas) frameworks. The target is coherent with 2014-2020 programming period and is based on the past trend, the

baseline value and the benchmarks. Following the ENP Review of 2015 the annual progress reports (jointly prepared by the European Commission with the EEAS) have been replaced by a new style of assessment, timed to provide the basis for a political exchange of views in the relevant high-level meetings with partner countries. The EU remains a major partner for countries of the Eastern Partnership. For example and in addition to the bilateral agreements in place, the current Eastern Partnership framework is guided by the result-oriented and jointly owned agenda ‘20 Deliverables for 2020’ which focuses on four broad areas: 1) Strengthening institutions and good governance; 2) Economic Development and Market opportunities; 3) Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change and 4) Mobility and people-to-people contacts; as well as cross-cutting areas such as support to civil society, gender equality and non-discrimination, and independent media. There is a broad consensus that the current framework has been delivering particularly in economy, connectivity, people-to-people contacts, and to a lesser extend in the area of governance and rule of law.

Indicator 2 takes the scores from eight publically available external sources taken in three groups:

1. Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank);
2. Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House);
3. Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank).

It should be noted that the indicators are based mostly on perceptions and do not necessarily reflect the impacts made by the EU assistance and policy in these areas. Overall, the trend in the neighbourhood has been fluctuating, but an improvement in comparison with the baseline is noted. There are also many external factors, which might influence overall scores (such as political instability, security situation, etc.), which make these indicators only subject to be indirectly influenced by EU action.

Indicator 1: Progress made in achieving political reforms, as assessed by relevant reports								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Eastern Partnership countries:	Actual results							Further Progress
	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Southern Partnership countries:	Actual results							Further progress
	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress	Some Progress		

Comment: The indicator assesses how the ENP partner countries progress in implementing the political reforms agreed in bilateral legal (for example: Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association Agreements) and political (for example: ENP Action Plans, Association Agendas) frameworks. The target is coherent with 2014-2020 programming period and is based on the past trend, the baseline value and the benchmarks. Following the ENP Review of 2015 the annual progress reports (jointly prepared by the European Commission with the EEAS) have been replaced by a new style of assessment, timed to provide the basis for a political exchange of views in the relevant high-level meetings with partner countries.

Indicator 2: ENI weighted score based on eight external sources								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
38	Actual results							> 44
	41	40	40	40	40			

Methodology: Values: 1 (Worst) – 100 (Best); EU benchmark: 76.99.

Comment: The indicator is a weighted score based on 8 external sources taken in three groups, each weighted one third after normalisation:

1. Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank);
2. Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House);
3. Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank).

Source: Eight external sources:

Corruption Index (Transparency International) – <http://www.transparency.org/country>

Control of Corruption (World Bank) – <http://web.worldbank.org>

Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) – <https://rsf.org/index2014>

Freedom of Press (Freedom House) – <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>

Government Effectiveness (World Bank) – <http://web.worldbank.org>

Rule of Law (World Bank) – <http://web.worldbank.org>

Regulatory Quality (World Bank) – <http://web.worldbank.org>

Voice and Accountability (World Bank) – <http://web.worldbank.org>

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1a. Measures supporting rule of law and good governance – South	22 04 01 01 22 04 01 04	5 0	90,9 –
1b. Measures supporting rule of law and good governance -East	22 04 02 01	3	184,5
2a. Measures supporting civil society and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms – South	22 04 01 01	3	26
2b. Measures supporting civil society and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms – East	22 04 02 01	4	21
3. Countries benefiting from umbrella programme*	22 04 03 03	5	223
Total		20	545,4

* In line with the ENI Regulation, the total funding for the umbrella programmes is set in the range of 10 % of the operational budget. Additional funding granted through this mechanism will be used in line with the cooperation priorities of each beneficiary country.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1a. Measures supporting rule of law and good governance – South	F	3	4	4	7	6	5	7
	P	6	6	6	6	6		
1b. Measures supporting rule of law and good governance -East	F	3	4	5	6	3	3	3
	P	4	6	6	6	3		
2a. Measures supporting civil society and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms – South	F	2	8	3	2	4	3	3
	P	3	4	4	4	4		
2b. Measures supporting civil society and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms – East	F	5	6	3	3	3	3	3
	P	5	4	4	4	3		
3. Countries benefiting from umbrella programme	F	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	P	7	4	4	5	6		

Specific Objective 2: Achieving progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectoral cooperation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant international standards and improved market access including through deep and comprehensive free trade areas, related institution building and investments, notably in interconnections.

Performance

Under Specific Objective 2 the targets for the indicator expressing the level of integration of the economies into the world economy (indicator 1) was reached in 2017, although information was not available for some countries in the Southern Neighbourhood. Hopefully these positive developments will remain stable throughout coming years and beyond. To be noted that many factors will impact this indicator, in particular EU economic growth, unfolding crisis situations in the region and data availability.

Regarding indicator 2, on number of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) and Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA), there has been moderate progress. 3 DCFTAs are in place in Eastern Neighbourhood, while in Southern Neighbourhood negotiations are open with two countries (Morocco and Tunisia) and discussion are ongoing with Egypt and Jordan.

Indicator 1: Value of ENI countries export to EU-28 in relation to baseline data in year 2010 (Eurostat figures).								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 37.02 %				36.45 %			35.90 %	35.90 %
	Actual results							
	36.82 %	37.80 %	37.18 %	39.05 %	40.01 %			
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 24.90 %				26.13 %			27.97 %	27.97 %
	Actual results							
	24.40 %		20.00 %	29.29 %	18.33 %			

Comment: The targets are based on a hypothesis of GDP growth of 3.5 % for the two regions and of 2.97 % for the exports of the Neighbourhood East and 5.88 % for the Neighbourhood South. For this second region the baseline is calculated on the volume of exports and GDP of the countries for which both exports and GDP data were available for 2014 (Algeria, Israel, Jordan and Palestine. Availability of Data: The 2015 value for Neighbourhood East does not reflect Ukraine and Azerbaijan, for which export values are not available for 2015. For 2016, only Syria excluded. Declining ratio reflects substantial reduction of values of exports of hydrocarbons for Algeria (due to price decline) and Libya (also due to the political instability). For 2017, the value for Ukraine is based on 2016 data, as data for 2017 were not available. No data available yet for Libya, Tunisia and Jordan.

Indicator 2: Number of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) and Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
Milestones foreseen								2020	
Neighbourhood East: 0 signed (DCFTA), 0 (ACAA), 4 DCFTA and 0 ACAA under negotiation			3 DCFTA in place					DCFTA in place with all interested ENI countries 5 ACAA in place; 2 Agreements on liberalisation of trade in agriculture in place; 1 Agreement on Air Transport in place; 2 MoU on Energy in place	
	Actual results								
	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA	3 AA/DCFTA		
Milestones foreseen								2020	
Neighbourhood South: 0 DCFTA, 1 ACAA, 0 Agreements on liberalisation of trade in agriculture, 0 Agreements on Air Transport, 1 MoU on Energy			2 DCFTA in place and 2 in negotiations; 1 ACAA in place and 4 in negotiations; 2 Agreements on liberalisation of trade in agriculture in place; 1 Agreement on Air Transport in place; 2 MoU on Energy in place					4 DCFTA in place; 5 ACAA in place; 2 Agreements on liberalisation of trade in agriculture in place; 1 Agreement on Air Transport in place; 2 MoU on Energy in place	
	Actual results								
	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
2a. Measures supporting the Association Agreements, approximation and institution building – South	22 04 01 02	3	7
2b. Measures supporting the Association Agreements, approximation and institution building – East	22 04 02 02	4	86
3. TAIEX and SIGMA – South & East	22 04 01 02	2	3.4
	22 04 02 02		3.9
Total		9	100,4

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Measures supporting the Advanced Status – South	F	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	P	1	0	0	0	1		
2a. Measures supporting the Association Agreements, approximation and institution building – South	F	5	7	5	2	3	3	3
	P	2	3	3	2	3		

2b. Measures supporting the Association Agreements, approximation and institution building – East	F	5	4	3	5	4	4	4
	P	3	4	4	4	4		
3. TAIEX and SIGMA – South & East	F	2	2	2	2	4	2	2
	P	3	2	2	2	4		

Specific Objective 3: Creating conditions for the better organisation of legal migration and the fostering of well managed mobility of people, for the implementation of existing or future agreements concluded in line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, and for promotion of people-to-people contacts, in particular in relation to cultural, educational, professional and sporting activities.

Performance

Specific Objective 3 covers migration and mobility. The first indicator (number of mobility partnerships in place) is an example of good performance where the targets have been either met (Neighbourhood East) or almost (Neighbourhood South). MP declarations are the instrument through which the EU and its partners in the Neighbourhood intend to set a framework to manage migration flows with commonly agreed objectives and programmes. MP's follow the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility guidelines. Thus, they are a good measure of the achievements in this field.

Whereas for the second indicator, especially in the Southern Neighbourhood, no readmission and visa facilitation agreements have been concluded due to sensitive and complex negotiations in uncertain political environment. Based on visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements, both the EU and the non-EU citizens benefit from facilitated procedures for issuing visas. Visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements are linked to readmission agreements which establish the procedures for the return to the EU or to the partner non-EU country of persons (own or third country nationals or stateless persons) in irregular situation. Readmission and visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements are key elements to assess progress regarding mobility and the promotion of people to people contacts. No readmission and visa facilitation agreements with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan have been concluded due to sensitive and complex negotiations in uncertain political environment.

Indicator 1: Number of Mobility Partnerships in place								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 3			1 under negotiation					4
	Actual results							
	4	4	4	5	5	6		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 1			2 in place, 2 under negotiation					4 Mobility Partnerships in place
	Actual results							
	3	3	3	3	3	3		

Narrative: South: Baseline 2012: Mobility Partnership signed with one country in 2013. Preparatory discussions launched with two countries.

Source: Information from Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

Unit of measure: Mobility Partnerships

Indicator 2: Number of readmission/visa facilitation agreements and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAP) in place								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2008	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 1 readmission/visa facilitation agreements in place and 2 under negotiation; 2 VLAP in			3 readmission/visa facilitation agreements in place					4 readmission/visa facilitation agreements in place
	Actual results							
	Visa Facilitation Agreements and Readmission Agreements	VFRAs with 5 countries; negotiation with 1 country;	VFRAs with 5 countries negotiation Belarus; 1 visa-	Visa liberalisation for Georgian citizens with biometric	VFRAs with 5 countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia,	Visa liberalisation continues to be in place with		

place	(VFRA) with 5 countries (Armenia and Azerbaijan entered into force in 2014); negotiations with Belarus started in 2014; 1 VLAP completed (visa-free regime granted to Moldova as of 28-4-2014); 2 VLAP ongoing	1 visa-free regime (Moldova); 2 VLAP completed (Georgia and Ukraine)	free regime (Moldova); 1 VLAP completed (Ukraine, Georgia); preliminary discussions on visa liberalisation started with Armenia	passports for short stays entered into force 28 March 2017; Visa-liberalisation for Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports for short stays entered into force 11 June 2017.	Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and negotiations with Belarus. VLAPs in place with three countries (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine)	Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in place with Armenia and Azerbaijan; and negotiations on VF/RA finalised with Belarus		
Milestones foreseen								2020
Neighbourhood South: 0	2							5
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	0	0			

Source: Information from Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1a. Measures supporting mobility and border management – South	22 04 01 01	1	1
1b. Measures supporting mobility and border management – East	22 04 02 01	1	18
2. Erasmus + South & East (excluding administrative credits)	22 04 20	1	88,2
Total		3	107

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1a. Measures supporting mobility and border management – South	F	0	1	1	0	2	1	1
	P	2	0	0	0	2		
1b. Measures supporting mobility and border management – East	F	1	2	0	1	2	1	1
	P	0	1	1	1	2		
2. Erasmus + South & East (excluding administrative credits)	F		1		1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1		

Specific Objective 4: Supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive development in all aspects; poverty reduction, including through private-sector development and reduction of social exclusion; promotion of capacity building in science, education and in particular higher education, technology, research and innovation; promotion of internal economic, social and territorial cohesion; rural development; public health; environmental protection, climate action and disaster resilience.

Performance

Regarding Specific Objective 4 on smart, sustainable and inclusive development, it can be noted that the indicator based on UNDP's human development index has been stable and going towards the target.

Indicator 2 is based on World Bank's ease of doing business report. The sustainability of development highly depends on the capacity of our countries to facilitate the creation of a productive base, i.e. the creation of local business that can ignite a virtuous circle of economic growth on a sustainable basis. This indicator has been showing good results performance, albeit with some fluctuations. The targets for 2020 might be attained for Neighbourhood South. The more ambitious target for Neighbourhood North is less likely to be attained. External factors such as political instability and security situation have an effect on the results of these indicators.

Indicator 1: Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 4			6 countries equal or above 0.7					6 countries equal or above 0.7
	Actual results							

	5	6	5	7	6			
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 3			8					9
	Actual results							
	6	8	5	8	8			

Methodology: Number of countries with indicator ≥ 0.7 (between high and very high human development).

Source: UNDP

Indicator 2: Ease of doing business index (1=most business-friendly regulations)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 64.42				73.00				78.00
	Actual results							
	69.92	70.50	71.68	73.09	75.81	75.8		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 57.26				56.00			59.00	59.00
	Actual results							
	54.07	54.21	54.84	55.45	56.77	57.05		

Comment: The distance to frontier, measures the distance from the best performing country based on the different criteria used. Indicator aligned with the one used for the EU Results Framework.

Unit of measure: %

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020						
		Number	EUR million					
1a. Measures supporting employment, education and training – South	22 04 01 02	4	169					
1b. Measures supporting employment, education and training – East	22 04 02 02	2	21,5					
2a. Measure supporting territorial and social cohesion, social protection and rural development – South	22 04 01 02	4	5,3					
2b. Measure supporting territorial and social cohesion, social protection and rural development – East	22 04 02 02	2	46					
3a. Measures supporting inclusive economic development (including NIP) – South	22 04 01 02 22 04 01 04	8	332,7 10,3					
3b. Measures supporting inclusive economic development (including NIP) – East	22 04 02 02	3	149,5					
4a. Measures contributing to reforms in the fields of environment, energy and management of natural resources – South	22 04 01 02 22 04 01 04	4	95 0					
4b. Measures contributing to reforms in the fields of environment, energy and management of natural resources – East	22 04 02 02	1	3,5					
Total		28	833,2					
Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1a. Measures supporting employment, education and training – South	F	4	2	3	3	3	4	2
	P	4	2	2	3	3		
1b. Measures supporting employment, education and training – East	F	2	0	0	1	2	2	2
	P	3	1	1	1	2		
2a. Measure supporting territorial and social cohesion, social protection and rural development – South	F	5	3	4	1	3	4	3
	P	4	3	3	1	3		
2b. Measure supporting territorial and social cohesion, social protection and rural development – East	F	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
	P	1	2	2	2	2		
3a. Measures supporting inclusive economic development (including NIP) – South	F	8	6	5	7	8	8	7
	P	10	14	14	6	8		
3b. Measures supporting inclusive economic development (including NIP) – East	F	2	2	3	2	3	3	3
	P	4	4	4	2	3		
4a. Measures contributing to reforms in the	F	3	3	4	3	3	4	3

fields of environment, energy and management of natural resources – South	P	2	4	4	3	3		
4b. Measures contributing to reforms in the fields of environment, energy and management of natural resources – East	F	0	2	1	0	1	1	1
	P	0	1	1	0	1		

Specific Objective 5: Promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to security in all forms and the prevention and settlement of conflicts, including protracted conflicts.

Performance

The only indicator under Specific Objective 5 measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilised or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism. The most recent results under this indicator show improvement and reflect the direction sought.

Indicator 1: Political stability and absence of violence: number of countries in a percentile rank above 0-30 (lowest rank)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood East: 4	5							6
	Actual results							
	4	4	3	3	4			
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Neighbourhood South: 7	8							9
	Actual results							
	4	5	4	5	6			

Narrative: Baseline East: Countries in a percentile rank above 0-30 (Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) and Countries in a percentile rank above 0-10 (Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel) respectively.

Milestone 2016 South: 6 and Algeria, Lebanon

Target South: 8 countries + Syria

Comment: This indicator measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically – motivated violence and terrorism. Higher values in percentile rank indicate better governance ratings.

Source: Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project (WB group).

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020						
		Number	EUR million					
1a. Measures supporting confidence building and settlement of conflicts (including support to refugees) – South	22 04 01 03	4	383,3					
1b. Measures supporting confidence building and settlement of conflicts (including support to refugees) – East	22 04 02 03	1	12,7					
2. Measures supporting Palestine	22 04 01 04	3	310,3					
Total		8	706,3					
Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1a. Measures supporting confidence building and settlement of conflicts (including support to refugees) – South	F	3	2	4	3	3	4	4
	P	12	1	1	3	3		
1b. Measures supporting confidence building and settlement of conflicts (including support to refugees) – East	F	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
	P	2	2	2	1	1		
2. Measures supporting Palestine	F	10	3	3	3	3	3	3
	P	7	4	4	3	3		

Specific Objective 6: Enhancing sub-regional, regional and Neighbourhood wide collaboration as well as Cross-Border Cooperation.

Performance

In the Southern Neighbourhood, there has been positive progress on increasing credibility of the Union for the Mediterranean through regular ministerial meetings and conferences (indicator 4). Furthermore, all but one Cross-Border Cooperation programme

have been adopted (indicator 1). This indicator shows the progress in building cooperation in border regions among EU Member States on one side and Neighbourhood partner countries, and the Russian Federation, on the other side. Given that these CBC cooperation programmes are agreed among the EU member States and the partner countries, the adoption and implementation of the programme is a good indicator of the willingness of all parties to cooperate in the border regions. Each CBC programme contains a multiplicity of smaller projects benefiting the socioeconomic development of the area's population.

Regarding indicator 2 'Number of ministerial, platform and panel meetings under the Eastern Partnership' there has been a substantial increase of the number of events. This is mainly due to the increased number of the requests coming from high-level decision-makers.

Considering the strong qualitative nature of indicators 3 and 5 it has proven not realistic to continue monitoring these as such.

Indicator 1: Number of Cross-Border Cooperation programmes in place								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
13 ENPI CBC programmes adopted and implemented				17				All 17 programmes foreseen in the CBC Programming Document are fully under implementation and all available funds are committed
	Actual results							
	1	14	16	16	16	16		

Comment: ENI CBC Mid-Atlantic programme was finally not adopted. The indicator shows the progress in building cooperation among EU Member States on one side and Neighbourhood partner countries and the Russian Federation on the other side, in border regions.

Source: Based on the number of programmes identified in the CBC Programming Document.

Indicator 2: Number of ministerial, platform and panel meetings under the Eastern Partnership								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Between 70 and 80				85				90
	Actual results							
	70-80		Around 80	Around 85	Around 90	Around 110		

Unit of measure: Policy dialogue events that were organised.

Indicator 3: Progress on Eastern Partnership priorities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Establishment of the main priority areas			Strategic progress mainly in the areas of priority interconnections and market opportunities					Significant progress in the four priority areas
	Actual results							

Narrative: Main priority areas were: (1) strengthening institutions and good governance; (2) increasing mobility and people to people contacts; (3) market opportunities; (4) interconnections. Milestone 2016: 1) Interconnections: Approval of the extension of the core TEN-T network at ministerial level, Endorsement of the single project pipeline by the EaP countries, IFIs and the EU; 2) Market opportunities: Development of the three DCFTAs (i.e. Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova) and assistance provided,

Comment: Considering the strong qualitative nature of this indicator it has proven not realistic to continue monitoring it as such. The Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels renewed the joint engagement towards comprehensive reforms in the partner countries and set out a concrete vision four priorities: 1) Stronger economy, 2) Stronger governance, 3) Stronger connectivity, and 4) Stronger society. Our '20 Deliverables for 2020' monitoring shows that clear progress has been made in all areas, notably in connectivity, digital, TEN-T, energy efficiency and security, and youth including the European Eastern Partnership School. However, more progress is needed in the areas of rule of law, fighting corruption, shrinking spaces for civil society and lack of media independence. Assistance will continue to the partner countries in implementation of commitments in these areas.

Unit of measure: Priorities from Riga summit 2015

Indicator 4: Increased credibility of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) through a high number of ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities and through the engagement of regional cooperation, finance and planning ministers via the holding of UfM ministerial conferences on regional cooperation and planning

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
3	Actual results							Three ministerial meetings per year (15 in total). A regular process of coordination around financing of regional integration is operational.
	3		6	9	10	11		

Methodology: Cumulative measurement of meetings.

Narrative: Meetings chronologically:

2014 (Baseline): Three ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities Ministries of Finance, Planning and International Cooperation relatively un-engaged in regional cooperation. No cooperation ministerial ever held.

2016: Three new: UfM ministerial meetings organised in the field of cooperation and planning; energy; labour and employment took place in 2016.

2017: Three new: Youth; Water, Sustainable urban development; Women's Empowerment.

2018: One new: Trade

2019: One new: Ministerial Conference in the field of Employment and Labour

Unit of measure: Ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities.

Indicator 5: Progress on specific regional objectives defined in ministerial declarations under the Union for the Mediterranean

Comment: Considering the strong qualitative nature of this indicator it has proven not realistic to continue monitoring it as such.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
CBC programmes, including European Regional Development Fund – European Territorial Cooperation – Contribution from Heading 4	22 04 03 01 13 03 64 03	17	96,3
Measures enhancing regional cooperation in the southern Neighbourhood	22 04 01 01	2	12,8
	22 04 01 02	4	41,8
	22 04 01 03	2	37,9
	22 04 03 04	2	16,3
Measures enhancing regional cooperation among Eastern Partnership countries	22 04 02 01	3	29,4
	22 04 02 02	5	78,2
	22 04 03 04	2	12,2
Total		37	325,1

Under specific objective 6 it is envisaged that regional programmes will continue to focus on domains like, inter alia, energy, environment, border management, transport, private sector development, support to the 'Partnership for peace' process in the Middle-East, Union for the Mediterranean, functioning of regional cooperation frameworks (Northern Dimension and Black Sea Synergy) and the multilateral track of the Eastern Partnership.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. CBC programmes, including European Regional Development Fund – European Territorial Cooperation – Contribution from Heading 4	F	15	17	17	17	17		
	P	1	13	13	15	15		
2. Measures enhancing regional cooperation in the southern Neighbourhood	F	12	12	10	10	10	10	12
	P	13	14	14	10	10		
3. Measures enhancing regional cooperation among Eastern Partnership countries	F	11	10	13	10	10	10	10
	P	11	13	13	11	10		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Europe

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Mediterranean countries – Human rights and mobility	9,2	9,5
Mediterranean countries – Poverty reduction and sustainable development	305,1	307,5
Support to the peace process and financial assistance to Palestine and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	11,3	11,8
Eastern Partnership – Human rights and mobility	8,0	10,9
Eastern Partnership – Poverty reduction and sustainable development	231,2	236,4
Eastern Partnership – Confidence building, security and the prevention and settlement of conflicts	3,7	3,8
Cross-border cooperation (CBC) – Contribution from Heading 4	17,2	19,0
Support to other multi-country cooperation in the neighbourhood – Umbrella programme	22,8	27,4
Total	608,5	626,3

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
185,0	268,0	262,2	326,8	555,6	608,5	626,3	2 832,4

(*)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

Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2014-2020 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million).

The estimated amount for climate related expenditure for 2014-2018 is based on the analysis of the climate related expenditure under ENI (from 2014 to 2017). Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-markers on climate mitigation and climate adaptation. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if climate mitigation/adaptation is marked as 'principal objective' and 40 % if it is marked as 'significant objective'.

Rio-markers apply to actions funded in all sectors; however, past trends indicate that relevant actions tend to concentrate in the sectors of rural development, environment, energy and management of natural resources – hereby tentatively associated to specific objectives 4 (country-based programmes) and 6 (regional cooperation programmes). Consequently, budget is predominantly from budget line 'Poverty reduction and sustainable development'.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific objective 4 and 6	153,0	173,0
Total	153,0	173,0

Programmation biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
38,5	55,6	41,4	50,6	135,3	153,0	173,0	647,4

(*)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

Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-marker on bio-diversity. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if bio-diversity is marked as 'principal objective' and 40 % if it is marked as 'significant objective'. Rio-markers apply to actions funded in all sectors; however, past trends indicate that relevant actions tend to concentrate in the sectors of rural development, environment, energy and management of natural resources – hereby tentatively associated to specific objectives 4 (country-based programmes) and 6 (regional cooperation programmes).

Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2014-2020 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million).

Gender mainstreaming

The Commission is committed to the implementation of EU Gender Action Plan II, 2016-2020 (GAP II), as well as the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in international fora and agendas. The GAP was endorsed on October 26, 2015 by the Council which confirmed in its Conclusions that gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU legal and political framework. A number of actions to address gender equality, such as the implementation of specific programs on gender equality, are undertaken: for example, in the Eastern partnership region, ENI is supporting women-led small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the provision of access to finance and the know-how.

In 2019, gender commitments under ENI amounted to EUR 782.3 million, an increase compared to 2017 and 2018 (respectively EUR 496 and EUR 525 million).

Data reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology. The budget of marked actions is weighted 100 % if gender equality is marked as 'principal objective' and 40 % if it is marked as 'significant objective'. Gender markers apply to actions funded in all sectors respectively specific objectives.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

In the Southern Neighbourhood, 292 actions were reported in 2018 – 14 % fewer than the 340 actions reported in 2017. Reports were submitted by 10 EU Delegations – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Syria and Tunisia. With 135 actions geared towards thematic priority C, this was by far the most addressed priority, followed by thematic priorities B (87 actions) and D (81).

In 2018, In the Eastern Neighbourhood, 171 actions were reported by five EU Delegations – to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Of these actions, 139 were aligned with GAP II thematic priorities. This marks a significant increase from 88 reported actions in 2017. Thematic priority C was the most frequently addressed (71 actions), followed by thematic priorities D (40) and B (27).

Neighbourhood South

Objective 7 on combatting violence against women and girls remained the focus for EU actions under thematic priority B. However, the number of actions that addressed objective 7 in 2018 fell by one-third compared to 2017. While some countries introduced ambitious legislation to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, many obstacles remain, not least as gender inequalities are embedded in discriminatory cultural norms and traditions. EUD predominantly worked in Morocco (12 actions) and Egypt (4 actions) to address violence against women. Some actions were also combined with sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives – in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and in Tunisia, through the 'Moussawat' programme. As in 2017, all GAP II indicators linked to objective 7 were included in the actions reported in 2018. Actions targeting objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights increased significantly – rising by 42 %, with 21 new actions in 2018. The EUD in Jordan supported actions in the framework of the EU support for civil society organisations. In Lebanon, the EUD contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms for Syrian refugees and vulnerable communities, including by working to reduce economic barriers to accessing health services. Actions that targeted objective 8 on the trafficking of women and girls decreased by 17 %, in addition, actions that targeted objective 10, on 'preventive and rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare' also decreased by 27 % in 2018. Actions addressing objective 8.

Under thematic priority C, objective 15 was addressed by 47 actions (36 %). This reflects an increase in actions on 'women's access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship' compared to 2017. Actions focused on improving women's access to financial services in the framework of inclusive economic growth, as reported by EU Delegations to Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. In 2018, attention to objective 14 increased compared to 2017. Efforts to promote decent work responded to the immense gender gap in labour force participation – 21 % for women and 74 % for men in the extended Arab region. In Jordan, the EUD collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to monitor the labour aspects of the EU's 'rules of origin' implementation. In Lebanon, the EUD contributed to improving farming and fisheries.

Under thematic priority D, 46 actions addressed objective 17 reflecting a strong focus on women's participation in policy and governance processes. In Algeria, the EUD promoted democratic governance and women's participation in local governance.

In Egypt, the EUD championed their citizenship rights. In Jordan, the EUD contributed to democratic development. In Libya, the EUD actively engaged in democratic transition at the local and national levels, including by building capacities for local governance. Objective 19 was the second most frequently selected under thematic priority D. Actions to overcome discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes centred on strengthening civil society in Algeria, Morocco and Syria.

Eastern Neighbourhood

In 2018, 25 actions addressed thematic priority B, a decline from 33 actions in 2017. However, more objectives were selected under the priority – four in 2018, compared to two in the previous year. The focus of 40 % of actions under priority B, objective 7 on 'girls and women free from violence' was the most frequently selected objective in the sub-region. Nonetheless, it was targeted by roughly half as many actions in 2018 as in 2017. Objective 10, on physical and mental healthcare, was addressed by 36 % of reported actions – a change from 2017, when objective 8 on curbing trafficking was the second most selected objective. Combatting trafficking and ensuring protection from gender-based violence in crises continued to be a focus of actions in the sub-region. Actions linked to objective 7 were largely implemented in Georgia (6 actions), Ukraine (3) and Belarus (1). They ranged from

advocacy for child and youth protection to the social integration of survivors of domestic violence. In Georgia, anti VAWG campaigns were spearheaded in areas where ethnic and religious minority communities are concentrated. The EUD to Ukraine mobilised internally displaced women to address domestic and gender-based violence, as well as the restoration of governance and reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, while promoting women as agents of change for peace-building and conflict prevention at the grassroots level. On objective 8, Azerbaijan, actions enhanced national capacities to counter trafficking. Initiatives in addressed rising numbers of irregular migrants in Belarus, while in Georgia they focused on improving security, accountability and combatting crime. Three actions addressed objective 9 on the ‘protection for all women and men from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations’.

Under thematic priority C, 35 actions (51 %) addressed objective 15, on ‘access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’ – marking a steady increase compared to 2017. Actions were implemented across five partner countries. In Azerbaijan and Belarus, the EUD were active in supporting rural advisory services for women (indicator 15.6), including by enhancing 11.2. Antenatal care services coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) (SDG 3.2) 7.3. Percentage of referred cases of gender- and sexual-based violence against women and children that were investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39) 7.2. Prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months (SDG 5.38).

Objective 14 was the second most selected, with a marked increase (by 80 %) in actions addressing decent work. In Georgia, the EUD actively promoted skills development, rural development and diversification. The EU Delegation to Moldova supported the implementation of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (EU-Moldova DCFTA), prompting a 65 % increase in Moldovan exports to the EU, paired with inclusive economic empowerment programmes, including a business academy for women. A focus grew on objective 13 regarding education and training, as 83 % more actions addressed this objective in 2018 than in 2017. The EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia supported efforts to boost tertiary enrolment rates for women and men (indicator 13.3).

Objective 17 was most frequently selected under thematic priority D, as 29 actions (76 %) addressed ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’. EUD were particularly active, especially on gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 17.7) and enhancing women’s representation among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (indicator 17.4). The EUD to Georgia funded the largest number of initiatives (16 actions) under this objective in the framework of budgetary support for public administration reform, civil service reform, and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. In Moldova, the EUD contributed to tackling corruption, alongside budgetary support for police reform and support for civil society advocacy on inclusive and fair elections. One action addressed objective 19, challenging and changing discriminatory norms and stereotypes that prevent gender equality by the EUD to Moldova.

SDG7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

In the Southern Neighbourhood, cooperation in the energy sector continues to be a major element of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. A secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply is still a priority, and is key to underpinning stability and prosperity across the region. The European Neighbourhood Policy contributes to the Partnership objectives for energy and climate action linked to the global agenda and the international fora, including SDG7. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership encompasses the reinforcement of a structured regional dialogue on energy and climate action among Member States, regional organisations, financial institutions, civil society, private sector and experts. It also supports the promotion of relevant projects and initiatives, as well as their implementation and replicability, in line with the priorities identified within the dialogue platforms.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the EaP commitment ‘20 key deliverables for 2020’, endorsed at the Eastern Partnership Summit of November 2017, continues to be a key contribution to the UN 20130 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes one priority areas (out of four) contributing to the implementation of SDG7: Stronger Connectivity (connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change). Indeed, ENI support to energy interconnections and energy efficiency continuous to help Partner Countries to reduce energy dependency and to bolster their resilience. It also supports the implementation of the political commitments to pursue a green, low-carbon transition, as reinforced by the Paris Climate Agreement, Climate Action Summit, Madrid Climate Change Conference and EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change (SDG 13, ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’).

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The European Neighbourhood Policy and programmes continue to provide a significant contribution to the achievement of SDG 8 both in the Eastern and in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, the Mediterranean region has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the world. ENP support intervenes in this framework.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, one of the four priority areas under the EaP commitment ‘20 deliverables for 2020’ is Stronger Economy (economic development and market opportunities). Some of the deliverables related to this priority area also contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 (see next paragraph on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The European Neighbourhood Policy and programmes contribute to the achievement of SDG 9 both in the Eastern and in the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, on the top of the initiatives mentioned above contributing to SDG7, the use of blending through the bilateral envelopes complements the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) and the European External Investment Plan (EIP). The interventions aim at improving the investment environment as a way to reinforce the reform dimension of the EIP. The EU also intends to vigorously promote coordination with International Financial Institutions, namely European FIs, which have signalled important additional outreach in the South.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the EaP priority area Stronger Connectivity (connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change) fully contributes to the achievement of SDG 9.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

In the Southern Neighbourhood, the ENP contributes to the implementation of SDG 12 through national projects fostering sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; regional initiatives promoting inter alia energy connectivity; mainstreaming of climate action and biodiversity.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the two EaP priorities mentioned above – Stronger Economy (economic development and market opportunities) and Stronger Connectivity (connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change) – contribute to the achievement of SDG 12.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

In the Southern Neighbourhood, the ENP initiatives contributing to the achievement of SDG 16 are those focusing on the key ENP objectives of preserving stability, strengthening State and local governance, public administration reform and rule of law, and implementing key dialogues and platforms.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the following keys deliverables under the EaP ‘20 deliverables for 2020’ commitment: ‘Stronger Governance (strengthening institutions and good governance); ‘Strengthen the rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms’; ‘Support the implementation of key judicial reforms’; ‘Support the implementation of public administration reform’; ‘Stronger security cooperation’ all contribute to the achievement of SDG 16.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Neighbourhood Investment Platform (former Neighbourhood Investment Facility)

The Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) is a blending instrument under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), which in turn constitutes pillar I of the External Investment Plan of the European Union. The NIP aims to achieve the objectives of the EFSD and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) or related EU thematic policy priorities by leveraging additional financing for the region.

The overarching objective of the NIP is to mobilise additional investments to support the establishment of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the EU and neighbouring countries. In complementarity with other EU-funded programmes, the NIP can foster sustainable, inclusive growth and a favourable investment climate in our partner countries.

Support to the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP)

The objective of the support to FEMIP is to provide capital to the private sector of Mediterranean partner countries on terms that are not available locally.

Risk capital is invested directly or indirectly in order to: (i) support the private sector, i.e. enable the creation, restructuring or growth of enterprises; (ii) strengthen the role of the local financial sector by supporting the creation of new institutions or the establishment of new activities for the benefit of the private sector.

The FEMIP is the predecessor of the NIP and does not receive new EU funding, but implements existing operations until their scheduled closure. More information regarding the Financial instruments can be found at the documents accompanying the Draft Budget as per Art. 38(5) FR, Art. 49(I)(e) FR, Art. 140(8) FR.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis:

The conflict in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. Over 5.7 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries with the crisis going into its 10th year. Despite the move of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to Europe in 2015/2016, the primary burden of hosting the refugees continues to fall on the neighbouring countries in the region. Lebanon (1 million) and Jordan (700,000) host the largest numbers of registered refugees per capita in the world. In Lebanon, one in five people is a refugee, while one in 15 is a refugee in Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey continues to host the largest number of refugees in the world, 3.7 million. Iraq and Egypt continue to host large numbers of Syrian refugees along with refugees from many other countries. Many of the refugees have now been in these host countries for many years and struggle to make ends meet. They are increasingly vulnerable and face extremely high rates of poverty. The impact on the neighbouring countries hosting the refugees, has been profound.

Since its establishment in December 2014, an increasing share of the EU’s support to help Syrian refugees and support Syria’s neighbouring countries cope with the refugee crisis is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian

Crisis. The Trust Fund reinforces an integrated EU aid response to the crisis and primarily addresses longer-term resilience and early recovery needs of Syrian refugees, host communities and their administrations in neighbouring countries, in particular Lebanon, Jordan & Iraq. The Trust Fund's programmes support basic education and child protection for refugees, training and higher education, better access to healthcare, improved water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as support to resilience, women empowerment and fighting gender based violence, economic opportunities and social stability. The scope of the Fund includes support to internally displaced persons in Iraq and support in the Western Balkans to non-EU countries affected by the refugee crisis.

Overall, EUR 1.9 billion has been mobilised in voluntary contributions from the EU budget, 22 EU Member States and Turkey. Almost all of this, EUR 1.9 billion has already been allocated by the Trust Fund Board to finance concrete actions helping refugees and host countries alike.

ENI Contribution to the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis: EUR 1 114 million up to 31 December 2019.

EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa:

The European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa) aims to foster stability and to contribute to better migration management, including by addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration.

It was established at the Valletta Summit on Migration in November 2015 where European and African Heads of State and Government gathered in an effort to strengthen cooperation and address the current challenges, but also the opportunities of migration. The Trust Fund is meant to complement existing EU instruments, national and regional frameworks, and bilateral programmes of EU Member States by providing a swift and flexible answer to migration related challenges. From an operational point of view, activities are implemented across three regions of Africa – the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa.

The North of Africa window of the Trust Fund operates in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. This particular region is characterised as an area of origin, transit and final destination for mixed migration flows from sub-Saharan Africa, West Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, with many countries of these regions affected by on-going instability and conflict.

ENI contribution to the EUTF for Africa – North of Africa window amounts to EUR 422 million up to 31 December 2019.

7. Programme related additional information

Following the London conference in February 2016, the EU has committed itself to provide an important financial assistance to the countries affected by the Syria crisis. Under the pledges from the EU budget for 2016-2019 for a total amount of EUR 1.55 billion ENI contributed EUR 1.114 billion of which EUR 201 million in 2019 (for Jordan and Lebanon).

At the Brussels I conference in 2017, pledges from the EU budget for 2018 for Syria, Jordan and Lebanon amounted to EUR 560 million, out of which ENI contributes EUR 250 million. The EU pledged the same amount for 2019 (with ENI contribution of EUR 242.5 million), and at the Brussels III conference (March 2019) confirmed the same level of support for 2020 (with ENI contribution of EUR 240 million) for humanitarian and resilience assistance to Syrian population inside the country and in neighbouring countries.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

Lead DG: DEVCO

Associated DGs: EAC

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

In the field of development cooperation, the EU's primary objective is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. In line with the new European Consensus on Development ⁽¹⁾, which implements the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development ⁽²⁾ in relation to development policy, the DCI also contributes to the achievement of a range of objectives of EU external action, in particular fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development as well as promoting democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights, preserving peace and preventing conflict, improving the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, assisting populations, countries and regions confronting natural or man-made disasters, and promoting an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance. Through the DCI, the EU also aims to ensure that both positive and negative impacts of migration on development are recognised in national and regional development strategies. It also provides assistance to countries wishing to strengthen migration governance in order to achieve development outcomes.

The DCI covers all the developing countries except the countries eligible for the Pre-Accession Instrument. It is made of three components: (1) the geographic programmes that, so far, have funded bilateral cooperation with 29 countries and 3 regions; (2) the thematic programmes which finance (2.1) Global Public Goods and support (2.2) Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities; (3) the Pan-African programme which funds the implementation of the joint Africa-EU Strategy.

EU added value of the programme

The EU is in a unique position to deliver on external action on behalf of and with Member States, giving enhanced credibility in the countries where it works. The EU alone has the critical mass to respond to global challenges, such as poverty reduction and climate change. Due to its large scale and the existing network of international agreements, it can deliver help to the poor in some of the world's most remote areas, both implementing aid and coordinating.

In its role as a promoter of inclusiveness and multilateralism, the EU can do more than other international organisation. Acting as one, the EU can have greater impact and more leverage in policy dialogue and donor cooperation

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct (mainly grants) and indirect management through international organisations, Member State agencies and beneficiary countries.

1. Geographic programmes:

Latin America:

The funds are implemented through direct and indirect management. Grants and services are the most used type of assistance while all indirect management is done via PAGODA with a large variety of partners in the region as well as EU Member States and the EIB. A relevant part of direct management is done via Budget support modality.

Asia:

Budget Support remains the preferred modality. In this framework, we collaborate with a large variety of partners such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other International Organisations, Member States, etc. Since the mid-term review of the DCI in 2018, there is a strong increase in funds foreseen for investments allocated to regional programmes (and temporarily earmarked to have country allocations), with strong partners such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), Member State agencies (Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)), and Asian Development Bank (ABD).

South Africa:

Most of the cooperation with South Africa uses the direct management mode. This is because 43 % of the allocation for 2014-2020, committed so far, uses budget support as aid delivery method. The rest of the allocation uses the project approach (procurement of services, grants and programme estimates) as aid delivery method, through a combination of direct and indirect management. In

⁽¹⁾ 'The new European Consensus on Development: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future'. Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission (OJEU C 210/1, 30.6.2017).

⁽²⁾ United Nations General Assembly, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (A/69/L.85).

cases where country systems are not used, the South African Government is closely involved in the actions, which are aligned with the country's National Development Plan.

2. Thematic programmes

2.1 Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)

The GPGC programme uses a wide range of implementation modalities, mostly direct and indirect management. Budget support, and public procurement are used by some components of the programme (e.g. Environment), while contributions to EU Trust Funds are occasionally made (e.g. for the Migration component, see section 6.2). Blending is used in some cases (e.g. food security).

Environment and Climate change:

While financial instruments and budgetary guarantees are not directly financed under this programme, it will contribute to promote sustainable investments under financial instruments and guarantees through technical assistance, enabling business environment as well as environmental and climate change mainstreaming. The main implementing partners are international organisations (including United Nations), Member States agencies and civil society organisations.

Sustainable Energy:

Sustainable energy actions have been mainly implemented under the blending framework. For specific actions linked to gender and support to the level of cities, grants under direct and indirect management have been used.

Human Development:

This part of the programme is mostly implemented via a mix of grants and indirect management.

Food security, nutrition and agriculture

The Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture action area is implemented through the project approach: direct and indirect management and in some cases with co-financing and via blending.

Migration and asylum

The migration and asylum programme is mainly implemented in direct or indirect management mode. A part of the programme has also been implemented via contributions to EU Trust Funds (see section 6.2 below). Implementing partners consist of specialised United Nations or other International Organisations with a particular mandate or added value in the area of migration or forced displacement. EU Member States are also important implementing partners for the programme.

2.2. Civil Society Organisations and Local authorities (CSO-LA)

This component is mostly implemented in direct management via calls for proposals. The Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities programme (CSO-LA) has an objective of strengthen civil society organisations (CSO) and local authorities (LA) in partner countries and, when their actions relate to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) of European citizens.. The CSO component is implemented through grant contracts with civil society organisations on direct management by the Commission and some procurement service contracts to facilitate the full implementation of the programme. The LA and DEAR components are also implemented through grant contracts, with the following implementing partners, respectively for LA: Local Authorities, Associations of Local Authorities, consortium of Local Authorities, Association of Local Authorities, City Networks; for DEAR: civil society organisations and local authorities mostly in EU Member States for DEAR.

3. Pan-African programme:

The Panafrican Programme is mostly implemented by the African Union Commission or specialised International Organisation in fields where they provide an added value or have a recognised international mandate. In fields like higher education, statistics or aviation, where the main objective is to share with the African partners our European expertise technologies and know-how, the cross-delegation to line DGs or their implementing agencies is the favoured modality.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The DCI appropriations 2014-2019 were fully used and implemented as planned, through a comprehensive programming process. The result of the process has been a set of programming documents that define per bilateral/regional/thematic programme: the priority areas for financing, the specific objectives, expected results, indicators and indicative allocations. There is no need for corrective action at this stage. Annual programmes can be consulted at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/annual-action-programmes_en

Latin America

In Latin America, programme implementation and formulation largely went as planned. The total available amount of DCI credits were committed in key sectors such as water and climate change; private sector and investment; economic development; education; security, rule of law and governance. Budget support remains an important instrument for implementation in Latin America, and

accounted for roughly a third of the total amount committed. Working directly with country systems, it proves to be a strong tool in reinforcing policy dialogue on key reforms and improving public financial management systems, domestic revenue mobilisation efforts, transparency and accountability. The importance of investments continues to grow and the DCI contribution to investment and blending under the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) continued.

In Asia and Middle East/Gulf:

Globally, programming is on track, with only 11 % of the post-mid term review (MTR) allocation still to be programmed for 2020.

Budget support remains the preferred aid modality, working directly with country systems, reinforcing policy dialogue on key reforms and improving public financial management systems, domestic revenue mobilisation efforts, transparency and accountability. A variety of sectors is targeted, such as governance, social protection, energy, agriculture, etc., the main sector being education, employment and vocational training. Budget support operations exceeded 35 % of total financial commitments for the Asia region in 2019 DCI budget (including regional programmes). The number of countries benefitting from budget support has steadily increased from 2014 until today.

Investments gained momentum over the last three years. The EU contribution to investment and blending under the investment facilities for Asia totalled EUR 300 million in the period 2017-2019, compared to EUR 193.26 million for the period 2014-2016. In addition, there is a solid pipeline of projects that far exceeds the allocations for blending investments under the current MFF.

South Africa

The South African component of the DCI is being implemented as planned. In 2016 and 2017, the executed budget financed actions were for an amount of EUR 119.6 million. In 2018, there was a financing decision for two programmes: (a) EUR 10 million to finance the support programme to the wine and spirit sector; and (b) EUR 10 million to finance the gender equality and women empowerment programme. In 2019, there was a financing decision for two programmes (a) EUR 10 million to finance the SADC-EU EPA support programme; and (b) EUR 12.3 million Accountability programme. There was also a substantial addendum (EUR 5 million) for the support programme to the wine and spirit sector.

Thematic Programmes:

Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)

Environment and Climate change:

The formulation and implementation of the GPGC programmes on environment and climate change is on track and in line with the Multi-annual Indicative Programmes. The implementation of the Annual Action Programmes of the period concerned included a focus on: (i) enhancing climate cooperation through the Global Climate Change Alliance; (ii) promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; (iii) supporting climate change mitigation and the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) established under the Paris Agreement; (iv) mainstreaming environment and climate change; (v) improving forest governance and tackling deforestation; (vi) combatting wildlife and forest crime; (vii) promoting sustainable water resources management; (viii) promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; (ix) reversing land degradation, restoring land and promoting integrated landscape approaches; (x) supporting the transition to low-carbon green and circular economy and action to tackle pollution; and, (xi) improving international environmental and climate change governance.

Sustainable Energy: During the period 2017-2019, formulation and implementation of the actions under the Sustainable Energy budget line of the GPGC were in line with the planning of the programme and conducted without any significant delays, except for one of the three projects under the Women and Sustainable Energy Initiative (see 'Key achievement' section), with a focus on improving sustainable energy regulatory framework and unlocking, leveraging and accelerating investments, as well as building strategic alliances to achieve sustainable energy goals.

Human Development: The implementation of the Human Development component of the GPGC programme took place over the period 2016-2018 according to planning and without particular problems or delays. The available credits were committed across all areas of intervention covered by the Human Development budget line of the programme, such as health, education, culture, gender and child welfare, social inclusion, decent work, vocational education and training, sustainable growth and jobs, as well as domestic resources mobilisation. The project portfolio is a mix of contributions to key global initiatives such as the Spotlight Initiative (EUR 90 million) to end violence against women and girls; the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and standalone projects such as the EUR 21 million Building Resilience in Crises through Education project (BRiCE) or the EUR 50 million Spotlight Initiative in Latin America: ending violence against women and girls.

Food security, nutrition and agriculture: The analysis of commitments in the area of nutrition showed that a total of EUR 3.5 billion will be reached by 2020. Between 2014 and 2018, the EC committed to nutrition a total of EUR 3 billion, equivalent to 87 % of the target. The 2018 Annual Action Programme was finalized with full commitment of EUR 217 million and no major problems encountered. The programme DeSIRA on innovation through research reached a portfolio of around EUR 230 million for the period 2017-2019, covering *inter alia* agro-ecological intensification and agroforestry, livestock, pest and disease surveillance, knowledge and innovation systems in more than 30 countries in Africa (Sahel in particular), Latin America and Asia. The Pro Action Resilience (ProACT) initiative ensured continuity in the field of resilience to the food crisis throughout the period 2017-2019 with over EUR 210 million. Agri Value chain programmes remained central to strengthen sustainable development and to analyze the sustainability of value chains.

Migration and asylum: The initial budget allocated for the migration and asylum component for the period 2014-2020 was considerably increased, notably with an additional EUR 12 million in 2016, an additional EUR 357 million in 2017, as well as EUR 11.5 in 2018 and an additional EUR 1.9 million in 2019, with a view to address the increased challenges linked to migration and forced displacement in our partner countries. The programme has been implemented according to plans, including the above-mentioned unforeseen allocations. In coherence with and complementing the increased geographical funding for migration, the programme has contributed to implement the external dimension of the EU's policy priorities in the area of migration and forced displacement, within the framework of the European Agenda on Migration and the Partnership Framework, and fully in line with the SDG Agenda and the Consensus on Development. During the period 2016-2019 the programme has contributed to these objectives through transfers to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, in addition to a number of global and cross-regional programmes.

Civil Society Organisations and Local authorities (CSO-LA): In 2019, the **CSO budget line** amounted to EUR 230.9 million, including an increase of EUR 11.3 million, adopted through a new Commission implementing decision. At country level, EUR 172 million were allocated to more than 80 countries. The 2018 funds were fully committed at country and global level and the 2019 payments under the CSO budget line reached EUR 193.3 million. At global level, additional consultations were necessary before the launch of the calls for proposals for the Foundations and Inequalities and Prevention Counter Violent Extremism, therefore slightly shifting the planning. However, the funds for these calls remain available and will be fully committed in 2020.

In 2019, a call for proposals amounting to EUR 77 million under the Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme was finalised. Five grants were awarded to civil society organisations and local authorities selected in the call, for EUR 31 million. In addition, one direct grant for EUR 1 million was awarded.

Under the 2018 Annual Action Plan (61.8 million), the Call for Proposals on Partnerships for Sustainable Cities was launched in October 2018 and contracted in its entirety in December 2019. The Multiannual Action Programme adopted in November 2019 focuses on two aspects: strengthening local authorities as actors of governance with action and operation grants and, in the area of Local Authorities, Partnerships for Sustainable Cities initiative, that will be launched in February 2020.

PANAF

Within the Pan-African programme (PanAf), the DCI Budget finances programmes contributing to the strategic areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes 2014-2017 and 2018-2020, in line with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). Over 2018-2019, actions put a particular focus on Higher Education, Economic Integration, Migration, Digitalisation, Statistics, Infrastructures, Governance.

The 2019 Annual Indicative Programme (AAP) has focused on: (i) the development of inter-regional infrastructure in the frame of the European Investment Plan; (ii) the support to African Governance Architecture; (iii) the reinforcement of the African Statistics systems; (iv) the fighting to illegal financial flows.

The 2020 Annual Indicative Programme (AAP) will focus on: (i) the support to the negotiations, ratification and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), (ii) the support to the operationalisation of the Digital Economy Task Force Partnership; (iii) the support to the operationalisation of the Single African Air Transport Market; (iv) a Science and Technology partnership on sustainable use of natural resources and climate change.

Key achievements

In 2019 EU bilateral aid under the DCI is more focused on countries that need it the most, such as Least Developed Countries and Lower Income Countries, while the share of Upper and Middle Income Countries has been significantly reduced. Similarly, at country level EU aid is more focused with three or less sectors of concentration in each partner country. Among the sectors of concentration, DCI support is strongly focused on Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for Human Development, which is also a priority area of the Agenda for Change.

1. Geographic programmes:

Latin America:

In 2019, projects and programmes have achieved important results in **Latin America** in key sectors such as water and climate change; private sector and investment; economic development; security, rule of law and governance.

A number of key achievements and examples of success stories:

In 2019, the **EU Trust Fund for Colombia** continued to support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC. It translates the EU's political support to the Peace Agreement, in particular on the elements related to rural reform, and the social and economic reincorporation of former FARC combatants. The Trust Fund has become the most visible tool of EU cooperation in Colombia. It has allowed the necessary flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances, and enabled an effective response to evolving political priorities. Through its 21 ongoing projects, focused in territories highly affected by the internal armed conflict, the EUTF articulates ethnic, territorial and rural components, which are considered drivers for peace-building and territorial transformation. In 2019, it contributed in particular to the strengthening of national and local institutions, of local actor's capacities, and to the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

The **Honduras** climate change programme supported the Government in pursuing its ambitious climate agenda and to cope with

the adverse effects of climate change. DEVCO's support also allowed the collaboration between Honduras and Costa Rica on the development of a 30-year decarbonisation plan and the set-up of a climate dialogue platform (Mesa País) gathering all relevant institutions. DEVCO has added value in this area by providing support using a multitude of financial instruments, tools and technical expertise, enabling a comprehensive approach adapted to the different challenges and accompanying the Government's efforts in an integrated way.

The socio-political crisis is still affecting **Nicaragua**. In spite of the constraints this entails, projects had an impact on the ground, supporting the most vulnerable among the population. The EU adapted its portfolio of projects to the changed operating context, and renewed its focus on defending human rights, shoring up support to victims, and helping to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis. Most notably, the EU began operational implementation of its latest bilateral programme 'BOOST' to deliver timely support to at-risk agricultural producers.

With regard to **regional cooperation**, successful initiatives in strategic sectors were launched and further developed in 2019. With regard to the **security-development nexus**, two actions were signed under the **EUROFRONT** programme to foster intra-Latin American cooperation in the area of integrated border management with the selection of 4 land crossing posts involving 7 countries as well as to support the fight against human and migrants trafficking. EUROFRONT received a strong support from EU MS (especially ES, IT, PT) and will start implementation in 2020.

EL PACCTO represents a concrete EU response to support dialogue on Citizen Security within the region and with the EU Member States, in line with Chapter 10 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan. It is achieving important results including the creation of important EU-LA police and penitentiary cooperation networks. Major achievements in 2019 have also been the start of the Bi-National Border Police Centre between Panama and Costa Rica, and the regional conference on alternative measures to imprisonment.

The second phase of the regional programme on drugs policies – **COPOLAD II** – continued its implementation. This programme is in line with the European Union Strategy on Drugs 2013 – 2020. The programme continued to show good results in 2019 in the area of reduction of drug demand and creation of National Observatories. The third phase of the regional anti-drugs programme – **COPOLAD III** – was approved in December 2019.

EUROCLIMA+ is DEVCO's flagship programme on environmental sustainability and climate change with Latin America. It is contributing in particular to achieving progress in reaching the Specific Objective 7. It continued to assist Latin American Governments with the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into a national policy framework, with a view of supporting sustainable economic growth and social development alongside environmental and climate protection. Next to country dialogues, technical assistance for policy development and implementation, some 60 projects in six different sectors (jointly identified) were either launched or selected during 2019. EUROCLIMA+ provided financial and logistical support to Chile's COP25 presidency. It contributed to strengthening the bi-regional climate partnership, and generated political and popular momentum in Europe, Latin America and beyond, to increase climate ambition in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Other regional initiatives include **Eurosocial** supporting social cohesion and public policies and **AL-Invest 5.0** promoting inclusive growth and local SMEs through professional organisations and networks.

The **Latin American Investment Facility (LAIF)** has committed over EUR 444 million since its launch in 2010. Traditionally focused on capital-intensive sectors such as energy, transport and water and sanitation, the projects financed are evolving into more sophisticated products with a strong focus on climate change action and support to SMEs. Projects target a variety of sectors that have a strong impact on both poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, and LAIF is becoming become a lab for new approaches in the region. The contributions are expected to leverage investments amounting to EUR 11.8 billion.

As an example, LAIF enabled a contribution to a **Green Bond Investment Fund** to promote investments at the regional level, with a strong focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The contribution in the form of bonds in green sectors is in line with recommendations from the Blending evaluation exercise to expand from traditional technical assistance and investment grants, into risk sharing mechanisms. Other examples of LAIF enabled interventions are the off-grid access to energy project in Panama, the Eco business Fund which supports green agriculture, biodiversity and ecotourism, support to the first Concentrated Solar Power Plant in Latin America in Chile, to the Geothermal Development facility in Central America. Almost every project approved has now a climate change component and our focus is to expand our work in forestry and adaptation to climate change.

Asia and Middle East/Gulf:

In 2019 development cooperation in Asia continued to have a strong focus on **least developed and fragile countries**.

Particular emphasis continued to be given to good governance and sustainable sector reforms. Enhanced focus was given to job creation and sustainable growth, inclusive growth via promotion of investments. The development of the Private Sector was key, as it has a major role to play for sustainable economic development and growth.

Budget support remained an important aid modality in the region. Reflecting this, the Commission decided upon 11 new programmes in 2019 and another three are planned for 2020. Besides these, several budget support programmes continued their implementation in 2019 and particular attention was given to the follow-up of major strategic programmes in Afghanistan (State Building and Resilience Contracts), Vietnam (sector reform performance contract in energy) and education/TVET in Bangladesh.

When it comes to **investments**, we managed to use the allocated funds to projects facilitating investments in line with our policy objectives. The majority of activities were implemented under blending facilities and more specifically under the Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA) and Asia Investment Facility (AIF). In blending operations EU grants are used strategically to mobilize financing from partner financial institutions and the private sector with the objective to enhance the development impact of investment projects and/or to promote investments that without the grant contribution would be difficult to fund due to market failure.

IFCA contributes to achieving the objectives of the new Central Asia Strategy: Investments can contribute directly and indirectly to better regulatory frameworks, resilience, prosperity, market creation and expansion (in particular for renewable energy), sustainable connectivity, improved water management, enhanced regional integration, and job creation. The specific objectives for investments as well as result indicators will be defined at individual project level and approved under the DCI Blending Framework.

In 2019, a new EU **Strategy on Central Asia** was adopted (the last strategy dated from 2007). Fast changing regional dynamics created more demand and new opportunities for EU engagement, such as domestic reforms in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, new momentum in regional cooperation (e.g. closer cooperation on water management), development of connectivity initiatives, and more active interest from Central Asian states for Afghanistan.

Under the RIP 2014-2020, EUR 150 million has been allocated to IFCA, with a focus on green growth and SME development. Under the MTR, bilateral investment allocations earmarked for Kyrgyzstan (EUR 10 million), Tajikistan (EUR 20 million) and Uzbekistan (EUR 15 million) have been moved to the regional envelope in line with the SDGs. These funds have been allocated to projects that boost sustainable investments in these countries. In 2019, projects financed by the facility in the sustainable energy as well as in the water and sanitation sector were contracted.

The AIF, contributes to the achievement of objectives related to SME financing and development, energy, climate change, environment and natural resources management, including water management, disaster preparedness, forest restoration and risk reduction. It has benefitted from DCI allocations of EUR 343.63 million by the end of 2019, funding 39 blending projects. EU contributions have been committed for projects benefitting Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Indonesia and China notably to boost investments in green policy and loans.

Following the adoption in September 2018 of the Joint Communication on Connecting Europe and Asia – building blocks for an EU Strategy, the Commission further strengthened its partnerships in the region and focused even more on providing technical assistance, improving regulatory environments and creating incentives to drive forward and scale-up much needed investments. Major progress has also been made in engaging with China (through meetings), and the groundwork has been laid to resume the EU-India development strategy.

Climate change and sustainable environment also remained high on the agenda.

In **Pakistan**, since the start of the 'Programme for Economic Advancement and Community Empowerment' (PEACE) the project has completed 165 micro-hydro power plant units in off-grid areas producing 21.2 MW of electricity for lighting 90,000 households and 10,000 commercial enterprises and public services, such as schools, hospitals and health units. Currently, 150 small micro-hydro power plants (25-100 KW) are maintained by community organizations with limited technical support: a further extension of the project is being prepared to ensure their sustainability and the long-term economic benefits resulting from these hydro power plants. In addition, a financing decision was adopted in 2019 to strengthen the sound governance of water resources in drought-affected southern Pakistan by introducing alternative, low-water use farming systems.

In **Bhutan**, EU support contributes to the ongoing local government reforms and the policies for agriculture and rural development. This will aim at reducing poverty and inequality, development of sustainable rural livelihoods resilient to climate change impacts and promoting carbon neutral development. Performance-based grants are being rolled out to 30 local authorities providing funds for the construction of farm roads, water supply and irrigation schemes, religious sites, schools and health facilities, electrification, fencing/gates, walls and drainage. This will help increase the land area under organic and natural production, the quantity of climate change resilient seeds of cereals and vegetables supplied to farmers, and improved dairy cattle breeding. Significant progress was made in rural infrastructure, with some 13 000 acres of land brought under farm mechanisation, over 5 000 km of farm roads built and 2 600 km of irrigation channels constructed, as well as 34 irrigation storage tanks installed. The programme has also contributed to the creation of an additional 35 000 jobs in the agriculture and cottage industry under the 11th Five Year Plan. The additional funding of EUR 7.3 million decided in 2019 will support drinking water infrastructure, treatment plants and water supply schemes.

In line with the requirement of the Gender Action Plan II, **gender mainstreaming** was further pursued in new programmes with the aim of reaching the target of 85 % of all new programmes being gender sensitive by 2020.

As regards **migration** in 2019, the EU continued its engagement on migration and displacement with Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, implementing its commitments made since 2016 which now reach a total of more than EUR 300 million towards supporting Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, Afghan IDPs, returnees and host communities in Afghanistan, as well as returnees/IDPs and host communities in Iraq, Pakistan and Bangladesh. An additional EUR 10 million were added to this engagement to allow for EU support to the highly vulnerable Afghans returning from Turkey in increasing numbers. Through this assistance, the EU particularly aims at addressing the regional dimension of Afghan displacement, which was clearly reflected in the EU's clear statement of support to the launching of a Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2019.

In the framework of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Way Forward on migration, we have so far assisted 1,936 returnees returning from EU MS and more than 26,000 returnees from Turkey with post-arrival assistance. As regards sustainable integration of migrants and refugees and reintegration of returnees, in 2019, support in accessing the national health insurance scheme has been provided to 90,000 vulnerable Afghan refugees in Iran and schools have been constructed in areas with high numbers of refugees, allowing an additional 11,300 children, Afghans and Iranians alike, to access school. In Pakistan, the refurbishment or construction of education facilities benefits 4,600 students, vocational training opportunities has benefitted more than 300 beneficiaries, and legal assistance has been provided to 38,000 Afghan nationals. Also, EU contribution helped reach 6 million children through different vaccination and information campaigns targeting mobile populations (Unicef/WHO Children on the move project – EUR 33.9 million covering Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in Iran),

The Commission also continued its response to the forced displacement of Rohingya from Myanmar. Following the influx of more than 700,000 Rohingya into Bangladesh's southern district of Cox's Bazar in 2017, DEVCO mobilised substantial funding to address the needs of Rohingya refugees and their host communities. The EU development response focuses on improving access to effective basic services such as education and child protection, food and nutrition security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In 2019, 24 Learning Centres accommodating 1920 children, of which 51 % are girls, have been constructed. Forty-eight teachers from the Rohingya and host-community have been trained in the camps. The engagement of local, host community Bangladeshi teachers aims at promoting peaceful coexistence between the two communities, while the engagement of community members in the learning centre activities is ensuring ownership and sustainability. Furthermore, two Multi-Purpose Adolescent and Child Centres are now operational with EU support, and a third such centre is under construction. These centres offer a range of services including Early Childhood Development classes and give a chance to 160 adolescent girls and boys to learn new skills such as tailoring, handicrafts and computer and mobile phone servicing, thus opening up greater opportunities for their future. EU support also offers a safe, protective and enabling environment for adolescents through 39 adolescents clubs with now 2101 members in the host community and 26 clubs with 543 members in the camps, engaging them in topics such as child rights, self-esteem, decision-making, child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, risks of trafficking, gender-based violence.

South Africa:

From the outset, the objective of the EU assistance was the improvement of the living conditions of the previously disadvantaged population groups and the consolidation of the new democratic institutions. EU assistance covered practically all relevant areas and thus contributed to the socioeconomic progress. Although significant, the EU development assistance represents only a small percentage of South Africa's GDP and budget. EU support therefore targets programmes with a high value added (e.g. innovation, risk taking, capacity building, pilots with a high potential for replication), which the national budget does not foresee as they are considered too new or risky, while not yet proven through a pilot. Many results are very encouraging (the 'Dialogue Facility', Cooperation with civil society, etc.), but the full impact will only be reached once they are mainstreamed in government policies and their implementation fully achieved.

The most relevant cooperation programmes on education include the successful Erasmus+ and the Teaching and Learning Development (TLD) Sector Reform Programme.

(1) Erasmus+. This programme is a funding scheme to support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport. Results: More than **1 200 students and staff benefitted** between 2015 and 2018 from International Credit Mobility between Europe and South Africa. Fifty-four students obtained scholarships (Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees) and SA Institutions are involved in 18 Capacity Building projects, worth more than EUR 17 million.

(2) TLD. The programme aims to enhance the quantity and quality of teachers for all education sub-systems –it comprises Budget Support of EUR 20 million. The programme focuses on developing a teacher education system that can deliver quality professional development projects; and opportunities for educators, primary school teachers, vocational education lecturers and the professional development of university academics.

Results: the programme has helped to establish a South African Journal of Childhood Education, the Centre for Visual Impairment Studies, Centre for Deaf Studies and the Centre for Special Needs Education in Neuro-developmental disorders; develop 16 Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) professional qualifications in fourteen universities and 19 Continuing Education and Training (CET) professional qualifications in ten universities; support almost 100 students in their Masters' and Doctoral studies; finance sixteen research projects in post school education and training, including teacher/lecturer education, etc.

In 2018, the EU continued to provide budget support to improve access to socioeconomic rights (EUR 25 million) to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. In 2019, budget support was provided to the Teaching and Learning Development Sector Reform Contract (EUR 4 million); the Support Programme to the National System of Innovation (EUR 4 million); and the Education for Employability (EUR 8 million). The EU is also supporting Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the field of socioeconomic rights (seven grants for a total amount of EUR 5 million). In this context, in March 2018, the results of South Africa's largest attitudinal survey on the Constitution was made public, serving as a useful baseline and as a measure of satisfaction regarding the respect of human rights and democracy in the country.

The '**Dialogue Facility**' has continued supporting policy dialogue between the European Union and its Member States and South Africa in different sectors. Nine dialogues, approved in 2017, took place in 2017/2018; and six additional dialogues in multiple sectors were approved in 2018 following the second call for proposals to facilitate EU-SA peer-to-peer exchanges and technical expertise. An addendum to this Dialogue Facility (EUR 2 million) is to be prepared in 2020.

One key area of EU support is cooperation with civil society, which spans over 3 decades, including before the end of the apartheid regime. This cooperation, that undeniably strengthened the SA social tissue as well as the EU's presence in many areas, spans over different sectors of activity. In particular, some programmes have been set in place in 2015-2016 to secure the long-term sustainability of CSOs in the human rights sector.

2. Thematic programmes

2.1 Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC):

Actions funded under the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2018-2020 continued to support policies that have a high impact on people's well-being and empowerment, especially for those who are in vulnerable and marginalised situations, in the areas of health, education, gender equality, inclusive and sustainable growth and jobs as well as domestic resources mobilisation. More results are provided below.

Environment and Climate change:

Between 2014 and 2018, there was a steady increase of climate change-related financing, which has exceeded the 20 % target for the DCI instrument. More precisely, in 2018, contributions to the Rio-related themes by the DCI reached 28 % (Aid to Environment), 8 % (Biodiversity), 3.4 % (Desertification) and 23 % (Climate Change) respectively.

In its phase I (2014-2018), the DCI funded the project LoCAL (Local Climate Adaptive Facility), which is part of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) initiative, was deployed across 14 countries and over 107 local governments representing over 6 million people delivering 637 climate change adaptation interventions. The GPGC has also contributed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban LEDS) in cities in emerging economies (Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia and South Africa), and Least Developed Countries (Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Rwanda). Through the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Facility, the EU with other donors has accelerated low carbon development financing innovative projects that tackle specific local challenges for cutting emissions in sectors and countries with strong potential for being scaled up, replicated and able to influence wider sectoral changes, and unlocking investment opportunities by providing tailor-made climate finance to fund projects.

The B4Life Flagship contributed to integrating the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in development strategies and poverty eradication. The EU budget also mobilised substantial funds for combatting forest and wildlife crime, including to build national capacities of police, justice and customs authorities (through Interpol and the UN Organisation for Drugs and Crime) and to combat poaching and trafficking on the ground through civil society organisations in Africa (Congo Basin, Liberia, Kenya), Latin America (Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil) and Southeast Asia (Mekong region).

Under the EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade, the EU continued to provide support to 22 countries to improve forest management and governance. Eight countries were supported in developing and implementing their national strategies to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). In July 2019, the EU adopted a Communication to 'Step up action to protect and restore world's forests', which will shape future action in this area.

Continuous EU support to the Great Green Wall initiative contributed to the scaling-up of agroforestry and the restoration of over 160,000 hectares, with more than 100,000 households. In terms of political dialogue, the Sustainability, Stability and Security initiative financed by the EU budget has contributed to awareness raising and to forging a common African position on these topics.

Sustainable energy: The Electrification Financing Initiative EDFI (ElectriFI) is an innovative mechanism to unlock and leverage investments to increase and improve access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and promote rational use of energy at a global scale. It has attracted unprecedented interest from private sector, development financiers and global development partners as a key platform gathering efforts and resources in support of the sustainable energy agenda, such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Power Africa. This initiative was launched at COP21 (2015) and since then the ElectriFI operations have been increasing in number and scope, with total action amounting to EUR 120 million, an active portfolio of EUR 50 million and a pipeline of EUR 50 million. This is expected to result in at least 1.5 million direct and indirect connections or the equivalent of 7 million persons, with about 470 MW additional generation capacity and 430 GWh of electricity from renewable sources per year. The ElectriFI portfolio has grown rapidly during 2019: as of end of 2019, ElectriFI portfolio, provides access to electricity to more than 10.7 million people, saving more than 840,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions equivalent (180,000 cars in traffic for a year). Moreover, 43 % of the capital supports operations in low-income economies, and 22 % of the ElectriFI active investments are in fragile contexts.

Since its inception in 2015, the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa supported a core group of 13 cities to prepare their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans and to scale up the initiative, including by supporting 13 new Sub-Saharan African cities, as well as to facilitate access to finance for urban energy projects from existing financing initiatives such as the EFSD guarantees under the EIP.

Human Development:

Health: The Commission contributed to the Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) and to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI). The EU contribution of EUR 475 million to the Global Fund for 2017-2019 was fully disbursed. The Global Fund has saved 32 million lives since 2002. Only in 2018, 18.9 million people were on life-saving HIV treatment; 5.3 million treated for tuberculosis; and, 131 million mosquito nets distributed. Overall, the number of deaths caused by AIDS, TB and

malaria went down by 40 % since 2002 in countries where the Global Fund invests. Out of the EUR 200 million contribution to GAVI for 2016-2020, 80 % have been disbursed. Gavi spends about USD 1.5 billion per year in the 73 poorest countries and helped to immunise 760 million children, preventing more than 13 million future deaths. Today about half of the world's children receive vaccines supported by Gavi. It will also take on a new role in polio eradication.

Support to health systems strengthening has been implemented through the Universal Health Coverage Partnership with the World Health Organisation. The programme has assisted ministries of health in 115 countries to build robust health systems and secure access to equitable health for 2 billion persons.

Education: EU involvement in financing and governance of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Education cannot Wait (EcW) platform made it possible to make progress in addressing the global learning crisis, in particular regarding vulnerable groups in Low Income Countries (LICs) and children in situations of crises. EU and other donors' contributions to GPE resulted in achieving a large part of the GPE's 28 milestones set for 2018, across key dimensions such as education policy, management, access, quality, equity and learning outcomes. By the end of 2019, EcW succeeded in improving access to quality education for up to 2.3 million children and young people affected by crisis in more than 30 countries, of which nearly half are girls. In addition to first emergency responses, 10 multi-year resilience programmes have been launched to address challenges in protracted crises situations, bridging the humanitarian-development divide.

Gender equality and Women's Empowerment: The third report of implementation of the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (adopted in 2015) released in 2019 shows that in numerical terms, 2018 was another year of constant progression towards the GAP II target of ensuring that 85 % of a new programmes include gender equality as a significant or as a principal objective. The pace of progression however is slowing down and further efforts are needed. The EU integrated a gender dimension in all its policies and actions, including in political and policy dialogues. Under the **Spotlight Initiative** which is the EU-UN partnership launched at the end of 2017 to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls with an overall envelope of EUR 500 million, implementation started in 4 countries in Latin-America as well as at regional level and in 8 countries in Africa. Work continued in the ASEAN region where law and policy instruments were adopted or amended on rights-based and survivor-centred approaches. Front line service providers were trained to handle women's protection/trafficking issues in a coordinated manner and over 1 million persons reached through awareness-raising campaigns to change attitudes and behaviours towards women migrants and trafficking and gender based discrimination of women migrant workers. In Latin America, the implementation is up and running with some significant early results. In Argentina, for example, more than 2,500 young people benefitted from the 'Environ' programme in the Buenos Aires province, which teaches young boys and girls about online sexual abuse and violence. In El Salvador, more than 240 young people are now part of a municipal decision-making body in the City of San Martin. During 2019, country programmes were also finalised for the Caribbean, the Pacific and two Central Asian countries, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Promotion of child well-being: Priorities have been to support systems ensuring that access to a legal identity for children is considered as 'child's first right', to fight traditional harmful practices and social norms affecting children, which both contribute to the establishment of national and local systems and strategies aiming at protecting children from all forms of violence. Four projects were launched with UN Agencies to accelerate actions towards ending child marriage, the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM), the provision of a legal identity to children in Africa and Asia as well as to prevent son preference and gender-biased sex selection at birth in selected countries in Asia and the Caucasus. Under the joint programme on FGM phase II, 16 countries out of the 17 targeted have national coordination and action plans in place and 10 have dedicated national budget to combat the practice. Additionally, new partnerships were put in place to address the medicalization of FGM.

Culture: An innovative action to strengthen the link between culture, economic growth and development in key partner countries started to be implemented in 2018, under the 'Investing in Culture and Creativity' programme with Unesco, which shows promising results in relation to cultural tourism and community development along the Silk Roads. This complements another action with the International Trade Center that is helping to provide livelihoods to women working in the textile and fashion sectors in African and Asian countries. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue projects support community dialogues and cultural interventions with and for disadvantaged communities, women, youth and refugees.

Employment, decent work, skills, social protection and social inclusion: Two facilities for peer-to-peer technical assistance were contracted in the areas of social protection, labour and employment (SOCIEUX+) and vocational education and training (VET Toolbox). The Research Facility on Inequalities, which helps understand factors of social and economic inequalities, has progressed in terms of selection and implementation of research work at both global, country and city levels. The programme also continued supporting the social and economic inclusion of marginalised and excluded groups and individuals, in particular people with disabilities through the 'Bridging the Gap' project, as well as indigenous populations.

Growth, jobs and private sector engagement: The 2017-2019 period aimed at achieving improvements in investment climate and public-private dialogue in partner countries, with a focus on conflict minerals and women's economic empowerment in 2017, value chains such as garment in 2018 and in 2019, global knowledge of financial sectors in Africa, trade facilitation, financial inclusion, inclusive business models and investment climate. Actions related to climate change included the promotion of global frameworks to measure and benchmark the impact of private sector investment on sustainable development, capacity building for a responsible mining sector and improved sustainability in value chains.

Food security, nutrition and agriculture: In 2019, all three components of the food security and sustainable agriculture programme continued to strengthen the significant contribution of the EU to improving global food and nutrition security governance and investments in the sector, completing the support provided through geographical programmes in more than 60

developing countries. Delivering on the Commission's commitment on climate relevant research and innovation in agriculture (One Planet Summit, Paris, December 2017), remained a strong focus of the DeSIRA programme. The EU has been supporting land governance actions in about 40 countries with a total budget of almost EUR 240 million. In 2019, the EU supported the Land Matrix Initiative and the International Land Coalition, respectively on data on land investments (land grabbing) and advocacy on land rights, completing a joint action with GiZ to unlock the potential of investments in land for agricultural purpose in three African and Asian countries. Key achievements related to building resilience to food crisis were the operationalisation of the Global Network against food crises and the annual publication of the 'Global Report on food crises. The blending approach accelerated improved access to capital for smallholders.

Migration and asylum: Migration and forced displacement continue to be on top of the EU agenda, which has also been confirmed under the Von der Leyen Commission. In the framework of the European Agenda on Migration adopted in 2015, several policy and operational measures have been launched, including the Valletta Declaration and its Joint Action Plan; a new development-oriented EU approach towards forced displacement; and, the Partnership Framework on migration. At global level, two UN Global Compacts on migrants and refugees were adopted at the end of 2018. Within this overall policy context, a coherent, comprehensive and balanced EU response to migration and forced displacement is pursued, covering both internal and external aspects. Development cooperation to support partner countries in this area is crucial. In October 2019, the European Commission published a progress report⁽³⁾ on what has been achieved so far in delivering on the European Agenda on Migration. It underlines the fact that the EU cooperation provided to partner countries have been crucial in addressing root causes of irregular migration, on improving the management of migration and refugee flows and to make migration more safe and orderly.

In relation to the climate dimension, a targeted action started to support the improvement of the preparedness and response to risks of disaster displacement. This action helps persons at risk of being displaced in developing small island states in the Pacific, so that they would not be displaced at all or be less affected and better assisted and protected when compelled to move.

2.2. Civil Society Organisations and Local authorities (CSO-LA)

Out of 108 roadmaps of the EU engagement with civil society in partner countries, more than 70 % have been subject to a renewal for a period of 2 to 3 years. They represent a significant strategic document, prepared by the EU Delegation in cooperation with Members States and civil society partners. Among the defined priorities of action for civil society, the climate dimension is systematically included.

Under the LA component of the programme, 4 pilots of EU Roadmaps for the Engagement with Local Authorities were developed to support the inclusion of LAs in the bilateral cooperation programmes. Moreover, several facilities and supporting services were set up to support EU Delegations working on decentralisation, local governance and local development through a territorial approach and support the visibility and communication strategy of the partnerships for sustainable cities initiatives.

Under the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) component, the EU continued implementing the contracts signed in 2018 to promote sustainable development, more specifically in the areas of climate change and migration. Climate change-related actions focused on global citizen education, responsible production and consumption, awareness raising and youth engagement, which is an important component in most activities

3. Pan-African programme:

Since its creation in 2014, PANAF programme has been particularly effective in developing exchanges between higher education and research institutes in Africa, both in terms of mobility of students and staff and better digital interconnection and exchange of information. Since 2014, 21 consortia of African higher education institutions have been selected under the 'Intra-Africa Academic Mobility scheme'. Those consortia involve 65 universities from 25 African countries. Over the course of implementation of their projects, those higher education institutions will support the mobility of around 1200 Master and doctorate students and 200 (academic and administrative) university staff.

Under the **AfricaConnect project**, more than 830 African higher education and research institutions from 11 countries benefitted from improved and more affordable internet connectivity. Thanks to the project, those institutions are also interconnected through their regional networks and are connected with the peers in Europe and in the world, thereby getting access to increased opportunities for collaboration.

The support provided so far to various African governance institutions and organisations has created the basis for the definition of an African Governance Architecture that will constitute the framework for the African Union aspiration and commitment to promoting democratic governance and human rights.

In the area of economic integration, EU support has been instrumental for the successful conclusion of the AfCFTA negotiations in 2018 and has positioned the EU as the main recognized partner of the AU in this ambitious programme. EU supported has ensured the needed capacity and technical expertise in the African Union Commission's dedicated AfCFTA negotiation unit (AUSP III and IV EUR 12.5 Million), consultation with the civil society including private sector, national authorities and Regional Economic Communities across Africa, technical studies and ad hoc analysis of the impact of the AfCFTA on national economies and specific sectors. In 2019 advocacy actions vis-à-vis the AU Member States on ratification of the agreement have been implemented and

⁽³⁾ COM(2019)481, 16.10.2019

AfCFTA national implementation plans have been developed for several countries and regions. Of notable importance also the establishment of the African Trade Observatory to monitor intra-African trade flows.

The EU is also transferring technologies and know-how to African partners. Examples include improving know-how and access to European Earth Observation facilities (Copernicus) and expertise to manage meteorological information, continental water and environmental, marine and coastal resources (GMES and Africa programme) and aviation systems and technologies through EGNOS; strengthening capacity of African Geological Surveys (PanafGEO project) through technical training (e.g. on geological mapping and spatial data, small scale mining, geohazards and geoh heritage) and collaboration with EU Geological Surveys.

On migration, PANAF has been supporting the various policy dialogues with Africa. In the framework of the Khartoum process, partners were able to share knowledge and foster dialogue on a regular basis. One of the key results was that participating officials shared good practices, which can be applied in their work thus improving the overall quality and mutual understanding of their respective practices in the field of migration.

In the context of the Rabat process, the Marrakesh Political Declaration and Action Plan) covers all migration related aspects thereby reflecting the Euro-African balance which lies at the heart of the dialogue. Particularly noteworthy, was the increased participation of non-state actors – civil society organisations, academia and international organisations – in the dialogue. This contributes to both enriching the exchanges (enabling partners to benefits from voices on the ground and lessons learnt of those working directly with migrants) and creating a pool of qualified experts on matters related to the Marrakesh Action Plan.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU's external financing instruments ('the instruments') to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the EU's assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments is still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments.

The DCI mid-term review report SWD (2017) 600 final ⁽⁴⁾ was presented by the Commission on 15 December 2017. The final report of the External Evaluation of the DCI for 2014-mid 2017 was published in June 2017.

At the mid-term of its implementation, the DCI 2014-2020 has overall shown itself to be fit purpose and is largely on track to deliver on its objectives and commitments.

As requested by the EU Regulation No 236/2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action, in its Art. 17, a final evaluation report on the period from 2014 to 2020 shall be established by the Commission within the interim review of the successor instruments in the next financial period. This evaluation is currently expected to be launched in 2023.

Forthcoming implementation

1. Geographic programmes:

Latin America:

In 2020/21, the DCI will continue to contribute to projects and programmes covering the Latin America region on bilateral and/or regional basis. Annual Action Programmes (AAPs) will be formulated and committed pertaining to activities in key areas such as **climate change; private sector and investment; economic development; education; security, rule of law and governance, and the fight against drugs**. **Budget support** and the **Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF)** remain important implementation modalities.

The new AAPs include activities in Bolivia where new commitments will be made in the area of justice reform, the fight against corruption and drugs. For Colombia, commitments are forthcoming in the area of green and competitive economy and the implementation of the EU Trust Fund for the reincorporation of ex-FARC will continue. In Peru, the AAP includes activities to counter violence against women and strengthen the fight against drugs. In El Salvador, an important commitment is being prepared on private sector development. Education will be further supported in Paraguay. For Honduras, a new programme is in the pipeline to support the reform of the civil registry. On a sub-regional level, the Commission will engage in a programme aiming to tackle violence against migrant children and women in Central America.

The actions on **inclusive and sustainable growth** will be further implemented via LAIF. Increased resources in the inclusive engagement on sustainable development will further assist more advanced countries in the region through **triangular cooperation** and **Development in Transition**. Regarding the **security-development nexus**, two actions were signed in 2019 under the EUROFRONT programme to foster intra-Latin American cooperation in the area of integrated border management. They will start implementation in 2020. The programme 'EL PAcCTO' will continue its implementation. The third phase of the regional anti-

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0600&qid=1550487546999&from=EN>

drugs programme – COPOLAD III – was approved in December 2019 and will start implementation in 2020.

Concerning **climate change**, a new allocation to the Euroclima+ programme will enable further activities on enhancing climate governance, making the programme the spearhead of the external dimension of the European Green Deal in the region.

The protracted political impasse in **Venezuela** has generated an unprecedented migration crisis which warrants financial support. Political steer will determine what the level of involvement and engagement will be in 2020 and 2021.

Asia:

Under the geographic budget lines for Asia, the total **indicative** amount of commitment appropriations to be used for 2020 is EUR 1 209 billion, split as follows: Budget Line Afghanistan: EUR 144 million; Budget Line Asia: EUR 725 million; Budget Line Central Asia: EUR 190 million; Budget Line Middle East and Gulf: EUR 150 million.

South Africa:

The EUR 17 million in the 2020 Annual Action Programme will finance:

(a) Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) II to support sustainable infrastructure development, (EUR 14 million). The objective of the project is to promote inclusive and sustainable development, contributing to economic growth, job creation and achieving the SDGs, by unblocking bottlenecks to infrastructure investment in South Africa.

(b) Technical Cooperation Facility II (TCF), (EUR 1 million). The facility will help to improve the quality of the programming, implementation, monitoring, auditing and evaluation of previous, on-going and planned actions. The TCF could have a role in facilitating the shift in our relationship with South Africa from more traditional development cooperation and development assistance to a more modern partnership on added-value approach.

(c) Dialogue Facility II, addendum, (EUR 2 million). This EU-South Africa Dialogue Facility aims at strengthening relations between the European Union and the South African Government, for policy dialogue on various areas included in the Trade, Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) and the South Africa-European Union Joint Action Plan adopted to implement the Strategic Partnership signed in 2007.

2. Thematic programmes

2.1 Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC):

The current and future programmes on global challenges will be important tools to support the external dimension of the European Green Deal ⁽⁵⁾ and its priorities, namely: the transition to climate neutrality and green and circular economies, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food systems, and tackling pollution. In line with the new Commission priorities, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Consensus on Development ⁽⁶⁾, programmes will seek to integrate more systematically and balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Across its five action areas, it will aim to promote sustainable investments, growth and job creation, to address irregular migration and forced displacement, to promote digital and data technologies and to contribute to good governance, peace and security. As per the recommendations of the Mid-term review ⁽⁷⁾, more attention will be dedicated to promote interlinkages and cross-sectoral action at the nexus between different action areas that can contribute to multiple SDGs, and to enhance complementarity, coherence and synergies between thematic and geographic programmes. Building on lessons learned, actions will primarily seek to ‘enhance the role of the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to help eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development’.

Environment and Climate Change: Funds from the DCI Budget 2020 and 2021 will continue to support the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal, including through the following priorities:

- The Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+) as a thematic flagship initiative will continue to enhance vulnerable partner countries’ (mainly SIDS and LDCs) resilience to the effects of climate change and to enable them to engage in low-carbon development processes by supporting them in the implementation of their NDCs. More specifically, the EU will continue policy dialogue with partners (incl. regional level), extend its cooperation with new sectors with a climate mitigation focus, improve the involvement of the private sector in funding climate relevant activities, work on sustainable finance and sustainable value chains and seek closer cooperation and coordination with EU Member States. To serve these objectives, a joint initiative GCCA+/DeSIRA will be launched in 2020 focusing on agri-food systems and climate resilience through innovation and research. DEVCO will also release the first EU contribution to the Adaptation Fund – one of the main multilateral financial instruments established under the UNFCCC.
- The EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) will notably boost the implementation of the 9 Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) already concluded and the negotiation of 5 new VPAs (including with

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2019) 640

⁽⁶⁾ OJ 2006/C 46/01

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2017)720 of 15/12/2017

Honduras and Guyana). The EU will enhance collaboration with the private sector with the objective to improve legal compliance as well as to promote sustainable forest value chains and stimulate private investments. The EU will also implement the Communication to ‘step up action to protect and restore world’s forests’ and develop innovative financing mechanisms of reforestation and/or zero-deforestation agriculture projects.

- Integrated, cross-sectorial approaches will be developed in particular around landscape management –a central element for climate change adaptation and mitigation, agriculture and food security, sustainable forests, water and other ecosystem management. An initiative will focus on preparing an ambitious post-2020 biodiversity agenda in line with the Paris Agreement and Convention on Biodiversity through integrated landscape management in 20 countries and 3 sub-regions.
- The SWITCH to Green flagship –an initiative piloting best practices to support the transition to a green economy and complementing EU programmes at bilateral level, will focus increasingly on the promotion of circular models in priority value chains and greater engagement with the private sector, in line with the European Green Deal priorities.
- The EU will support the process leading to a ‘New Deal for Nature and People’ at the next Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Beijing in 2020, and the subsequent implementation of related commitments, as part of the future EU biodiversity strategy for 2030. The financing of the EU Biodiversity for Life initiative (B4LIFE) will continue focusing on the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems in partner countries, including by contributing to economic development directly (e.g. ecotourism) or through ecosystem services (water provision, pollination). The comprehensive studies analysing the interlinkages between wildlife and security in Africa and the strategy for conservation in Latin America (‘Larger than anacondas’) will be finalised. Reducing cross-border wildlife trafficking will also be targeted.
- In 2020, mainstreaming efforts will increasingly focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement in order to boost environmental sustainability in partner countries and achieve the EU objectives of allocating at least 20 % of its budget to climate relevant action by 2020 and doubling annual international financial flows to developing countries for biodiversity conservation.

Water management: The EU will continue our support to the water-energy-food-ecosystems approach. The second phase of ‘Nexus Dialogues’ programme will continue to strengthen regional policy dialogues on the integrated uses of water, land and energy-related resources across the world. The cooperative use of transboundary water resources will also be supported through different initiatives aimed at reinforcing regional and national stability, including a specific action promoting accession to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, which represents a key legal and intergovernmental framework to foster the sustainable use of shared water resources.

Sustainable energy: forthcoming implementation is described under the 2019-2020 Multiannual Action Plan ‘Sustainable socioeconomic development through clean and efficient energy solutions’, with a contribution for the implementation of the programme set at EUR 195 122 181. The action will be articulated over five components including Energy efficiency, support to health and education infrastructure through sustainable energy, promotion of clean cooking solutions, and Technical Assistance and support to the Global Covenant of Mayors. Payment credits will be used in 2021 in the areas of Energy Efficiency, Clean Cooking solutions, Social Infrastructures, Electrification of Schools and hospitals, Technical Assistance and support to the Global Covenant of Mayors.

Human Development

Health and education

The EU will contribute to the immunization of 300 million children (2016-2020), the increase of the pre-primary gross enrolment ratio in GPE beneficiary countries to 32.2 %, the decrease of out-of-primary-school children in fragile and conflict affected countries to 21.7 %, the increase of countries with quality education policies and their implementation. Through continued policy, governance and financial support to GPE and Education cannot wait (EcW), the EU will maintain its focus on addressing the learning crisis, providing improved quality and access to education, in particular in LICs and in countries affected by crises, during 2020/2021. Support will also be given to UNFPA Supplies (EUR 25 million 2018-2020) to increase demand for and access to sexual reproductive health and rights, including family planning and to improve access to quality family planning supplies and maternal medicines in 46 countries with high maternal; mortality and high unmet need for family planning.

2020 and 2021 payment appropriations will be used to honour payment commitments to the Global Initiatives (GFTAM, GAVI, GPE, ECW, WHO) and ongoing projects regarding resilience building in conflict-affected states through education, and pilot actions in the area of health. Subject to the adoption of the basic act, new commitments will be made following replenishments of notably GPE, GAVI and the Global Fund with associated initial payments.

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: In 2020, the report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) in 2019 will be prepared and published. The year 2020 will also be the year in which a new ambitious gender Action Plan will be prepared (GAP III). It will also be the year in which the Spotlight Initiative will be up and running in 26 countries and 6 different regions and in which concrete results and achievements should become visible, mainly in the ASEAN region, Africa and Latin America.

Payment appropriations for 2020 and 2021 will be used to support the work on the Gender Action Plan (II and III) and to cover the ongoing portfolio of contracts. The biggest project being the Spotlight Initiative, all activities aim at eliminating violence against women and girls.

Promotion of child well-being: In 2020, two activities around child well-being will be developed, one of them will be the continuation of a successful regional programme on combatting harmful practices (gender-biased sex selection at birth in selected countries in Asia – EUR 2 million) and on access to justice for children on the move in West Africa (EUR 8 million).

Culture: Ongoing cultural activities aim at enhancing the cultural dimension of our development action, focusing on cultural pluralism and intercultural understanding as well as the socioeconomic contribution of the cultural industries and the impact of cultural heritage on inter-communities dialogue, citizenship and identity building. The programmes also tackle aspects relating to inter/intra-faith dialogue, peace and stability and enhancing social inclusion and social cohesion, notably of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations living in countries with fragile situation. Improvement of access to finance and access to markets for micro and medium-sized enterprises and organisations from the cultural and creative industries is of strategic importance to increase investment and scale-up the potential for job and revenues creation, which is the objective of recently started actions.

2020 and 2021 payment appropriations will be used for ongoing projects on child well-being (de-institutionalisation and alternative care) and the new projects described above.

Employment, decent work, skills, social protection and social inclusion: There will be no programme in 2020, as all the funds of the MFF 2014-2020 have been committed by the end of 2019. As for 2021 (funds not known yet), the anticipated funds will be proposed to support decent work in global value chains.

Growth, jobs and private sector engagement: In 2020, part II of Sustainable Investment Climate and Value Chains Programme will aim at further inserting partner countries into regional and global value chains, by supporting investment climate improvements and enhancing capacity building, access to markets and value addition. A particular focus will be put on increasing partner countries' capacity to implement sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards, improving transparency, accountability and good governance in the mineral value chains, as well as supporting the improvement of the investment climate and the facilitation of public-private dialogue in partner countries.

Subject to the new MFF, 2021 actions will aim at promoting the role of the private sector as a key developmental actor, notably by supporting an enabling business environment and investment climate, conducive to private sector initiative and engagement into sustainable value chains, to foster growth and decent job creation. Particular attention will be paid to youth and women entrepreneurship, MSMEs, access to new technologies, digitalisation, financial inclusion, private sector development and engagement in fragile states and LDCs and implementation of the Aid for Trade Strategy.

Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture: Funding for this component of the programme over 2019-2020 will address multiple global challenges including food insecurity, food emergencies, under-nutrition, climate change, degradation of ecosystems and depletion of land, management of natural resources, agricultural transformation, urbanisation, migration, price volatility and transboundary pandemic diseases. Women empowerment and gender equality are integrated in all priorities and activities, the EU will therefore continue to support gender transformative approaches in rural development, by challenging gender imbalances as part of development interventions. More specifically, actions will focus on bringing innovation processes at smallholder level by scaling up science-based changes; strengthening and promoting governance and capacities of partner governments and rural producers for food and nutrition security and fisheries, with a strong gender dimension; strengthening governance of invasive pests, transboundary diseases, and food safety; building the resilience of vulnerable communities by better targeting the root causes of food insecurity, while ensuring the complementarity between instruments for high-impact aid in the framework of the development-humanitarian-security nexus. It will also contribute to the EU Green Deal and its 'Farm to Fork' strategy.

Migration and asylum: Within the framework of the European Agenda on Migration and its Partnership Framework, the 2020-2021 programme will contribute to ensure effective implementation of the external dimension of the EU migration policy agenda, fully in line with the migration goals and targets of the 2030 SDG Agenda. Actions will include continued support to the key partner regions and countries under the Partnership Framework, in close coordination with geographic funding instruments on all three continents covered by DEVCO. The programme notably supports the continued roll-out of the EU development-led approach towards forced displacement, the increased support to address the Venezuela refugee and migrant situation and the support to refugees and internally displaced persons in the Middle East.

2.2 Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in development (CSO-LA)

The CSO 2018-2020 Multiannual Indicative Programme aims at strengthening civil society organisations and local authorities worldwide. It will translate EU commitments made in the new EU Consensus on Development into strategic orientations, in particular regarding the role of CSOs as actors of governance in their own right and pivotal actors of governance for the successful implementation of the SDGs. At global and regional level, 2020 and 2021 payment appropriations will be used in the context of 25 already existing Framework Partnership Agreements that will focus on initiatives such as Inequalities and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, increased cooperation with Foundations, continued support to the Policy Forum on Development and support to the implementation of the CSO-LA Programme.

Regarding Local Authorities, the Multiannual Action Programme 2019-2020 will focus on increasing the impact of LAs and Associations of Local Authorities on policy-making processes, good governance and general development outcomes, as well as

supporting LAs, including branches of government or municipal and district authorities, to address urban governance and the three dimensions of urban sustainability (economic, social and environmental). It will also support SDG implementation at local level and by local authorities. 2020 and 2021 payment appropriations will be used for the payments of the five contracts with Association of Local Authorities and the projects signed under the Partnerships for Sustainable Cities initiative.

Concerning the DEAR component of the programme where the EU works both with CSOs and local authorities, actions will address migration and climate change, targeting in particular young people. The objective of the projects is to ensure the commitment of EU citizens to development and contribute to sustainable lifestyle patterns of EU citizens. 2020 and 2021 payment appropriations will be used for the ongoing contracts for DEAR (including the last 5 ones to be signed in 2020 on the 2020 budget allocation).

3. Pan-African programme:

The actions to be adopted in 2020 will be based on the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-2020 of the Pan-African programme. Actions will be mainly focus on the support to the AfCFTA and in the fields of digitalisation, aviation, satellite technologies, as a follow up of on-going initiatives.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) will comprise areas of action currently covered by the EDF, the DCI, the EIDHR, the IcSP, as well as the ENI, PI and Guarantee Fund for external actions. In terms of allocations, 25 % will be dedicated to climate-related actions, 20 % of ODA-eligible funds for social inclusion and human development, including gender equality and women empowerment, and 10 % for migration-related actions. A level of 92 % of DAC-ability has been set for the whole instrument. Priority is given to the Neighbourhood, Africa and the courtiers most in need. Climate change, environmental protection and gender equality will be important priorities and will also have to be mainstreamed across all actions. Other important areas are migration, digitalisation, good governance, stability and peace, social inclusion and human development (health, education, etc.).

The main objective of the proposal is to finish the current fragmentation of the External Financing Instruments, which often conditioned the policy decisions of the EU. With the new proposal, the EU can fully apply the principle of ‘policy first’ and address needs and challenges in a coherent and comprehensive way. For instance, trans-regional cooperation maybe easily undertaken and, thanks to the flexibility as regards ODA, EU cooperation can go beyond the traditional development, so geographic programmes can encompass all countries regardless their level of development and thus adopt a partnership approach. The NDICI also proposes the use of some of the financial flexibilities of the EDF, such as the use of unallocated funds (‘cushion’) and the carry-over of funds.

The NDICI is organised in three pillars, which takes into account to a certain extent the existing geographic and thematic programmes and instruments geographic, thematic and rapid response. The geographic pillar covering Sub-Saharan Africa, the Neighbourhood, Asia and the Pacific and the Americas and the Caribbean is the main Thematic programmes (Human Rights and Democracy, Civil Society Organisation, Stability and Peace and Global Challenges) will focus on global initiatives (in particular global challenges) and will remain essential to complement the geographic funding, in order to support multilateral solutions and international initiatives and programmes to tackle global challenges, in particular the climate and biodiversity crises, to strengthen global governance, to enhance data, knowledge and capacities, to finance global technical assistance facilities and to develop and pilot new tools and approaches to address those challenges. The non-programmed rapid response actions are complementary to the other two pillars and may provide a swift reaction in cases of crisis, resilience and linking humanitarian aid to development and foreign policy needs and priorities.

The preparation of the programming (pre-programming) of the NDICI has already started, in order to allow for the adoption of the country, region or thematic multi-annual indicative programmes, where the long-term priorities, objectives, accepted results, indicators and indicative allocations are established, as soon as the NDICI enters into force.

Latin America

The pre-programming process has started, consultations of different stakeholders within and outside of the Commission are ongoing. The priorities for 2021 will be defined during that process and are expected to be finalised in the course of 2020. They will be driven by the political guidelines and headline ambitions as set out by the new Commission: a European Green Deal, an Economy that works for people, a Europe fit for the digital age, Protecting our European way of life, a stronger Europe in the world, and a new push for European democracy. The Commission priorities will be adjusted to the specificities of Latin America.

Thematic programmes

Under the thematic pillar of the NDICI, the **global challenges programme** will cover issues that are best addressed a supra-national level. This will include:

- An environment-focused component addressing global climate change and environmental crises and supporting the European Green Deal ⁽⁸⁾ priorities: the transition to climate neutrality and green and circular economies, the conservation

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2019) 640

and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food systems, tackling pollution and promoting sustainable finance. Ambitious climate action will finance global action to implement the Paris Agreement, by supporting partner countries to upgrade and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and by providing technical cooperation in all relevant areas to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sinks, to strengthen adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It will strengthen scientific, technical, human and institutional capacity for climate and environmental management, mainstreaming and monitoring; and enhance global, regional and national climate and environment governance. It will promote the transition to climate neutrality and to green and circular economies, including through promoting sustainable finance.

- The continuation of several ongoing Financing Instruments such as Climate Investor One (CIO) and ElectriFI in the area of **sustainable energy and climate** action.
- Action to halt **biodiversity** loss and the implementation of the global post-2020 agenda on biodiversity, including by promoting the conservation and sustainable use and management of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and renewable natural resources. Illegal logging and wildlife trafficking will also be targeted, as well as promoting sustainable consumption and production, pollution reduction and the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- **Food security** actions will aim at enhancing sustainable food systems, as a contribution to the Farm to Fork initiative of the Green Deal, through the reduction of malnutrition in all its forms, innovation and research contributing sustainable agriculture, inclusive and sustainable agriculture-based value chains and the prevention of food crises.
- Ensuring equitable access to **health** services and sexual and reproductive health and rights, for example through global initiatives; addressing global health security through communicable diseases research and control; as well as translating knowledge into products and policies that tackle the changing disease burden (non-communicable diseases, all forms of malnutrition and environmental risk factors, amongst others); and, shaping global markets to improve access to essential health commodities and healthcare services, especially for sexual and reproductive health.
- Promoting joint global efforts for inclusive and equitable quality **education** and training at all levels, including in emergency and crisis situations, with particular attention to inequalities and gender. The programme will also aim to strengthen knowledge, skills and values through partnerships for active citizenship and productive, inclusive and resilient societies.
- **Culture** actions that will promote initiatives for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue for peaceful inter-community relations and support culture as an engine for sustainable social and economic growth, reinforcing cooperation around cultural heritage.
- Global commitments in the area of **migration** and forced displacement, including the implementation of strengthened partnerships on migration and mobility in countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants and refugees.
- Action on **inclusive growth** focusing on improved business environment and investment climate, increased financial inclusion, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, promoting trade for sustainable development and value chains upgrading, improved social, labour, and environmental sustainability, as well as transparency and traceability in value chains – all the more important as the need for integrating sustainability aspects into EU's support to enhancing investments and value chains upgrading will become even stronger in the coming years. **Women's economic empowerment** will also be targeted, by promoting increased access to finance for women. Overcoming gender inequality and barriers to women's economic empowerment remains among the biggest global challenges to inclusive and sustainable growth. With women representing 40 % of the world's workforce, the World Bank estimates suggest that gender parity could increase the global GDP by between USD 12 trillion and USD 28 trillion by 2025.

A specific **thematic programme on civil society organisations** will also be part of the NDICI for an overall amount of EUR 1.5 billion for the period 2021-2027. The Commission will continue pursuing three strategic priorities for its engagement with civil society: promoting an enabling environment, participation in public domestic policies and capacity building. These priorities aim to build an empowered and vibrant civil society as an essential player in the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in particular through their participation in SDG national platforms. In accordance with the priorities of the European Consensus on Development, the EU will strengthen CSOs' contribution to the implementation of the SDGs through the political priorities of the new Commission notably, the Green Deal, jobs and growth, digitalisation, migration and governance and peace.

As for the Local Authorities component, the negotiations on the NDICI are still ongoing and the future of the LA component of the CSO-LA programme remains uncertain. While the EC proposal foresees the termination of the LA component, the European Parliament has demanded the restitution of the budget line.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020	2014 – 2020	19 661,6

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	99,9	78,2	83,9	85,0	86,0	87,5	88,4	608,9
Operational appropriations	2 243,0	2 367,3	2 549,5	3 063,4	2 892,3	3 114,7	3 181,7	19 411,7
Executive Agency	2,1	1,9	2,2	2,6	2,5	2,5	2,4	16,2
Total	2 345,0	2 447,4	2 635,6	3 151,0	2 980,8	3 204,6	3 272,5	20 036,9
<i>Of which contribution to Erasmus+</i>	<i>96,0</i>	<i>91,9</i>	<i>107,3</i>	<i>111,6</i>	<i>104,9</i>	<i>106,4</i>	<i>101,8</i>	<i>719,9</i>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	3 204,607	100,00 %	2 404,257	99,45 %	3 271,659	34,43 %	2 597,462	18,64 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	3 270,293	99,75 %	2 520,551	96,73 %	3 292,426	34,26 %	2 684,310	18,36 %

(*) 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 specific, diverse and rapidly changing context of EU external action requires the use of all the existing implementation modalities and delivery methods to pursue the policy objectives and operational priorities. With an initial financial envelop of EUR 19.7 billion, the DCI remains a key financing instrument to support EU development policy. With its overall objective to eradicate poverty in partner countries and provide a long-term response to global threats/challenges (many of which have their roots in poverty and under-development), DCI contributed to the 2014–2019 Commission objectives of ‘Europe as a stronger global actor’ and ‘Towards a new policy on migration’ and its relevance continues under the priorities of the current Commission, in particular ‘A stronger Europe in the world’.

Within its overall objective, the DCI also contributes to the achievement of more specific objectives of EU external action, in particular: fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development as well as promoting democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. By using this instrument, the EU finances actions aimed at supporting geographic and thematic cooperation with developing countries included in the list of aid recipients compiled by the OECD-DAC. Unlike other External Financing Instruments, the actions under the DCI must be designed so as to fulfil the criteria for ODA eligibility. A few exceptions exist in the case of the thematic GPGC programme and the Pan-African programmes, where a limited percentage (5 and 10 % respectively) can be used for non-ODA eligible activities

The intervention logic of the DCI follows the policy spelled out inter alia in the European Consensus on Development (2005) and the Agenda for Change (2011); the Regulations establishing the DCI and the Common Implementing Regulation; and programming documents for the Pan-African Programme, CSO/-LA, and GPGC, as well as selected regional and country programming documents under the geographic programme. Complementarity and necessary coherence to the actions under the European Development Fund have played a very important role in the design of DCI actions.

Since 2014 a number of new EU policies and international commitments have emerged such as Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2016) and its translation into EU context by the new European Consensus on Development (2017), EU Global Strategy (2016), EU External Investment Plan with the European Fund for Sustainable Development (2017), new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs (2018) or very recent contribution towards a new strategy with Africa (2020). Poverty reduction remains a central goal of all those, ensuring the continued relevance of the DCI’s main objective.

While there is a broad alignment, parts of the new policy framework may only be dealt with by the DCI with some difficulties in particular circumstances. For example, to achieve SDG 16 on peaceful societies, actions may include peace and security operations, some of which may not be feasible given the DCI commitments on ODA.

Emerging priorities such as migration have overall been integrated into the DCI programmes, such as the DCI contribution to the European Trust Fund to fight the root causes of migration in Africa. The DCI was designed to create an ‘enabling’ instrument meaning that could be used flexibly to implement the evolving policy framework (e.g. the change from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals), and it could be used to implement interventions under a wide range of areas of cooperation. In this regard, the instrument has broadly enabled the EU to implement its development policy framework and to some extent it is flexible enough to respond to emerging challenges.

Regarding progress on the first specific objective, most of the population residing in DCI partner countries has experienced progress in poverty reduction and human and economic development over the last ten years. Indeed, the proportion of the world population below the international poverty line has dropped every single year since 2014, reaching 8.7 % in 2019. Similarly, the under-five mortality rate, the maternal death rate, and the prevalence of stunting have also decreased every single year over the 2014-18 period. Despite these positive trends, the rates of change have slowed over time as numbers have approached (but not reached) their ambitious targets. Prevalence of stunting is the exception for which targets have consistently been met.

Regarding progress on the second specific objective relating to the consolidation of democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights, the indicators tell a less encouraging story. For the World Bank’s Rule of Law score, the situation has been steadily deteriorating since 2014. For the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, the little progress made between 2015 and 2018 was undone in 2019. These results perhaps explain why the number of projects funded from the DCI to promote democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights has significantly exceeded the target of 100 projects per year on average over the 2014-19 period.

Despite these statistics, it remains difficult to measure the direct impact of the DCI 2014-2020 on development outcomes such as poverty reduction because there are so many other actors and factors which have also contributed to achieving these results, consequently they cannot be directly attributable to the DCI.

In terms of mainstreaming EU priorities, good progress has been noted e.g. in the areas of climate change and environment – between 2014 and 2018, there was a steady increase of climate change-related financing, which has exceeded the 20 % target for the DCI instrument. Mainstreaming human rights including gender equality and women’s empowerment has been considered as work-in-progress, in particular the path towards 85 % target for new programmes to include gender equality as a significant or as a principal objective require further efforts, with partner governments sometimes showing a lack of interest or resistance to these areas. In order to deliver on the contribution to the external dimension of the EU Green Deal also in the area of climate change and environment more remains to be done to systematically integrate these themes across all areas of cooperation covered by the DCI.

The role of DCI is not only to support developing countries, but also to ensure focus and coherence among contributors on key challenges and for moving toward a values-based, transparent and results-focused development cooperation system. While there is some evidence of coherence between the DCI, other EFIs and with EU external action policies, a more strategic approach is needed.

This more strategic and coordinated approach is well embedded in the proposal for Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) under new MFF. NDICI should address number of shortcomings of the DCI and other external action instruments. The instrument will channel the biggest share of external action funds (proposed budget of €89.2 billion). It will be the EU’s main tool to contribute to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development, prosperity, peace and stability. In particular, the Commission proposed to streamline several instruments (budgetized EDF, DCI, ENI, EIDHR, PI, IcSP, CIR) into one broad instrument under three components: geographic programmes (to which will be given priority to increase the coherence of its external cooperation), thematic programmes (which will focus on truly global actions) and a substantial envelop for un-programmed, rapid response actions (to react swiftly and timely in relation to crisis management, conflict prevention and peace building). NDICI will therefore be better equipped to react to unforeseen circumstances, challenges and priorities. This approach will ensure fewer gaps and overlaps between projects and programmes, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. It would provide an opportunity to simplify, rationalise their management and oversight systems therefore reducing the administrative burden for EU institutions and Member States. Instead of focusing on multiple programming processes, debates would be more focused on achieving political objectives and engagement with external partners. The EU would be able to engage with partners in a more coherent way. From an external investment perspective, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument will also streamline the current blending platforms and external action financial guarantees.

It is important to underline that the contribution to achievements of the DCI in wider EU international and development cooperation policy objectives are presented in many different reporting documents:

- (1) in a reporting exercise covering EU funded interventions ending in the previous year i.e. ‘2019 Activity Report on the implementation of the European Union’s instruments for financing external actions’ with accompanying documents ⁽⁹⁾;
- (2) assessments of a particular implementation modality e.g. ‘Budget Support – trends and results 2019’ ⁽¹⁰⁾;
- (3) or assessments of thematic objectives achievement e.g. ‘Action plan on nutrition: Fourth progress report on action plan on nutrition (April 2018 – March 2019)’ ⁽¹¹⁾ or ‘2018 Implementation Report on Gender Action Plan II’ ⁽¹²⁾.

In terms of efficiency, the DCI appropriations 2014-2019 were fully used and implemented as planned, through a comprehensive programming process; there is no need for corrective action at this stage. The result of the process has been a set of programming documents that define per bilateral/regional/thematic programme: the priority areas for financing, the specific objectives, expected results, indicators and indicative allocations.

DCI is implemented both via direct management (including when it acts through the EU Delegations or an executive agency of the EU) and indirect management. For indirect management the EU relies on a variety of partners such as international organisations, Member States agencies and organisations, civil society organisations, national, regional and local authorities, international and development financial institutions in situations where they have a clear added-value, building on the experience achieved and the lessons learned.

In many cases, DCI is only one of the contributors to larger thematic or geographic activities (e.g. Erasmus+, EU/World Bank/UN Trust Funds, EUROCLIMA+, blending facilities or other financial instruments). Contributions from EU external action instruments (in particular DCI and EDF) and different donors complement each other. They also leverage investments from financial institutions or private sector. Our implementing partners follow different results frameworks. For all those reasons results attribution represents a challenge. The instruments’ objectives are very ambitious (in line with the TEU) and depend on partner countries willingness and implementation capacities, broader international context and other donors. Data collection can depend on sources outside of the EU with implication for example, on the timeliness of data.

The proposal for draft NDICI regulation includes a number of key performance indicators to show how success towards the specific objectives will be measured. To help improve its collection of data, the Commission keeps updating the EU international cooperation and development results framework. This effort aims at harmonising (as much as possible) the common provisions with the ones agreed at international level and used for other EU budget programmes.

In parallel to the broad instrument, a new IT platform is being created that will facilitate the encoding of results data at project level. This would help increase the availability of results data for monitoring, reporting and evaluation purposes. This tool will use a consistent framework of indicators to assess performance and identify results across the broad instrument. Work on the portal is underway with on-going pilot testing, including with EU Delegations and implementing partners.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Fostering the sustainable and inclusive development in partner countries and regions and the promotion of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights, as foreseen in the TEU, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty.

Indicator 1: SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of population below international poverty line								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
1990	Milestones foreseen							2030
With graduated countries: 47.7 %	Decreasing trend	Decreasing trend	Decreasing trend	Decreasing trend	Decreasing trend	Decreasing trend	0.0 %	Zero poverty
	Actual results							
	11.6 %	9.8 %	9.5 %	9.00 %	8.8 %	8.7 %		
1990	Milestones foreseen							2030
Without graduated	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing	Decreasing	0.0 %	Zero poverty

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2019) 604 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2019:0604:FIN:EN:PDF> and SWD/2019/409 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52019SC0409>

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/budget-support-trends-and-results_en.pdf

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0abb4a4c-e8e2-11e9-9c4e-01aa75ed71a1>

⁽¹²⁾ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/multisite/devco/sites/devco/files/gap-ii-annual-implementation-report-joint-staff-working-document-2018_en.pdf

countries: 47.7 %	trend	trend	trend	trend	trend	trend	
	Actual results						
	11.5 %	11.0 %	11.2 %	10.0 %	9.2 %	9.1 %	

Methodology: Indicator calculated on the basis of DCI eligible countries. The 2014 value was computed on country level data from 2012 or before, the 2015 value considers country level data from 2013 or before, the 2016 value considers data from 2014 before the 2017 value considers data from 2016 or before and the 2018 value considers data from 2017 or before. All values since 2014 were updated with World Bank data extracted in January 2019 to consistently consider latest available data.

https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sites/default/files/1._2016_update_final_1_90_a_day_feb_2016.doc

Narrative: The indicator Proportion of population below the international poverty line is defined as the percentage of the population living on less than USD 1.90 a day at 2011 international prices. The ‘international poverty line’ is currently set at USD 1.90 a day at 2011 international prices. Monitoring poverty is important on the global development agenda as well as on the national development agenda of many countries.

Comment: 2030 is the target date set by world leaders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (UN). Baseline taken from the previous MDG 1.1 Proportion of population below USD 1.25 (PPP) per day. All DCI budget contributes to this SDG. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped by more than half – from 1.9 billion in 1990, to 836 million in 2015 – too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs. Globally, more than 800 million people are still living on less than USD 1.25 a day; many lacking access to adequate food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has also been uneven. Women are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property. Progress has also been limited in other regions, such as South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which account for 80 percent of the global total of those living in extreme poverty. This rate is expected to rise due to new threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity. Through to 2030, SDG 1 foresees a world where extreme poverty will have been eliminated, such as through social protection for all, access to land and economic resources, and their protection against the impacts of climate change and other economic, social and environmental disasters.

Source: World Bank (poverty rate); UN population division (population’s weights)

Unit of measure: Percentage

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

Performance

MDG 3.1: Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, tertiary education

This indicator is disaggregated by the level of education. Gender equality is a prominent component of all EU education support. Although there has been some progress in gender parity, according to Unesco estimates, 130 million girls between the age of 6 and 17 are out of school and 15 million girls of primary-school age—half of them in sub-Saharan Africa— will never enter a classroom. Every day, girls face barriers to education caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices (such as early marriage), poor infrastructure, violence, and fragility. The EU needs to continue working in a holistic way with partners to address these issues.

MDG 2.2: Proportion of pupils starting in grade 1 who reach last grade of the primary, gender disaggregated

Despite the considerable progress on education access and participation over the past years, 262 million children and youth aged 6 to 17 were still out of school in 2017, and more than half of children and adolescents are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. Rapid technological changes present opportunities and challenges, but the learning environment, the capacities of teachers and the quality of education have not kept pace. Refocused efforts are needed to improve learning outcomes for the full life cycle, especially for women, girls and marginalized people in vulnerable settings.

SDG 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

In 2018, 5.3 million children under age 5 million died with 2.5 million deaths or 47 % occurring in the first month of life. These deaths reflect the limited access of children and communities to basic health interventions such as vaccination, antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, medical treatment of infectious diseases, adequate nutrition and clean water and sanitation. In 2018, 121 countries already had an under-five mortality rate below the SDG target of at least as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. Among the remaining countries, progress will need to be accelerated in more than 50 countries to achieve the SDG target by 2030. As explained under section 5, all the geographic budget lines, GPGC (with its Human Development component) contribute to SDG 3.

SDG 3.1.1 Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

Maternal mortality was still unacceptably high in 2017 – an estimated 295 000 women died from pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications. Almost all maternal deaths (99 %) occur in developing countries. More than half of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa and almost one third occur in South Asia. More than half of maternal deaths occur in fragile and humanitarian settings. To improve maternal health and reduce MMR, barriers that limit access to quality maternal health services must be identified and addressed at all levels of the health system. Within a country, major differences in MMR are often identified between regions and between urban/rural settings, and socioeconomic characteristics (such as education level and wealth quintile). Ensuring universal health coverage for comprehensive reproductive, maternal, and newborn healthcare will be essential to achieve the SDG MMR target.

SDG 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age

Target for 2025: The EU committed to meet at least 10 % of the World Health Assembly’s global target to reduce stunting of 70 million children by 2025, pledging to reduce this number by at least 7 million. The updates in global stunting rates come from the March 2019 JME Edition. The WHO updates stunting data on a regular basis. They do this to produce standardised estimates over time and to ensure comparability between countries. This has included reanalysis of data from previous years for various countries meaning that there have been slight changes to global data for these years. As well there maybe data not previously included in the JME e.g. Djibouti 2006 which was included in the most recent update – and which would also affect the global stunting prevalence for that year. The new data represents the most recent updates and are what is reported in the most recent JME database.

Indicator 1: MDG 3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, tertiary education								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Primary level: 0.97	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	1.00	1.00
	Actual results							
		0.98	1.00	1.01				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Secondary education: 0.97	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	1.00	1.00
	Actual results							
		0.98	0.98	0.99				
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Tertiary education: 0.99	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	1.00	1.00
	Actual results							
		1.01	1.12	1.12				

Methodology: This estimate was calculated by the UN MDG team because it was the final year for the MDGs. In a ‘normal’ year, we would not have and will not have such estimate available. There’s a time lag of 3-4 years for data to be available at aggregate global level. This also implies that there will be no data available for 2018 and 2019. There is no reporting available on the new SDG 4.5.1 Parity indices. Therefore, we will continue using MDG 3.1 until new developments.

Source: MDG Report Statistical Annex 2014: Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators, 2015.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2015/Statannex.pdf>

Indicator 2: MDG 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting in grade 1 who reach last grade of the primary, gender disaggregated								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Together: 72.7 %	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	100.00 %	100.00 %
	Actual results							
		73.1 %						
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Girls: 73.84 %	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	100.00 %	100.00 %
	Actual results							

		74.5 %						
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
Boys: 71.60 %	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	Linear increase	100.00 %	100.00 %
	Actual results							
		71.8 %						

Methodology: These results are estimates calculated by the UN MDG Team provided for the Progress report of the MDGs being final in 2015. Updated results will not be published anymore. This indicator has been replaced by the new indicator SDG 4.1.1 ‘Percentage of children/young people at the end of each level of education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (a) reading and (b) mathematics (Disaggregation: sex, location, wealth and others where data are available)’, which is aligned to Target 4.1: ‘By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.’ However, it should be noted that this indicator is not available yet: methodology not defined, no data. It will take 3 to 5 years before this indicator can be used according to Unesco, which is leading on education SDG indicators. Baseline and targets to be set in the UN process.

Comment: These results are estimates calculated by the UN MDG Team provided for the Progress report of the MDGs being final in 2015. Updated results will not be published anymore.

Source: MDG Report Statistical Annex 2014: Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators, 2014 & 2015.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Products/ProgressReports.htm>

Indicator 3: SDG 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2030
45.5							25.0	25.0
	Actual results							
	43.7	42.2	40.8	39.1	38.6			

Narrative: This indicator is aligned to SDG 3.2 which calls for an end to preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age by 2030, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1 000 live births. The under-five mortality rate measures child survival. It also reflects more broadly the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children (and community) live.

Source: Baseline and Projected data obtained from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.CM1300R>

Unit of measure: Per 1 000 live births

Indicator 4: SDG 3.1.1 Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2030
246							less than 70	less than 70
	Actual results							
		216	214	211				

Narrative: The indicator 3.1.1 maternal mortality ratio (MMR=maternal deaths per 100,000 live births) is aligned to SDG 3.1: ‘By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.’

Source: Projected data obtained from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.GSWCAH01REG>.

Unit of measure: Per 100 000 live births

Indicator 5: SDG 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
25.1 %			23.6 %	22.6 %	21.7 %	20.8 %	20.0 %	20.0 %
	Actual results							
	23.9 %	23.3 %	22.8 %	22.4 %	21.9 %			

Methodology: The joint global and regional estimates that make up the Unicef/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates have been generated using a country-level dataset which is mainly comprised of estimates from nationally representative household surveys (e.g. DHS, MICS, SMART). These data are collected infrequently (every 3 to 5 years in most countries) and measure malnutrition at one point in time (e.g. during one or several months of field work), giving an estimate of prevalence. These data are received and reviewed by Unicef and WHO and checked for validity and consistency. The resulting raw data sets are analysed following a standard procedure to obtain comparable results.

Narrative: WHO maintains the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition (www.who.int/nutgrowthdb), a repository of standardized anthropometric child data which has existed for 20 years. The methods have remained unchanged since 2012, except for some minor refinements:

1. Year assigned to each survey. When data collection is split between two calendar years the year where most of the data collection is done is the year that is reported.

2. Final reports only. Since 2014 only final reports are presented (rather than preliminary reports)
3. Updated data sources. Data has been reanalysed to ensure consistency of reporting. Some results in the JME database may differ from the reported results.
4. Since 2014 population coverage has been calculated to alert the user to where the data should be interpreted with caution due to low population coverage.
5. Prevalence thresholds for stunting (and wasting and overweight in children under 5 years have been redefined since 2018 by the WHO-Unicef Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM).

Comment: As explained under section 5, all the geographic budget lines, GPGC (with its Food Security component) contribute to SDG 2.

Availability of Data: 2019: Data not available

Source: Figures are taken from the 2018 report on ‘ Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates ‘ by Unicef, WHO and World Bank: <https://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/estimates2017/en/>.

Unit of measure: Proportion

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Cooperation actions aiming at poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Latin America	21 02 01	10	264
Projects and programmes Asia, focusing on a.o. capacity building, rural development, education	21 02 02	16	640.8
Projects and programmes Central Asia, focusing on a.o. capacity building, rural development, education	21 02 03	8	127.2
Projects and programmes Middle East, focusing on a.o. sustainable economic development and education	21 02 04	2	97.5
Projects and programmes Afghanistan, focusing on a.o. capacity building, rural development, education	21 02 05	2	99.7
South Africa Employment Sector Reform Programme and Education and innovation programmes	21 02 06	1	10
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Environment and Climate Change	21 02 07 01	8	203.5
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Sustainable Energy	21 02 07 02	2	110.2
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Human Development	21 02 07 03	8	187.4
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Food Security, Nutrition and sustainable agriculture	21 02 07 04	3	183
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Migration and asylum	21 02 07 05	2	25.1
Programme to enhance the role of civil society organisations	21 02 08 01	200	200
Programme to enhance the role of local authorities	21 02 08 02	10	38.5
Pan-African Programme projects focusing on a.o. capacity building, infrastructure, agriculture, higher education	21 02 09	1	117
Total		273	2,303.9

Specific Objective 2: Consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the relevant principles of international law.

Performance

Indicator 1: Average score in the Rule of law as measured by the World Bank’s Worldwide Governance Indicator (DCI countries eligible for geographic cooperation)

DG DEVCO monitors information for the countries available for DCI geographic funding under the Multi Financial Framework 2014-2020 (29 countries). The data shows the average index score for these countries. The index ranges from -2.5 (worst possible score) to +2.5 (best possible score) where ‘0’ means average score (across all the countries where the index is measured).

Indicator 2: Number of projects funded from the DCI to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights in the DCI beneficiary countries

The large number of projects is partly due to the large number of DAC codes used, corresponding to democracy, rule of law, governance and respect of human rights, and also to an increase in the 2014-2020 programming at bilateral level in DCI countries, that given the d+3 rule for contracting made the number of contracts rose as from 2016.

Indicator 3: SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

Women face several obstacles to participating in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions still limit women's option to run for office. Capacity gaps mean women are less likely than men to have the education, contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders. The EU supports activities to overcome these barriers and promote the democratic participation of women and men in the political decision-making process.

Indicator 1: Average score in the Rule of law as measured by the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicator (DCI countries eligible for geographic cooperation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2008	Milestones foreseen							2020
-88	Actual results							-77
	-74	-75	-77	-77	-78			

Methodology: <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Documents>

https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sites/default/files/4_final_rol_feb_2015.doc

Narrative: The Rule of Law indicator is one of the six aggregate indicators of the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI). It captures perceptions of the extent to which agents (i.e. firms, individuals and public officials) have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence. Actual consolidated figure for the year 2014 for the 29 DCI countries. Actual consolidated figure for the year 2015 for the 29 DCI countries. Actual consolidated figure for the year 2016 for the 29 DCI countries. Actual consolidated figure for the year 2017 for the 29 DCI countries. World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicator currently covers the period 1996-2017. The dedicated webpages of the World Bank provide information about the methodology used for the World Bank WGIs (<http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#doc>) and updated annually Country Data Reports (<http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#countryReports>).

Comment:

Source: <https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/>

Unit of measure: Number of standard deviations relative to mean for standard normal distribution

Indicator 2: Number of projects funded from the DCI to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights in the DCI beneficiary countries

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
70	Actual results							100
	70	70	75	80	85	90	100	
	96	84	310	391	76	352		

Methodology: In 2014, 96 projects were signed under the DCI excluding CSO&LA, on the DAC codes corresponding to democracy, rule of law, governance and respect of human rights (15100, 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160). In 2015: 84 contracts were signed in total under the DCI, with the following detail: Democracy: 17 contracts; Democratic participation and civil society DAC 15150: 170 projects (8+24); Anti-corruption DAC 15113: 5 contracts; Justice DAC 15130: 17 contracts; HR: 21 contracts. In 2016, using the following DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under 'democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights': 310 contracts. In 2017, we used the same methodology of 2016, using the following DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under 'democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights': 391 contracts. In 2018, we used the same methodology of 2016 and 2017, using the same DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under 'democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights': 76 contracts. In 2019, we used the same methodology of 2017 and 2018, using the same DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under 'democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights': 352 contracts.

Comment: Baseline is an average of 2010-2012

Source: CRIS Data Warehouse

Unit of measure: Number of contracts

Indicator 3: SDG 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2011	Milestones foreseen							2020
19.7 %	Actual results							40.0 %
			26.0 %				40.0 %	
		22.7 %	23.2 %	23.5 %	23.8 %	23.0 %		

Methodology: Seats in lower or single house of parliaments of sovereign states, excluding IPA countries.

Narrative: Baseline: 18.2 % excluding IPA countries.

Comment:

Source: Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.html>; UN Women data in 'Facts and Figures on Democratic Governance' <https://data.ipu.org/women-ranking>.

Unit of measure: Seats in parliament

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Cooperation actions aiming at consolidating and supporting democracy, rule of law, good governance, human rights and principles of international law in Latin America	21 02 01	5	117.3
Projects and programmes Asia, focusing on a.o. strengthening democratic government, human rights, judicial reform, civil society	21 02 02	8	180.7
Projects and programmes Central Asia, focusing on a.o. rule of law and border management	21 02 03	2	36.5
Projects and programmes Middle East focusing on a.o. rule of law and human rights	21 02 04	3	146.3
Projects and programmes Afghanistan, focusing on a.o. strengthening democratic government, human rights, judicial reform, civil society	21 02 05	1	99.7
South Africa Public administration and legislative support programmes	21 02 06	2	7
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Environment and Climate Change	21 02 07 01	2	19
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Sustainable Energy	21 02 07 02	0	0
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Human Development	21 02 07 03	1	13
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Food Security, Nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and more specifically on strengthened governance approaches for food and nutrition security at the global, continental and regional level	21 02 07 04	3	49.5
Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and projects focusing on Migration and asylum	21 02 07 05	3	31
Programme to enhance the role of civil society organisations	21 02 08 01	50	23.49
Programme to enhance the role of local authorities	21 02 08 02	9	36
Pan-African support to the fight against organised-crime and support to pan African Union	21 02 09	1	18.8
Total		90	778.29

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development	1 103,4	837,2
Total	1 103,4	837,2

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
379,9	503,8	646,5	773,0	762,0	1 103,4	837,2	5 005,8

(*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

Methodology for calculation of the amounts

For 2014 to 2018, the information is based on the OECD DAC CRS file, and has been quality checked by DG DEVCO. For 2019, the information is based on a preliminary CRS extraction. Data still uncompleted and not quality checked.

The annual estimates for 2019-2020 are based on the Financial Programming data for 2014-2020 for each of the DCI budget lines. For **geographic** cooperation budget lines, estimates are based on a weighted average of the percentages identified for the available RIPs and NIPs. For the **thematic** budget lines, estimates are based on the Rio-markable potential of the GPGC MIP.

The methodology for 2019-2020 is therefore the same as the one agreed with DG CLIMA and applied for the MTR report of the External Financing Instruments COM(2017) 720 final of 15.12.2017.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development	319,3	223,8
Total	319,3	223,8

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
89,8	119,2	100,8	201,4	275,4	319,3	223,8	1 329,7

(*)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

Methodology for calculation of the amounts: For the period 2014-2018, the amount taken into account as contributions to biodiversity objectives for each commitment is proportional to the RIO markers used, as follows:

- 1) RIO marker 1 (significant objective) – 40 % of the amount of the commitment was counted;
- 2) RIO marker 2 (principal objective) – 100 % of the amount of the commitment was counted;
- 3) 0 % of the amount of the commitment is counted if no RIO marker is selected.

The use of RIO markers has been quality checked by DG DEVCO for the period 2014-2018, with support from the Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility. This control is consistent with the data reported to the OECD/DAC. For 2019 an early statistical estimate is provided based on final committed amounts at 31/12/2019. For 2020 estimates are provided using the multi-annual average of biodiversity commitments and in relation to the doubling target as per the Hyderabad commitment, and using the formula below.

Methodology for calculation of the 2020 amounts: 7.26 % of [operational chapter 21 02 – BL 21 02 40 Commodities agreements – BL 21 02 30 Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other United Nations bodies – BL 21 02 20 Erasmus+ – Contribution from the development cooperation instrument (DCI)

Gender mainstreaming

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2020 (EUR million)
Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development	2,584.79

The EU Gender Action plan for External Action 2016-2020 (GAP II) sets a target by 2020 to have 85 % of new development projects supporting gender equality as a main objective (OECD Gender marker 1) or as a significant objective (OECD Gender marker 2). The indicator is a proportion of number of projects marked as OECD G marker 1 and 2 against all new projects financed in a given year.

According to the latest available information, (annual report 2018), 68.35 % of all new actions were gender mainstreamed e.g. marked as G marker 1 or 2 in our overall development cooperation portfolio. Over the last five years, there has been a consistent increase in the proportion of initiatives that promote gender equality (they were, 65.9 % in 2017, 58.8 % in 2016, 47.3 % in 2015, and 31.3 % in 2014.), but progress is slowing down.

Gender is mainstreamed across all sectors.

One example of a project which has gender equality and women empowerment as a main objective is the Spotlight Initiative which targets to eliminate all violence against women and girls. In 2019 we secured the funding for Asia which will cover three countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan), a regional programme covering Central-Asia and an allocation to support the women’s movement and women’s organisations. The programme has been ongoing in Latin-America. In Argentina, for example, more than 2,500 young people in Buenos Aires province benefited from the Spotlight Initiative-supported ‘Envion’ programme, which teaches young boys and girls about online sexual abuse and violence. In El Salvador, more than 240 young people are now part of a municipal decision-making body in the City of San Martin. The local committees on the rights of children and adolescents ensures that young people’s needs and ideas – including those of the most vulnerable – are incorporated into local decisions.

Another example is ‘Women and Agriculture’ (5 EUR million) that aims to remove structural, legal and institutional barriers to gender equality; and ‘Promoting Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment sector with a focus on Decent Work, Traceability and Transparency’ (19.1 EUR million) that focus in a sector characterised by the high prevalence of women and girls’ employment.

Methodology for calculation of the amounts: 83.86 % of [operational chapter 21 02 – BL 21 02 20 Erasmus+ – BL 21 02 40 Commodities agreements – BL 21 02 30 Agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other United Nations bodies- 21.0277 Pilot projects and preparatory actions]. The percentage is calculated based on the 20178 statistics on OECD, 100 % of gender marker ‘1’ and 100 % of gender marker ‘2’ (= gender equality is ‘main objective’ in the programme or project), according to the OECD criteria for the DAC gender equality policy marker.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Considering its wide geographic and thematic scope, the DCI contributes to all 17 SDGs. Moreover, as stated in the Consensus, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires, when planning and implementing development cooperation, to pay particular attention to interlinkages between the SDGs and to integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. The DCI contributes to this approach by integrating in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development, i.e. economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

From the perspective of the **geographical programmes**, the programme will contribute to those SDGs related to human development (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), (those linked to the fields of environment, sustainable energy, ocean conservation, biodiversity and climate change (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15), inclusive growth, job creation and reducing inequalities (SDGs 8, 9 and 10) and security-development nexus and governance (SDG 16) and partnership for the goals (SDG 17).

Support to implementing the SDGs in a crisis situation: the case of Yemen:

Yemen ranks 152 out of 156 in the SDG Index Dashboard Report 2018 and registered a critically insufficient score on 85 % of indicators in the SDG ranking for 2018. It has become the largest man-made humanitarian crisis in the world, with 20 million Yemenis under high risk of famine. In this volatile context, implementation of the SDGs has been severely compromised. At the same time, achieving progress on the SDGs, especially in the areas of People and Peace, is crucial to staving off the country’s humanitarian crisis and building up the potential for prosperity of the Yemeni population.

The EU’s sizeable development assistance is significantly contributing to the enhancement of resilience in Yemen. So far, our support has helped re-establish hundreds of local community councils and assisted communities to accomplish more than **500 self-help and self-reliance initiatives**, including on education and a range of community infrastructure projects. Through the EU-UNDP flagship initiative ‘Enhancing Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY)’, more than **22,000 individuals** benefited from community asset rehabilitation through ‘cash for work’ schemes and **870 micro-businesses** were created. About **700,000 households** have benefitted from the assistance provided by **community health workers** trained in the framework of a EU-Unicef joint initiative on health.

From the perspective of the thematic programmes related to **Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)**, likewise a wide array of SDGs is targeted. The area of **environment and climate change** contributes to SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG7 (energy), SDG 12 (Sustainable consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate change), SDGs 14 (Oceans) and 15 (Terrestrial ecosystems). Action on climate change and environment mainstreaming contributes to the environmental dimension of all the other SDGs.

A good example of action contributing to SDG 6 is **Promoting accession to the Water Convention**, which supports the accession of EU partner countries to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, which is especially important regarding sustainable and cooperative management of shared water resources both for its environmental impacts as well as for the livelihood and development of the 3 billion people living near transboundary basins.

The Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI) is the EU’s flagship initiative to increase access to clean energy in developing countries, hence contributing to SDG7. With its unique business model, ElectriFI invests mainly in local markets in poorer economies and fragile situations. By combining technical assistance and risk capital, ElectriFI can take greater risks than other investors. ElectriFI’s activities de-risk investments and allow private investors and development finance institutions to deploy capital that they could not have invested otherwise, hence showing a strong additional value. ElectriFI is funded by the EU, with additional contributions from the US and Sweden. By improving renewable energy access, ElectriFI spurs not only job creation and economic growth but also helps saving greenhouse gas emissions, hence also contributing to both **SDGs 8 and 13**. Given the success of ElectriFI Global, four countries and one region (Nigeria, Côte d’Ivoire, Bénin, Zambia and the Pacific) have allocated additional funds to ElectriFI from their NIPs/RIPs in order to mobilise additional private investments in renewable energy.

SWITCH Africa Green, a partnership between the EU, the United Nations, and 7 African countries, particularly supports **SDG 12** (sustainable consumption and production): through technical assistance to government institutions and the funding of green business projects, the first phase of the programmed delivered support to 3,000 Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and contributed to create or secure 10,000 green jobs. A second phase is ongoing, providing further technical assistance, supporting policy and business dialogue, and financing green business projects in sectors such as sustainable tourism, food production, industrial manufacturing and waste management.

Directly contributing to **SDG 13**, the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus initiative (GCCA+) aims to foster dialogue and cooperation on climate change between the EU, LDCs and SIDS as well as middle-income countries. It focuses on increasing capacities to adapt to the effects of climate change and developing and implementing NDCs to achieve mitigation objectives and adaptation co-benefits.

A good example of a project contributing to **SDG 14** is the project Marine biodiversity and support of Coastal Fisheries in the Coral Triangle (2019/410-230), focusing on seascape management for sustainable development of local communities, combining activities addressing Marine Protected Areas, sustainable small-scale fisheries, and ecosystem management for climate change adaptation.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a multi-donor fund hosted by Conservation International, supports biodiversity hotspots and in particular the role of civil society organisations and local populations to preserve, restore and sustainably use local ecosystems – which is directly related to **SDG 15**. In 2019, the CEPF was particularly active in the Amazon, Mediterranean, Indo-Burman and Central Asian hotspots.

In the area of **Human Development**, **SDG 4** is at the core of the vision of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which remains the main recipient of funding in the education sub-programme. The programme will contribute to all targets of **SDG 3**, including what is considered a key target, namely universal health coverage through comprehensive support to health systems strengthening.

A good example of a project contributing to **SDGs 3, 5 and 17** is the EU collaboration with UNFPA Supplies that is the lead partner in **sexual and reproductive health and rights** and family planning at both global and country levels. UNFPA provides over 40 per cent of all contraceptives donated to developing countries and helps strengthen health systems to deliver them, with a particular focus on 46 countries with the highest unmet need for family planning. Nearly 1.3 million lives have been saved through the use of family planning methods since 2007.

In the area of **education**, with a particular focus on **SDGs 4 and 5**, the programme 'Building Resilience in Crises through Education' (BRICE) delivers safe quality basic education in DRC, Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. BRICE aims to strengthen societal and institutional resilience to make these actions sustainable over time. Research on teaching and learning in safe learning environments is an important component of BRICE and will help building the evidence base of what works best in crises.

All of the 17 SDGs are directly related to and impacting on **women and children**. Out of the 232 global SDG indicators, 44 directly concern children. At the global level, through GPGC, activities are geared towards the elimination of violence against women, girls and children as well as setting up protection mechanism for children. This entails we primarily address SDGs 3, 4, 5 and 16, including targeting the elimination of harmful practices, the access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and contributing to ending discrimination and violence towards women and girls. Actions aiming at ensuring the wellbeing of children contribute, among others, to SDG 16.

The **Culture** component of the GPGC Human Development equally aims at **SDGs 4, 5, 8, 11 and 16**, through the promotion of culture, heritage and creativity as resources to economic growth, jobs creation and identity building, with particular focus on youth and women.

In the area of **Social inclusion and protection**, **SDGs 1, 8 and 10** are at the core of EU action under the Human Development component of the GPGC related to employment and decent work, social protection, social inclusion and the reduction of inequalities.

An excellent example of a project contributing to **SDG 8** and more particularly to target 8.7 on the elimination of child labour and forced labour), praised by the Court of Auditors, was the Ship to Shore project to combat unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fisheries and fishing industry sector. With the objective to **reduce inequalities (SDG 10)**, the Research Facility on Inequalities is allowing the development of research to better understand the determinants of rising income inequalities, and of public policies to reduce them.

In the area of **Growth, jobs and private sector engagement**, and specifically regarding private sector engagement and trade, the priorities are strictly linked to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and its SDGs (mainly **SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 17**). In the area of **decent work (SDG 8)**, two projects aimed at enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear industry implemented by UNECE and ITC respectively, by establishing an enabling environment for all actors of textile and apparel industry in terms of transparency and traceability and policy and regulatory frameworks. Both projects envisage support to self-assess these private sector actors against recognised international initiatives, standards, codes of conduct and audit protocols, hence facilitating the connection between the demand (consumers, brands, retailers) and supply side (factories, producers).

In the area of **Food security**, **SDG 2** is the foundation of the GPGC-food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture programme. All forthcoming actions will be designed to be fully relevant for SDG 2, whilst also contributing to SDG 5, to SDG 8 and to SDG target 13.1 in all countries. A good example of a project contributing to SDG 2 is the Global network against Food Crises, a partnership created in collaboration with FAO and WFP to identify durable solutions to food crises. The objective is to prevent, prepare and respond to food crisis, reducing needs, risks and vulnerabilities associated with acute hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and food systems. The Global Network was instrumental for responding to crises of different nature, lasting from El Niño in 2016 to the Desert Locusts in 2020.

The **migration** programme aims in particular at SDG targets 5.2, 8.8, 10.7, 16.2 and 17.18. A good example of a project contributing to both **SDGs 5 and 16** is 'Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region'. This project is part of the EU-UN 'Spotlight Initiative' to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, funded

by the EU with a total budget of EUR 500 million. By ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region, this innovative and inclusive project covering the ten ASEAN countries will contribute to significantly reduce violence (SDG target 16.1), abuse, exploitation and trafficking (16.2), as well as ensure participatory and representative decision-making (16.7) and promote non-discriminatory laws and policies (16.B).

Regarding **Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in development (CSO-LA)**, the wide-ranged roles of CSOs and LAs make them key partners in the achievement of a range of goals, including SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 16 and SDG 17.

SDG 17 is particularly addressed by the initiative ‘Diálogos consonantes’ (DC) led by the ‘Articulación Feminista Marcosur’ through a regional Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). With the objective to step up action on women’s empowerment actions and gender equality in the Latin American region (**SDG 5**), it is an original and unique initiative to promote dialogue between donors and stakeholders. Some concrete results of these dialogues are the continuous support to the ‘Encuentros Feministas de America Latina y Caribe’ and the agreement to create the Regional Fund to support women’s organisations in the framework of the Regional Conference on Women of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The **Pan-African** programme with its wide thematic scope contributes among others to SDG 4 (through higher education projects), SDG 8 (contributing to trade and economic growth and improving youth employability through knowledge and skills projects), SDG 9 (through the support to infrastructure and connectivity and to science, technology and innovation), SDGs 13, 14 and 15 (through the earth observation project) and SDG 16 (supporting the African Union Commission, the political dialogue, including migration, and the role of Non-State actors).

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

DCI contribution to Investment Facilities

Latin America is benefitting from the **Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF)**. Since its creation in 2009 until 2019, EUR 444 million (EUR 357 million to Regional Latin America, EUR 50 million earmarked for Nicaragua, EUR 14 million earmarked for central America, EUR 6 million earmarked for El Salvador and EUR 17 million for a Climate Change Window) have been allocated to LAIF.

50 blending projects proposals have been approved by the Board by the end of 2019. Out of the 50 projects, 46 were contracted, with a LAIF contribution of EUR 408 million including fees. These contributions are expected to leverage investments amounting to EUR 10.6 billion. 39 % of the facility contribution to the projects was made in the form of investment grant, 50 % as technical assistance, 8 % in the form of risk-sharing instruments and guarantees and 3 % as fees.

The EU Trust Fund for Colombia supports the implementation of the peace agreement with FARC and was launched end of 2016. Having at its disposal approximately EUR 124 million at the end of 2019, The Trust Fund focusses on i) integrated rural development that will bring major economic, political and social benefits, including for the stability of its neighbouring countries and the larger region and ii) the social and economic reincorporation of former FARC combatants. During its first three years of operations, the Operational Committee of the Fund approved 28 projects amounting to EUR 108.4 million, out of which EUR 74 million were contracted and ongoing at the end of 2019.

Asia:

Central Asia is benefitting from the **Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA)**. Since its creation in 2010, EUR 217.95 million have been allocated to this investment facility by the end of 2019, out of which EUR 150 million under the 2014 – 2020 DCI. So far, IFCA contributions worth EUR 205.97million – including fees – are supporting 29 investment projects and are expected to catalyse investments worth EUR 2.13 billion. Based on the current IFCA pipeline, approximately EUR 32,40 million were contracted in 2019, to support investments notably in the water, renewable energy and agricultural sectors. EBRD is the main contracting partner for blending projects in Central Asia (90 % of contracting value at the end of 2018). However, the Commission has started reaching out to other partners, including private sector arms of European development financial institutions such as, for example, the French PROPARCO.

The regional investment facility for **South and South East Asia**, i.e., the **Asian Investment Facility (AIF)**, has benefitted from DCI allocations of EUR 343.63 million by the end of 2019. Through the AIF, the DCI is funding 39 blending projects by the end of 2019. The EU grant contribution to these 39 projects amounts to EUR 256.76 million including fees for a total expected investment volume of around EUR 5.37 billion. AIF contributions worth approximately EUR 38,70 million were contracted in by the end of 2019.

The importance of investments in reaching the SDGs is increasingly recognized in development cooperation. It is against this background that the opportunity of the Mid-term Review (MTR) has been used to increase funds available to boost investments in Asia and Central Asia, notably by the establishment of investment allocations for a large majority of countries in these regions. Following the MTR, investment funds cannot only be channeled through above-mentioned regional blending facilities, but could be used for joint and parallel investment operations with other development partners or for stand-alone capacity building measures and advisory services contributing to an improved business environment and/or technical or financial know-how of SMEs and local banking sectors. Eligible activities are activities boosting investments contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. In 2019, EU

contributions totaling close to EUR 37 million have been committed for this type of investment projects benefitting Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. This number is expected to increase in the future.

The **Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (GEEREF)** investment facility is an innovative financing vehicle aiming at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in developing countries and economies in transition. Structured as a Fund-of-Funds, GEEREF strategy is to invest in – and thus help develop – regional private equity funds, the investments of which target small and medium-sized energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The DCI contributed to the fund with EUR 81 million. Since its launch in 2008, the DCI contribution was catalytic in mobilising project finance to 129 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The **Agriculture Financing Initiative (AgriFI)**, launched at the end of 2015, has used public money to de-risk and thereby increase investment in smallholder agriculture and agri-businesses in developing countries, with the aim of achieving inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth. Under AgriFI, the following financial instruments were signed: the EDFI AgriFI with ‘FMO – Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden’ (2017) and the African Agriculture Trade and Investment Fund (AATIF, 2017) with ‘KfW Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau’.

In 2019, a EUR 20 million contribution to the ‘**HURUMA Fund**’ was concluded, managed by the Spanish Development Finance Institution COFIDES (Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo) and cofinanced by the Spanish agency for international development cooperation AECID (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo). This fund, of worldwide scope, will address the traditional constraints of agriculture finance as well as smallholders and underserved farmers’ financing needs.

The **Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI)**, launched in 2014, aims at accelerating access to electricity and modern energy services through intervention at the development stage of a project. Under ElectriFI, the following 6 initiatives have been signed so far: the EDFI ElectriFI with FMO (2015, 2016); the Africa Renewable Energy Scale-Up Facility (ARESUF, 2015) with AFD (Agence française de développement) and its subsidiary Proparco; Climate Investor One (CIO, 2017) with FMO; the Transferability and Convertibility Facility with Proparco (T&C Facility, 2017); the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI, 2018) with AfDB (African Development Bank); and the Digital Energy Facility (DEF 2019), with AFD.

Under the envelope ‘**Women Economic Empowerment**’ the initiative **Women’s Financial Inclusion Facility** (‘WFIF’), 2018, is a blended finance operation to promote women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion in Sub-Saharan countries. With KfW as the Lead Financial Institution, the EU contribution consists of first loss risk capital (EUR 7 million) in the Women’s World Banking Capital Partners fund II and grant contribution to Technical Assistance Programme (EUR 3 million). The EU contribution has already had significant first results, by playing an important catalytic role and helping bring in other investors to participate in the Fund. The Fund is set to have the first closing in early 2020. The WFIF invests in emerging market financial service providers that incorporate low-income women into their client base, expand gender diversity within their management teams, and utilise new technology solutions to reach and serve women. The technical assistance assesses gender-lens investment strategies, suitability of financial products and services and corporate governance structures of the financial institutions.

Under the envelope ‘**Support to Developing Countries for innovative Climate Finance**’ the initiative **Cities and Climate in Africa** was signed with AFD (CICLIA, 2016).

DCI contribution to Trust Funds

In 2019, the DCI GPGC programme on migration and asylum paid a EUR 50 million contribution to the **European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa**. In 2018, the DCI GPGC programme on migration and asylum contributed with EUR 50 million to the **European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa**, while the DCI Food programme has contributed to EUR 10 million. In 2017, the DCI GPGC made a EUR 48 million contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. In 2016 and 2017, the DCI PanAfrica programme contributed to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa for a total of EUR 25 million. Since 2016, the total DCI contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa has amounted to EUR 352.5 million from which EUR 193 million have been paid.

In 2019, the CSO-LA thematic programme financed the **Békou Trust Fund** with EUR 24.3 million. In 2018, EUR 14.7 million were allocated by the Migration and asylum programme to the **Békou Trust Fund** in order to support durable solutions to forced displacement in the Central African Republic, in the context of commitments made during the donor conference for the Central African Republic held on 17 November 2016. The DCI Food programme also financed a EUR 6 million contribution to Békou Trust Fund in 2018. Since 2015, the total DCI contribution to the Békou Trust Fund has amounted to EUR 65.46 million from which EUR 54.9 million have been paid.

Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI)

Lead DG: FPI

Associated DGs: EAC

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Partnership Instrument for Cooperation with Third Countries (PI) is the EU's first instrument specifically designed to promote the Union's strategic interests worldwide by reinforcing its external strategies, policies and actions.

It has four main objectives:

1. offering policy support and responding to global challenges;
2. projecting the international dimension of Europe 2020;
3. enhancing market access and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies;
4. promoting public diplomacy and academic cooperation.

The Partnership Instrument has been designed to advance and promote EU interests abroad by supporting the external dimension of EU policies, in particular the 'Europe 2020' strategy, and by addressing major global challenges, both at bilateral and at multilateral level. The PI promotes alliance -building with a specific focus on EU's strategic partners. The PI also helps to improve market access and develop trade and business opportunities for EU companies through economic partnerships, business and regulatory cooperation. Finally, the PI is intended to enhance widespread understanding and visibility of the Union on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, education/academic cooperation & outreach activities.

The EU has numerous international agreements with partner countries all over the world, not matched by individual Member States, which gives it influence in virtually all fields of international relations. By combining the weight of all Member States acting within common policies and strategies, only the EU has the critical weight to respond to global challenges. The PI helps promoting EU norms and standards with a view to turning them into global standards.

EU added value of the programme

The EU has numerous international agreements with partner countries all over the world resulting in influence in virtually all fields of international relations. By combining the weight of all Member States acting within common policies and strategies, only the EU has the critical weight to respond to global challenges. The PI is in a unique position to promote EU norms with a view to turn them into global standards through international cooperation.

Implementation mode

The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) is the lead service for the programme implementation. The Partnership Instrument operates under two different modes, depending on the specific circumstances of the action considered:

- 1) Direct management: The European Commission is in charge of all EU budget implementation tasks, which are performed directly by its departments either at headquarters or in the EU delegations.
- 2) Indirect management: Under indirect management, the European Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to: partner countries (or to bodies designated by them); international organisations; development agencies of EU Member States; other bodies.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017 -2019)

In 2019, the adoption of the Annual Action Programme 2019 in two phases, and the timely contracting of actions under the AAP 2018 were the key objectives of the PI work. Additionally, the implementation of actions under AAP 2014-17, the launch of the programming exercise for 2020 through the cluster modality were at the core of PI activity.

The AAP 2019 was adopted following in-depth consultation with line DGs and the EEAS on EU strategic policy priorities externally in two phases: the first phase of the AAP 2019 comprising Action Fiches 1-15 with a budget of €87,300,000 was adopted on 6 May 2019 while the second phase comprising Action Fiches 16-26 with a budget of €48,800,000 was adopted on 6 November 2019.

Five non-substantial amendments during the year increased the total budget of the AAP 2019 to EUR 148 177 000, of which EUR 8 500 000 was sub-delegated to other DGs/agencies (DEVCO and EACEA). Out of the budget of EUR 139 677 000 managed by FPI.4, EUR 14 273 000 was already contracted in 2019. The remaining budget will be contracted by 31 December 2020.

All 23 stand-alone actions included in the AAP 2018 were committed and signed by 31 December 2019, as well as the four individual measures. Out of the total AAP 2018 budget of EUR 105 050 000 for which FPI was responsible, €104,007,000 (99 % of level 1 commitment) was contracted. This excellent result was obtained thanks to a concerted effort to maximize budget

consumption by transferring unused funds from other activity (typically as a result of procurement procedures which lowered the initial cost estimate).

Key achievements

In order to explain the concrete PI achievements in 2019, it is important to note that the instrument focuses on influencing processes through facilitation and support, and on increasing EU capacity to impact policy-making.

Some examples are:

The Low carbon business action in Brazil and Mexico (AAP 2014 and 2016) has been promoting decoupling economic growth and CO₂ emissions in order to address global climate change as well as to improve market opportunities for leading EU businesses in the green-technology sector. While the first phase focused on signing Cooperation Partnership Agreements (CPAs) between companies in the EU and companies in Brazil and Mexico, the current action has been building on these partnership agreements. Following the evaluation of the concept notes, 42 CPAs from Mexico and 90 from Brazil were selected for receiving technical assistance, including financial viability modelling, legal advice, environmental impact, cost-benefit assessments and feasibility studies. Support is also being provided for access to finance, including drafting proposals and investment applications to be submitted to investment facilities and financial institutions. Under AAP 2019 a new action has been financed extending the scope of the action beyond Brazil and Mexico to Argentina, Canada, Colombia and Chile. This action also contributes to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as part of SDG 8.

The action ‘International Digital Cooperation’ (AAP 2016) is aimed at strengthening the EU’s position as a leading organisation in the digital economy and has four thematic components, including cooperation with key partners, with particular focus in Asia and Latin America, on cybersecurity, personal data protection, ICT standardisation and cross-border access to electronic evidence. Projects implemented under each of these components have already delivered tangible results, influencing policy and legislative processes, consolidating intelligence and information about the situation in relevant countries and at regional level in Asia and Latin America, supporting dialogues with key actors and strengthening the network of contacts of the EEAS and line DGs in these countries and regions. For example, the Project ‘Enhanced Data Protection for Data Flows’, has allowed the Commission to have a direct impact in the preparatory phase of the decision-making process leading to the development of legislation on data protection in countries such as India, Indonesia, Thailand, Brazil and Chile and, at regional level, for example working with the Ibero-American Network for Data Protection.

The EU Gateway | Business Avenues programme (AAP 2014 and 2015) aims to help European companies establish long-lasting business collaborations through matchmaking and business support services has conducted business missions in support of EU companies market entry to Japan, Korea, China and South East Asia. Since 2016, 46 business missions were conducted and 10 more will be done during 2020. This will complete this action bringing European companies to Asia in 9 different industrial and services sectors.

Under the action ‘Support to the EU Film Festivals’ (AAP 2017), more professional and engaging film festivals were organised by the EU Delegations thanks to access to a dedicated repository of European movies with pre-negotiated screening rights worldwide. Thanks to the technical and professional support provided under this contract, European film festivals in third countries moved from occasions to showcase the quality of EU films into real moments of dialogue with local stakeholders, civil society and citizens at large, while contributing to enhance the visibility and understanding of the EU and its policies abroad.

The Mid-Term Review evaluation ⁽¹⁾ found evidence that the PI played an often critical enabling role through both strengthening and opening up areas for cooperation and dialogue. This catalytic effect of the instrument is reflected in a new Partnership Instrument intervention logic and a set of core indicators developed and adopted in 2016 and on which we provide data in this section ⁽²⁾.

The indicators are divided into activity, output and outcome indicators.

Various **activities** are implemented under the PI funded actions. These activities can be divided into three main categories:

- Exchanges, events, knowledge sharing
- Provision of expertise, technical assistance
- Promotion, outreach, engagement

Cumulative data (2014-2019) on core activity indicators are presented in the table below.

⁽¹⁾ Mid-term evaluation of the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries, SWD(2017) 608 final of 15.12.2017 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-mid-term-review-pi_en_0.pdf

⁽²⁾ The figures for activities, outputs and outcomes for 2019 are sometimes markedly different than those presented in the previous working programme statements. This is explained by the fact that previous figures were only partial and that collection of data for indicators is now done in full; also, the PI is now working at full capacity; finally, some figures from previous years have been corrected after training was provided to the contractors implementing the actions.

PI Activities implemented	Total recorded
A1: Total number of events organised and supported (aggregated)	4,757 ⁽³⁾
Number of visits, exchanges, study tours	280
Number of business missions	233
Number of technical meetings (to discuss a specific technical subject)	769
Number of group events (conferences, debates, workshops, seminars)	1,371
Number of training events	431
Number of outreach and advocacy (including networking events, cultural collaboration activities)	609
A2: Person-days of expertise or technical assistance provided	72,493
A3: Number of public/media/communication campaigns designed and implemented (aggregated)	516

Source: Partnership Instrument Monitoring System

The activities implemented under PI actions lead to delivery/production of a wide range of **outputs**, which can be grouped into different 4 main categories:

- Direct benefits of events (e.g. increased knowledge, understanding, awareness, networking, engagement)
- Knowledge-based products
- Outcome statements
- Advocacy, awareness raising products

Cumulative data (2014-2019) on **core output indicators** are presented in the table below.

PI Outputs delivered	Total recorded
OP1: Number of participants in an event	833,683
OP2: Percentage of participants who report having benefited from an event	88.83 %
OP3: Number of EU companies that participated in an event	3,083
OP4: Percentage of EU companies which report having benefited from an event	84.71 %
OP5: Number of outcome statements emanating from an event	134
OP6: Number of knowledge-based products developed	20,846
OP7: Number of communication products developed	15,717

Source: Partnership Instrument Monitoring System

Evaluation/studies conducted

In 2019, a major effort was undertaken in terms of evaluation, with 7 different evaluations launched. The results of these evaluations (final reports are not yet available time of writing) will feed into the programming of the AAP 2020 as well as into the discussion on the future financial architecture of external action.

Forthcoming implementation

The PI Annual Action Programme is adopted in two phases (i.e. around April and October each year) to allow for increased flexibility, in spring and in autumn. Currently, 15 actions are being considered for inclusion in the first phase of AAP 2020, which is framed by the EU Global Strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Commission Priorities in addition to the PI multi-annual framework. The programming exercise is conducted through a cluster approach involving close cooperation with the EEAS, EU Delegations and Commission services ⁽⁴⁾ based on initial strategic reflections provided by the EU Delegations. The main lines

⁽³⁾ Implementing partners did not always report on disaggregated categories. The total number of events is therefore higher than the sum of disaggregated categories.

⁽⁴⁾ For example, DG CLIMA, DG EAC, DG ENV, DG ENER, DG GROW, DG HOME, DG MARE, DG MOVE and DG TRADE.

of action currently being considered for the AAP 2020 are: climate/energy action; trade and market access; digital; peace and security; as well as public and culture diplomacy.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

In the future MFF, the activities currently financed under the Partnership Instrument will be continued under the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), COM(2018)460 final. Activities will be financed mainly under the envelope ‘Rapid response actions’ (Art. 6.c of NDICI, notably to address foreign policy needs and priorities), and possibly partly under the envelope ‘Geographic programmes’ (Art. 6.a of NDICI).

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries	2014 – 2020	954,8

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	4,3	3,4	4,8	5,0	5,4	5,8	6,1	34,8
Operational appropriations	115,4	114,4	122,4	133,0	139,4	143,2	156,1	923,9
Executive Agency	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,0		1,0
Total	119,9	118,0	127,5	138,2	144,9	149,0	162,3	959,7
<i>Of which contribution to Erasmus+</i>	<i>8,2</i>	<i>11,7</i>	<i>14,7</i>	<i>15,4</i>	<i>11,5</i>	<i>12,5</i>	<i>13,7</i>	<i>87,8</i>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	149,010	100,00 %	130,866	99,73 %	162,284	9,30 %	129,603	23,68 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	156,103	95,46 %	134,883	96,76 %	163,162	9,25 %	131,143	23,40 %

(*) 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 Partnership Instrument is first and foremost a policy-supporting instrument strengthening the EU by promoting its interests, values and visibility externally. It operates as such under the framework defined by the Global Strategy and other EU policies (Commission’s ten priorities, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals) and in support of EU foreign policy objectives. Programming is driven by thematic considerations, not country focused. For example, PI actions underpin bilateral and regional dialogues in multiple areas of strategic EU interest and bilateral and multilateral negotiations by providing support for concrete policy deliverables, thereby strengthening the position of the EU as a credible partner that can deliver. Other actions aim at developing common approaches with key partners to influence international processes and agendas, thereby underpinning multilateralism, fostering the building of partnerships and alliances in a global context, and contributing to a rules-based global order. In the area of trade policy, the PI provides unprecedented support to the EU’s trade agenda in the world, specifically focused on countries/regions where trade and investment agreements exist or are being negotiated. Further actions enable the EU to enhance its image and perception abroad through public and cultural diplomacy, engaging with key decision-makers and target groups in strategic partner countries.

The challenges for the instrument are to quickly respond to fast-changing foreign policy needs, and ensure funding in anticipation of Europe’s strategic priorities; and to respond strategically in coordinated fashion, bringing together EEAS and line DGs.

As regards the indicators presented in this section, latest data available is provided. It is to be noted that PI can contribute to most indicators only in a long-term perspective, through the processes, dialogues and cooperation that are enabled through PI cooperation. Therefore, the PI core outcome indicators introduced in 2016 are considered to provide a more realistic and relevant information on PI performance. PI actions fund activities and deliver outputs in order to achieve outcomes in terms of influence over often-political processes. Some of the main outcomes are measured by the newly developed PI outcome indicators (see box hereunder).

Core PI outcome indicators

The aim of outcome indicators is to measure the influence, which the action is having on some kind of process or on behaviour of the target groups.

‘Process’ is used as a generic term for any line of action, position, policy development in a partner country or in a mutual relationship.

PI actions aim to influence or initiate some processes (outcome), often political, in order to create enabling conditions for a change (impact). Normally there will be a process under way, or which needs to be developed, and which may ultimately lead to the desired change in the longer term. This process may need to be initiated, or moved forward in some way, or perhaps enhanced to improve the chances of the action contributing to a desired impact. The outcome that the actions aim to contribute to is that the process is indeed improved which in the longer term may, other things being equal, lead to some impact such as a strategic partnership, or an agreement on migration, or a policy having the potential to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or improved options for trade, or a better understanding of the EU and its place in the world.

The ‘instruments’ counted in the table above consist mainly of agreements, declarations and action plans. The EU has to date signed Strategic Partnership agreements with 10 countries (Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the U.S.A.).

In the framework of the Strategic Partnership agreement, or in addition to it, the EU often concludes bilateral agreements with these countries. Bilateral agreements traditionally contain three pillars: cooperation, trade and economic relations and political dialogue. These agreements vary in scope, content and level of ambition/engagement e.g. Free Trade Agreements, Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association Agreements, visa liberalisation agreements. The PI facilitates the implementation of such agreements notably by supporting EU negotiators, spreading knowledge about new opportunities brought about by the agreements and by setting up specific public diplomacy actions.

Information on developments in the negotiation and conclusion of these processes will be obtained directly from EU internal sources (i.e. EEAS and Commission services involved) and from data sources relevant for the strategic partners, including relevant websites.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Partnership Instrument shall support measures that respond in an effective and flexible manner to objectives arising from the Union’s bilateral, regional or multilateral relationships with third countries and address challenges of global concern, or ensure an adequate follow-up to decisions taken at multilateral level.

Indicator 1: Number of new relevant instruments and / or negotiation processes launched / on-going with EU’s strategic partners, regional organisations and at multilateral level

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
		0	2	4	8	9		10
	Actual results							
		0	2	4	9	9		

Comment: As regards the indicators presented in this section, latest data available are provided. It is to be noted that PI can contribute to most indicators only in a long-term perspective, through the processes, dialogues and cooperation that are enabled through PI cooperation. Therefore, the PI core outcome indicators introduced in 2016 are considered to provide a more realistic and relevant information on PI performance. PI actions fund activities and deliver outputs in order to achieve outcomes in terms of influence over (often political) processes. Some of the main outcomes are measured by the newly developed PI outcome indicators (see box hereunder). Source: PI website: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/partnership_instrument_en.htm

Unit of measure: Relevant existing instruments (e.g. agreements, declarations, action plans) and negotiation processes ongoing with EU’s strategic partners, regional organisations and at multilateral level.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To support the Union’s bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogues and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.

Performance

The performance under specific objective 1 is reflected by five core PI outcome indicators. The values captured for these indicators demonstrate that the instrument has already delivered important results. At state-level and at sub-state level, the PI has influenced 78 processes. It has also influenced 47 processes related to non-state level partnerships. Additional 38 processes were influenced in relation to partner country approaches related to challenges of global concern and 5 processes as regards partner country approaches related to challenges of global concern).

PI Outcomes (cumulative 2014-2019) ⁽⁵⁾	Number
OC ⁽⁶⁾ 1: Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced.	78
OC2: Number of processes related to non-state level partnership/agreements which have been influenced	47
OC3: Number of processes related to partner country approaches to challenges of global concern which have been influenced.	38
OC4: Number of processes related to partner country practices on challenges of global concern which have been influenced	5
OC5: Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up to or during regional/international fora which have been influenced	6

Examples of actions that demonstrate the outcome:

=> The action ‘Support to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) with major economies’ (AAP 2017) aims at supporting and encouraging partner countries to successfully executing their climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The aim is to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the effects of climate change, and thus ultimately contributing to the long-term targets laid out in the Paris Agreement through their nationally determined contribution (NDC). Examples of how the PI action helped are: a) In the USA, a first forum was held on 8 November 2019 with the U.S. Climate Alliance to foster dialogue and exchange between climate-conscious stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic. Further dialogues and technical workshops will take place with the U.S. Climate Alliance in 2020; b) the first Brazilian Conference on Climate Change, held in Recife from 6-8 November 2019, was a strong expression of commitment by Brazilian states to climate action. At the conference, 12 public entities, 32 civil-society organisations and 22 companies signed the Recife Declaration committing themselves to decarbonise the Brazilian economy and increase climate resilience and c) the European Union and several of its Member States welcomed a delegation from South Africa from 11 to 19 October 2019 to present European experiences to the experts from South Africa in order to support their transitioning process away from a fossil fuel economy while considering and securing the future and livelihoods of affected workers and their communities. The experience gained by RSA has a potential to evolve into a closer policy and cooperation between EU and Mpumalanga Province as well as the National Government’s more pronounced support for Just Transition as part of the South Africa’s climate action.

Indicator 1: Progress made by key partner countries in the fight against climate change or in promoting the environmental standards of the Union, as measured by the following sub-indicators

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 1a – Operating Emissions Trading Schemes for greenhouse gas mitigation (ETS) outside the EU/EEA (at city, regional, country or multi-country level): 15	Actual results							26
		18	20	21	22	24	26	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Brazil: 45 %	Actual results							49.5 %
		43.0 %	43.0 %	42.0 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Canada: 10 %	Actual results							11.0 %
		10.0 %	10.0 %	10.0 %				
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share							11.0 %	11.0 %

⁽⁵⁾ See footnote no. 1

⁽⁶⁾ ‘OC’ stands for Outcome.

of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, China: 10 %	Actual results						
		10.0 %	11.0 %	11.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, India: 38 %	Actual results						41.8 %
						41.8 %	
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Japan: 72 %	Actual results						79.2 %
		76.0 %	60.0 %	55.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Republic of Korea: 8 %	Actual results						8.8 %
		8.0 %	8.0 %	10.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Mexico: 8 %	Actual results						8.8 %
		8.0 %	9.0 %	10.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, Russian Federation: 1 %	Actual results						1.1 %
		1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1b – Share of renewables in total energy production in the 9 strategic partners, USA: 8 %	Actual results						8.8 %
		7.0 %	8.0 %	8.0 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1c – CO2 emissions from fuel combustion in the 9 strategic partners: 20 979.55	Actual results						Reduce by at least 6 %
		1.02 %	2.37 %	0.50 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen						2020
Sub-indicator 1d – Number of local and regional authorities signing the Covenant of Mayors: 6 270	Actual results						4 000 new cities in at least 30 countries have joined the cooperation in the field of sustainable energy (Global Covenant)
		6 750	7 193	7 747	7 755	9 984	

Comment: The specific objective 1 is reflected by five core PI outcome indicators. Values captured for these indicators demonstrate that the instrument has already delivered important results (see underneath).

Availability of Data: For sub-indicators 1b and 1c: The data will be available 3 years after the reference year. The data for 2017 will be available at the beginning of 2020. Data for 31/12 of each year provided directly by the Covenant of Mayors Office.

Source: <https://icapcarbonaction.com> – International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP), Status Report –annual report; Baseline data – ICAP Status Report 2015 (providing data for 2014); Data for 2015 – ICAP Status Report 2016; Data for 2016 – <https://icapcarbonaction.com> – interactive map; Data for 2017 – <https://icapcarbonaction.com>; Data for 2018– <https://icapcarbonaction.com> – interactive map; Data for 2019 – <https://icapcarbonaction.com> – interactive map <http://energyatlas.iea.org/?subject=-1076250891> (Data for baseline (2014) extracted on 27

January 2017. Last data available 2017 <http://energyatlas.iea.org>. Last data available 2016; http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html;
Unit of measure: Sub-indicator 1c – CO2 emissions from fuel combustion in the 9 strategic partners: Mt CO2

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Actions funded in the field of global challenges and policy support under the Annual Action Programme*	09 05 01	7	34,75

* The precise number of actions and budget will be confirmed upon adoption of the Annual Action Programme.

Output		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Actions funded in the field of global challenges and policy support under the Annual Action Programme	F	7	7	7	8	8	10	8
	P	8	9	11	8	15	17	

Specific Objective 2: Implementing the international dimension of ‘Europe 2020 – A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’.

Performance

The performance under specific objective 2 is reflected by five core PI outcome indicators. The data collected demonstrate that the PI is effective especially in influencing partner country approaches that are beneficial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy (7 processes). To date, one practice of a partner country has been influenced and this number is expected to increase in the future.

PI Outcomes (cumulative 2014-2019)	Number
OC6: Number of processes related to partner country approaches beneficial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy which have been influenced	21
OC7: Number of processes related to partner country practices beneficial to the achievement of Europe 2020 strategy which have been influenced	1

Examples of actions that demonstrate the outcome:

- The action ‘International Urban Cooperation Programme’ (AAP 2015, AAP 2018, and AAP 2019) implements city-to-city cooperation between the EU and target countries in Asia and the Americas in the context of the New Urban Agenda and in support of EU regional policy engagement. Through the action, cities from Europe and other global regions are paired together, jointly committing to design and implement pilot projects that enhance sustainable development at the local and regional levels. To date, [79 pairings](#) have been established between local governments through the IUC programme. In the partnerships established they have been cooperating on topics such as smart cities, sustainable transport, inclusive growth climate mitigation and energy, nature based solutions and resilience, social inclusion and urban regeneration. The IUC programme has further supported the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Since the start of the implementation of the IUC programme, Covenant of Mayors initiatives have been initiated in all regions of the programme as Regional Covenants. The Regional Covenants have set up local governance structures supported by secretariats providing technical assistance for cities via expert helpdesks. A series of awareness raising events and trainings have been provided to prepare for a larger scale roll-out of the initiative. Last but not least, in Latin America twenty regions have been selected in cooperation with national relevant authorities in six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. These have been matched with twenty EU regions. The objective of this action is to contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities) (SDG 11).
- The Partnership Instrument supports several actions on cooperation on civil aviation matters (in China AAP 2014; South Asia AAP 2015; South-East Asia and Latin America AAP 2017). These projects develop and support EU aviation interests around the world in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Commission’s Aviation Strategy for Europe, by strengthening institutional links, promoting regulatory harmonisation, addressing capacity limitations and supporting environmental protection and climate action. It operates by promoting EU policy, standards and technology in order to provide a more compatible and open market for the EU aviation industry across the globe.

Indicator 1: Uptake of the 'Europe 2020' strategy by key partner countries, as measured by the following sub-indicators								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 2a – Number of cities that have signed new bilateral or multilateral agreements on sustainable urban development: 0	Actual results							At least 84 cities in at least 7 strategic partners
		0	6	25	47	64	84	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 2b – Number of regions that have signed new bilateral or multilateral agreements on innovation: 0	Actual results							At least 18 regions/provinces worldwide
		0	6	8	11	15	18	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 2c – Number of international agreements on Migration and Mobility signed with the strategic partners: 15	Actual results							20
		15	15	17	17	19	20	
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Sub-indicator 2d – Average worldwide level of implementation of international safety standards in civil aviation: 62 %	Actual results							65.10 %
		62.00 %	62.00 %	62.00 %	63.00 %	63.00 %	65.10 %	
		63.00 %		64.70 %	65.51 %	67.43 %		

Comment: The Specific Objective 2 is reflected by two core PI outcome indicators. The data collected demonstrate that the PI is effective especially in influencing partner country approaches that are beneficial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy (7 processes). To date, one practice of a partner country has been influenced and this number is expected to increase in the future. The progression over the years is cumulative. The start of PI action supposed to contribute to this indicator was postponed and implementation started only in 2017. No performance information is available yet; The progression over the years is cumulative. The start of PI action supposed to contribute to this indicator was postponed and implementation started only in 2017. No performance information is available yet.

Source: PI monitoring reports; <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/home/policy/Pages/International-agreements.aspx>; Based on the assessment done by the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) and available through International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) annual Safety Reports <https://www.icao.int/safety/Pages/Safety-Report.aspx>

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Actions funded in the field of global challenges and policy support under the Annual Action Programme*	19 05 01	3	21

* The precise number of actions and budget will be confirmed upon adoption of the Annual Action Programme.

Output		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Actions funded in the field of global challenges and policy support under the Annual Action Programme	F	3	2	3	3	3	5	3
	P	5	3	4	6	4		

Specific Objective 3: Improving access to third country markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies, while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, by means of economic partnerships, business and regulatory cooperation.

Performance

The Specific Objective 3 is about improving conditions for accessing partner country markets and support economic partnerships.

Four core PI outcome indicators reflect the goals pursued under this specific objective and show relevant results. There have been 6 processes influenced as regards partner country practices on trade, investment and business and 11 processes influenced related to the removal of barriers to market access, investment and business. Fully 70 processes concerning the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries have been advanced. Finally, 7 out of 10 companies acknowledged a positive change in the business, trade and investment climate.

PI Outcomes (cumulative 2014-2019)	Number
OC8: Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business which have been influenced	6
OC9: Number of processes related to the removal of barriers to market access, investment and business which have been influenced	11
OC10: Number of processes related to the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries which have been advanced	17
OC11: Percentage of EU companies which acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the business, trade and investment climate in partner countries	71 %

Examples of actions that demonstrate the outcome:

- The Public Procurement Initiative (AAP 2014) has developed a novel methodology to collection and assessment of government procurement data in third countries. This methodology has produced data from Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, New Zealand and Thailand, plus US and Canada.
- The Competition Cooperation in Asia programme (AAP 2016) has initiated all dialogues between DG Competition and relevant competition authorities in China, Japan, Korea, India and South East Asia during 2019. The successful Competition Summer School for Asian competition practitioners held its second edition with representatives from across the above jurisdictions. In 2019, additional actions were adopted to strengthen EU economic interests abroad, such as Implementation of trade part of the EU – Central America Association Agreement and Due Diligence Helpdesk for EU SMEs dealing with Iran.

Indicator 1: EU share in foreign trade in goods and services of 9 strategic partners								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
17 %	Maintain share	Maintain share	Maintain share	Maintain share	Possible increase in share	Possible increase in share	Overall increase in share	Overall increase in share
	Actual results							
	16.70 %	17.30 %	17.60 %	17.70 %	18.00 %			

Comment: The Specific Objective 3 is about improving conditions for accessing partner country markets and support economic partnerships. EU share in Brazil, Mexico, US, Canada, Russian Federation, India, China, Japan and Republic of Korea total foreign trade in goods and services (imports + exports) (NB: these figures don't measure these countries' share in EU foreign trade). Data for all values extracted on 22 January 2018. As from 2010, the reporter is EU-28 for both trade in goods and trade in services.

As from 2010, the data for both trade in goods and trade in services is calculated according to BMP6 (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual) methodology.

Four core PI outcome indicators reflect the goals pursued under this specific objective and show 6 relevant results. There have been 4 processes influenced as regards partner country practices on trade, investment and business and 7 processes influenced related to the removal of barriers to market access, investment and business. Fully 10 processes concerning the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries have been advanced. Finally, 7 out of 10 companies acknowledged a positive change in the business, trade and investment climate.

Source: COMEXT/IMF (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/international-trade/data/database>) for trade in goods – first data published approximately in July of year n+1. WTO/Eurostat for trade in services – first WTO data published in April of year n+1, preliminary Eurostat data published approximately in June of year n+1 and complete Eurostat data published approximately in December of year n+1.

Indicator 2: EU investments flows from/to 9 strategic partners								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Inward flows: 442	Maintain FDI flows	Maintain FDI	Maintain FDI	Maintain FDI	Possible increase	Possible increase	Increase FDI	Increase FDI flows in parallel

		flows	flows	flows	in FDI flows	in FDI flows	flows in parallel with global economic growth	with global economic growth
	Actual results							
	44.9	421.7	12.1	142.6				
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
Outward flows: 421.6	Maintain FDI flows	Maintain FDI flows	Maintain FDI flows	Maintain FDI flows	Possible increase in FDI flows	Possible increase in FDI flows	Increase FDI flows in parallel with global economic growth	Increase FDI flows in parallel with global economic growth
	Actual results							
	33.0	492.0	79.6	109.0				

Comment: Until 2012 the reporter was the EU-27 and the data were calculated according to BMP5 (Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual) methodology. The figures as from 2013 use the reporter of EU-28 and are calculated according to BPM6. Data for all values extracted on 11 January 2018.

NB: Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows are highly volatile. The sharp decrease in flows in 2014 is mainly due to two-way drop of FDI with the USA.

Source: Eurostat (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Foreign_direct_investment_statistics), preliminary data for selected countries published in June of year n+1; data with complete geographical breakdown are foreseen in December of year n+1.

Unit of measure: Billion EUR

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Actions funded to support and increase EU's position on the world scene in terms of trade and foreign investment	19 05 01	8	34,5

* The precise number of actions and budget will be confirmed upon adoption of the Annual Action Programme.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Actions funded to support and increase EU's position on the world scene in terms of trade and foreign investment	F	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
	P	5	5	6	2	7		

Specific Objective 4: Enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, people to people contacts, education/academic/think tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.

Performance

The specific objective 4 is about enhancing and widening understanding and visibility of the EU and of its role on the world scene.

Three core PI outcome indicators reflect the goals pursued under the specific objective. They confirm that the Partnership Instrument is effective in improving the perception of the EU on a global scale.

PI Outcomes (cumulative 2014-2019)	Number
OC12 Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards	77.4 %
OC13 Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge having engaged further on the topic on their own initiative as a result of their exposure to an event	78.8 %
OC14 Number of articles published in print and/or digital media about an event	2,363

Example of actions that demonstrate the outcome

- Under the action ‘EU Policy and Outreach Partnership’ (AAP 2015), a high brand awareness of the EU has been developed among targeted audiences in Kuwait through a series of workshops and debates in the fields of political empowerment of women, anti-bullying in school, environment and human rights, political leadership and decision-making; and in Saudi Arabia through public diplomacy activities such as training on EU institutions and decision-making for Saudi diplomats, workshop on fostering religious tolerance, Workshop on Grassroots Sport Diplomacy; in Oman workshop on Strengthening EU-Oman Maritime Security Partnership. Continued engagement with target audience was undertaken in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular in Hong Kong with the Plastic Waste Reduction Workshop, in Singapore with the EU-Singapore Think Tank Dialogues Initiative on Connectivity, Economic Security in Southeast Asia; in New Zealand with activities in support to the FTA negotiations, including EU Geographical Indications promotion at the Field Days in Hamilton and the Agricultural show in Christchurch.
- Under the action ‘Cultural Diplomacy Platform’ (AAP 2015) increased mutual understanding through intercultural dialogue and facilitated future cooperation among EU cultural operators and the EU strategic partner countries was achieved through the organisation of the fourth and alumni edition of the Global Cultural Leadership Training; the EU literature prize winners’ participation to European Literature Festivals in Mexico and in India; the launch of the 2019 Young Talent Architecture Award in China, India, Japan and South Korea, as well as the organisation of the Western Balkans Cultural stakeholders’ meeting Sarajevo.
- Under the action ‘EU Alumni Engagement Initiative’ (AAP 2017), increased mobilisation of the networks of beneficiaries of EU initiatives and programmes was achieved through gathering events in Canada and in China with a view to establish more targeted engagement, based on participants’ interests and location, turning them into long-term partners.
- In 2019, several actions dedicated to Public Diplomacy efforts were implemented in South and Central America, Russia, India, Japan, China, and Indonesia thus contributing to build mutual trust and understanding between the EU and the partner country, while enhancing the ability of the EU to engage with target audiences. Examples of successful activities are: Journalist Training in Argentina and in Russia, EU Council Simulation in Brazil, Roadshow and Diplomatic Training in Chile, EU-China International Literary Festival, symposia on EU and Japanese geographical indications systems, Climate Diplomacy Week and Erasmus alumni networking activities in Mexico, European Higher Education Virtual Fair in India, European Jazz festival in Indonesia. Under the ‘civil society engagement’, grants were awarded to CSO organisations in India in view of establishing or enhancing dialogues between civil society actors and local, national, regional or international institutions on policy areas of common interest to the EU and its partner countries.

Indicator 1: EU visibility								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Brazil: 93 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		93 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Canada: 87 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		87 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
China: 95 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		95 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
India: 93 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		93 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020

Japan: 76 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		76 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Mexico: 97 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		97 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Russia: 93 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		93 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
South Africa: 85 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		85 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Republic of Korea: 92 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		92 %						
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
USA: 88 %					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility
	Actual results							
		88 %						

Comment: The specific objective 4 is about enhancing and widening understanding and visibility of the EU and of its role on the world scene. Three core PI outcome indicators reflect the goals pursued under the specific objective. Indicators OC13 needs to be collected via surveys around 6 months after participation in an event in order to measure a longer-term change. Since this indicator was added only in autumn 2017 and they were asked to integrate the indicators into their monitoring systems only between October 2017 and March 2018, the implementing partners did not commonly collect such information. It is expected that data will be available for the next reporting exercise. Measured through public opinion poll in 10 Strategic Partner Countries (Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, and USA). The results of the poll is not available to public. This indicator will not be measured annually.
Availability of Data: The next set of data will be available in 2020.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Education / academic cooperation (covered by a PI-specific 'Erasmus +' Multi-annual Indicative Programme)	19 05 20	1	3,5
Actions funded in the area of public diplomacy, people to people contacts and outreach activities	19 05 20	1	24,0
Total		2	27,5

* The precise number of actions and budget will be confirmed upon adoption of the Annual Action Programme.

Outputs	F	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Education / academic cooperation	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Actions funded in the area of public diplomacy, people to people contacts and outreach activities	F	-	-	At least 7	3	2	3	2
	P	1	1*	1*	1*	1*	2*	1*

* For public diplomacy, formally only one action fiche is part of AAP 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Nevertheless, each action fiche has contained several specific actions (respectively, 13, 7 and 5 besides 1 action in the field of education/academic cooperation).

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific objectives 1, 2 and 3	23,5	35,0
Total	23,5	35,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
35,2	22,3	32,9	26,9	26,5	23,5	35,0	202,3

(*)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 estimate for 2020 corresponds to the provisionally foreseen projects of AAP 2020.

Contribution to financing biodiversity

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific objective 1	5,0	11,1
Total	5,0	11,1

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
0,4	7,0	6,4	18,5	9,8	5,0	11,1	58,2

(*)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 estimate for 2020 corresponds to the provisionally foreseen projects of the AAP 2020.

Gender mainstreaming

In 2019, the PI supported the implementation of the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020. In particular, 4 actions directly addressing the GAP 2016-2020 thematic priorities 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' and 'Voice and Participation' were being implemented.

The actions 'Win-Win: Gender Equality Means Good Business in Latin America', 'We Empower in G7', and 'We Empower Asia' are implemented in partnership with UN Women and ILO. These projects engage private sector companies, women business networks, women entrepreneurs to foster women's economic empowerment and exchange good practices with a view to reduce inequalities and strengthen economic and societal resilience. The projects promote the adoption at global level of the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and focus on specific government practices such as gender-sensitive public procurement or capacity building for women entrepreneurship.

The action 'Cooperation in the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women', implemented by the Council of Europe, strengthens the participation of key stakeholders in the process of Gender policy implementation and oversight with particular attention to public and political participation of women and prevention of domestic violence and violence against women and girls.

Both these actions directly contribute to Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under SDG 5.

The **PI gender facility** was used to support gender mainstreaming across all PI areas and actions. Technical support was provided to FPI staff within Regional Teams, at Headquarters in Brussels and, on some occasions, gender mainstreaming technical support

has been provided to some implementing partners (IPs) in the form of training workshops. All services delivered by the PI Gender Facility involved tailored-made technical support and cutting-edge gender knowledge in key themes of the PI, including linkages with subthemes of strategic importance to the PI overall work. All this aimed to enhance the capacity of PI staff for autonomous and meaningful integration of gender equality issues in the global challenges addressed within PI projects.

In 2019, the **joint IcSP-PI Gender, Age and Diversity Facility** was created to enhance the effectiveness of FPI operations and to strengthen FPI staff capacities to take up and effectively apply a gender, age and diversity perspective in their daily work. The facility provides staff at Headquarters and EU Delegations/Regional Teams with recommendations for a Gender, Age and Diversity Strategy, a compendium of existing training and support tools related to gender-, age- and diversity-mainstreaming, ad-hoc research in the context of post-GAPII/SDG 5, coaching assistance and advanced training on specific areas of intervention for effectively applying a gender, age and diversity lens to IcSP/PI interventions.

In 2019, 23 contracted actions reported a G-Marker 1 (9.54 %) and 8 contracted actions reported a G-Marker 2 (3.32 %). In addition, all PI actions identified in 2019 included meaningful gender considerations. This data is provided in line with Objective 5.3.2 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20 (7).

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The action ‘Business and Human Rights in Asia’ aims to promote the agenda on Business and Human Rights and ensure that it is further taken up by Asian governments and business, through an EU-UN partnership, thereby promoting multilateralism and levelling the playing field for businesses that integrate human rights considerations into their operations and supply chains. To this end, the EU and the UN partner up to promote the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Asia through National Action Plans, policy discussions and awareness raising programmes in six countries (namely India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) while strengthening policy coherence with international corporate governance and compliance standards.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

PI contributes to SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. For example, the action ‘Support to the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) with major economies’ (8) aims at supporting and encouraging partner countries to successfully execute their climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The aim is to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the effects of climate change, and thus ultimately contributing to the long-term targets laid out in the Paris Agreement through their nationally determined contribution (NDC). Please note that as for every action funded under the PI, given the nature of the instrument dealing with foreign policy processes, it is not possible to always provide quantitative data for the impact. Please refer to the impact and outcome indicators provided in this document. This action also contributes to **SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**.

The Partnership Instrument also contributes to the achievement of the following SDGs:

- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4)
- Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under SDG 5 (as highlighted above in the programme statement)
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all under SDG 6
- Contributing to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all under SDG7
- Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation under SDG 9
- Contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities) under SDG 11 (as highlighted above in the programme statement)
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns under SDG 12
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development under SDG 14
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss under SDG 15
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels under SDG 16.

(7) ‘Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations, 2016-20’ – SWD(2015) 182 final of 21/09/2015

(8) From the PI Annual Action Plan 2017

HEADING 4: Global Europe

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Lead DG: DEVCO

Associated DGs: FPI

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The EIDHR is a programme designed to help civil society to become an effective force for political reform and defence of human rights. Building on its key strength, which is the ability to operate without the need for host government consent, the EIDHR is able to focus on sensitive political issues and innovative approaches and to cooperate directly with local civil society organisations, which need to preserve independence from public authorities, providing for great flexibility and increased capacity to respond to changing circumstances.

The programme aims at enhancing the protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring of human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse. At the same time, the EIDHR works towards consolidation of democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, the rule of law and improving the reliability of electoral processes. The EIDHR views the human rights and democracy agendas as intrinsically interlinked.

The EIDHR is intended as a 'niche' instrument particularly geared towards addressing the most difficult human rights situations and protecting human rights and democracy activists at risk, supporting some of the selected key human rights actors and processes, and acting in areas where the EU has a special interest and offers added value (e.g. fight against the death penalty, promoting sound electoral processes).

The EIDHR-financed Election Observation Missions (EU EOMs) have become an important flagship of EU foreign policy. Furthermore, EOMs constitute an example of inter-institutional cooperation between the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Parliament.

EU added value of the programme

Given its accomplishments in conflict resolution, peace building and the creation of prosperity, the EU is in an excellent position to deliver on external action, on behalf of and with its Member States. It is well placed to take on the role of a global leader on behalf of its citizens, in particular in its support and promotion of democracy and human rights. European added value is much larger than suggested by purely balance sheet approach: contributing to peace building worldwide, assisting the world's poorest people and supporting democracy and respect for human rights are indisputable demonstrations of how the EU adds value through its work every day.

The EIDHR delivers help worldwide, including the world's most remote areas, hereby enhancing the strategic reach of Member States, especially in cases when their presence is limited and therefore the capacity to act is reduced. The EIDHR is also designed to act primarily in most difficult and restrictive human rights contexts and in those areas where the EU as a whole has a special interest and offers added value, such as the fight against the death penalty, torture or impunity or promoting the EU founding values of democracy and rule of law. The EIDHR key strength, which is the ability to operate without the need for host government consent and to cooperate directly with local, scattered or disenfranchised Civil Society Organisations needing to preserve independence from public authorities, has generated high EU added value, making EU intervention in these difficult contexts less 'EU State oriented' and more neutral.

Election Observation Missions (EOMs) are highly visible demonstration of EU's commitment in supporting democratisation and promoting respect for human rights across the world. EOMs are led by a Chief Observer, who is a Member of the European Parliament. In addition to an EU EOM, a Delegation of the European Parliament composed of MEPs could be deployed to the partner country to observe the Election Day fully embedded in the EOM. The European Parliament is consulted on the annual list of priority countries for election observation. The EU Member States also play a crucial role, as they are, via their respective Focal Points for election observation, responsible for the pre-selection of the EU Observers. Member States are also consulted on the establishment of the yearly priority list for election observation.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The EIDHR delivers assistance mainly through grants, majority of which are awarded based on call for proposals and are in direct management mode. A smaller portion of the EIDHR grants are implemented in indirect management. To a limited degree, the EIDHR uses also procurement (service contracts) to deliver on its objectives. The absolute majority of implementing partners are international and national civil society organisations (more than 70 %).

Approximately 25 % of the EIDHR budget is dedicated to the Election Observations missions that are managed through service contracts using specific Framework Contract.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The EIDHR has been executed as planned and all activities of the 2017 and 2018 budget have been carried out or are currently ongoing, as well as the activities of the 2019 budget that were planned to start in 2019.

Strategically, the period has been framed by two Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIP): MIP 2014-2017⁽¹⁾ and MIP 2018-2020⁽²⁾. The actions to be implemented were set out in the Multiannual Action Programme 2016-2017⁽³⁾, the Special Measure 2018⁽⁴⁾ and the Multiannual Action Programme 2018-2020⁽⁵⁾. The EOM activities are adopted annually through work programmes.

The programme maintained worldwide coverage, a key added-value of the EIDHR, with actions regrouped in five axes of work, corresponding to the specific objectives of the instrument:

1) Reinforcing the EU capacity to address the most difficult situations, to react quickly to human rights emergencies and to support Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk.

Under this axis, ProtectDefenders.eu, the flagship project of the comprehensive EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism addressing the situations faced by human rights defenders at risk worldwide (EUR 15 million) has been renewed for 3 years until October 2022; the funds available under the Human Rights Crises Facility (EUR 3.5 million per year) designed to address countries and urgency situations where human rights and fundamental freedoms are most at risk and where disrespect for those rights and freedoms is particularly pronounced and systematic have been fully committed; and the implementation mode of the EIDHR Emergency Fund has been revised (substantial modification of the implementation decision) to allow for a new grant under direct management (EUR 3.3 million) hence continue to provide rapid support through targeted low-value grants to individual human rights defenders in emergency situations.

2) Supporting civil society organisations in promoting human rights priorities of the European Union.

Under this priority, more than 1000 civil society initiatives have been supported worldwide through the EIDHR Country-Based Support Scheme (EUR 343 million) In addition, annual Global Calls for proposals (EUR 98 million) covering the main EU priorities in the field of human rights and allowing for a more long-term response, have been implemented.

3) Supporting democracy

In 2016-2019, the EIDHR democracy initiative accompanying the EU Democratic Pilot Exercise under the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy was enriched by an umbrella programme Media4Democracy, supporting the EU Delegations in their work on the media and access to information (EUR 4.4 million in 2016) and a pilot programme to support political parties (EUR 4.4 million in 2017) focusing on the participation of women and intra-party governance systems and inter-party dialogues. In 2018, a new flagship pilot project on parliamentary strengthening entitled 'INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership – EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments' was contracted (EUR 5 million), starting implementation in 2019. INTER PARES has a special peer-to-peer implementation approach, facilitating exchanges between EUMS parliaments and parliaments from partner countries around the world. Moreover, the annual EIDHR global calls for proposals also include a specific lots on Democracy (EUR 5 million/per year on average). In 2018, it focused on support civic activism and participation by leveraging digital technologies and in 2019 on democratic accountability.

4) Contributing to increasing transparency and trust in the electoral process by means of Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs).

During the period 2016-19, 31 fully-fledged EOMs, 35 Exploratory Missions, 33 Election Expert Missions, and 17 Election Follow-Up Missions were deployed. Total of 140 million was committed for EOMs and related supporting services.

5) Strengthening some of the international, regional and national actors and mechanisms that are key for the promotion of human rights and the rule of law worldwide;

Support has been provided to key human rights players, such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Criminal Court (ICC), the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), or the 'Global Campus' higher education network and its seven regional university networks.

Key achievements

According to the mid-term review of the EIDHR (for 2014-2017 period), the EIDHR has been successful in delivering on its objectives and has been an enabling, flexible and responsive instrument. The EIDHR key added-values have been the independence

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 7529 final of 21.10.2014

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 6409 final of 5.10.2018

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2015)8548 final of 7.12.2015

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 5123 final of 10.8.2018

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 6798 final of 19.10.2018

of action and worldwide coverage, allowing interventions in the most difficult country situations and without the consent of the host governments, creating synergies and complementarity where other instruments and donors cannot or do not act. It has been able to address human rights and democracy challenges, even in the most difficult environments – confirming that EIDHR remains more than ever relevant to the political priorities of the EU.

The EIDHR is also judged generally efficient thanks to a relatively low level of administrative expenditure and its essential, in-built flexible tools (e.g. direct support to human rights defenders, direct small grants, working with informal partners, sub-granting). An important part of the EIDHR instrument (65 %) is implemented by our EU Delegations worldwide.

Some of the key achievements have been:

- **Support to Human Rights Defenders at risk**

The EIDHR support to human rights defenders (HRD) at risk (individuals, organisations and groups) is the basis for the EU world leadership in HRD support. The EIDHR provides emergency grants, physical/digital protection, legal and medical support, urgent relocation/sheltering, training or permanent (24h/7) helpline, psychosocial assistance for and support to family members of human rights defenders at risk so that they are able to continue their important work. Two projects in particular have contributed to this achievement: 1) ProtectDefenders.eu, the first EU comprehensive HRD Mechanism set up in 2015, extended in 2018, with an unprecedented budget of EUR 19.95 million over four years and bringing together a consortium of 12 independent civil society organisations specialised in HRD protection with worldwide coverage; and 2) EU Emergency Fund for HRDs at Risk (EUR 4.3 million from 2015 to 2019) providing fast emergency grants of up to EUR 10,000 to human rights defenders under threat. Both projects were renewed for a period of three years: ProtectDefenders.eu in November 2019 (budget of EUR 15 million) and the EU Emergency Fund in December 2019 (budget of EUR 3.3 million). Between 2014 and 2019 6 005 HRDs at risk have been supported mainly by these two programmes. In 2019 alone, more than 1 500 HRDs have been supported.

The EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility (EUR 3.5 million per year) was set up in 2014, in order to provide a flexible funding modality to respond to situations where there is a serious lack of fundamental freedoms, where human security is most at risk, where human rights organisations and defenders work in exceptionally difficult conditions and/or where the publication of a call for proposals would be inappropriate. In 2016-2019 period, a total of 19 projects have been supported in the Enlargement region, the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, Central Asia, Middle East, Sub-Saharan and East of Africa, and Asia (details of grants and countries of operation are confidential). In 2019, six Facility projects had re-granting and capacity-building of HRDs as their main objective. Support to the key EU human rights priorities

The EIDHR system of call for proposals at country level and annual global calls for proposals managed at Headquarters' level have provided for continued support to civil society working on a broad range of subjects, including human rights in most restrictive environments, human dignity, discrimination, economic, social and cultural rights, and democracy-related issues.

Between 2014 and 2019, over 1 565 contracts were concluded by our Delegations. Implementation is guided by the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies. The priorities most worked on are, amongst others: women and children rights, democracy (election observation, freedom of expression, ...) and anti-discrimination.

At Headquarters last year, following the call launched in 2018, 14 grants were concluded for the overall value of EUR 22 million to support HRDs in the areas of LGBTI human rights defenders, fight against the death penalty and support for civic activism and participation by leveraging digital technologies. The areas of work of these contract covers mainly Asia, Africa and Latin-America.

The EIDHR global calls for proposals allows the EU also to continue holding the world's leadership in the fight against the death penalty. In 2016-2018, four projects on the abolition of the death penalty for an overall value of EUR 4.5 million were put in place, countries targeted by the different actions are DRC, Cameroon, Somalia, Kenya, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and United States. This portfolio was further strengthened in 2018 and 2019 by a contribution of EUR 750 000 to the 7th World Congress Against the death penalty which took place in Brussels in 2019 and attracted 1.500 participants, and by EUR 7 million committed for 6 projects selected in the 2018 Global Call for Proposals and covering a total of 24 countries. Two countries (Guinea, Congo) announced they would ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at abolishing the death penalty and Burkina Faso removed the death penalty from its penal code. Moreover, Malaysia and Gambia enforced a moratorium on the death penalty.

- **Support to Democracy**

In 2019, three democracy projects financed through EIDHR Global Call 2018 were launched. These promote the use of new technologies to promote more democracy through civil activism in Brazil, Central Asia and Cambodia.

EU Delegations and Headquarters initiated projects in the area of Democracy that amounted to 18.7 Million in the areas of freedom of expression and support to domestic observers. 2019 was the last year for the implementation of the project 'Supporting Democracy' which assisted Delegations in improving their work with civil society promoting democratic development. In 2019, 'Supporting Democracy' has organised two regional events in Malaysia and Lebanon that brought together CSO representatives to discuss how to use new technologies to tackle shrinking space in their regions.

'Supporting Democracy' (EUR 4.6 million) programme, under the umbrella of the Democracy Initiative, focuses on support to the EU Delegations in the areas of civil society participation in democratic processes. Achievements so far include the Citizen Observers Forum in 2016, bringing together 250 domestic observer organisation from all over the world, facilitating peer to peer exchanges and promoting the Declaration of Global Principles for Electoral Observers, training domestic observers in Afghanistan,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Madagascar, Maldives, and the launch of an annual worldwide ‘EU4Democracy’ campaign promoting EU support to democracy in partner countries. In 2018, the ‘EU4Democracy’ focused on civic activists, which use new technologies to promote democracy and six ‘CivicTech’ prizes were awarded to projects selected from over 100 applications.

The EIDHR-funded ‘V-DEM’ is one of the largest democracy indicators-related data collection efforts with a database containing over 18 million data points. In 2016, V-Dem received the most prestigious award for comparative datasets in political science: the Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Dataset Award presented by the American Political Science Association. In 2019, V-DEM produced two reports: one on shrinking space in Southern-Eastern Africa and South-Eastern Asia, and one on the topic of women political empowerment EU’s democracy support around the world and one on data relating to political risks in the countries receiving EU budget support.

Under the pilot programme to strengthen the capacity of political parties, a call for proposals was launched in 2017 and five grants were awarded for projects implemented in ten countries (Malawi, Bolivia, Morocco, Benin, Paraguay, Mongolia, Moldova, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia). These projects have contributed to strengthening the role of women in political party life and supporting multi-party systems, including inter-party dialogues on the legal, financial and/or policy framework for political parties and political party financing. They have also revealed the need to continue supporting this crucial aspect of democracy, often left behind.

The first year of implementation of the flagship project ‘INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership – EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments’ started supporting a limited number of selected partner parliaments around the world (Bhutan, Malaysia, The Gambia, Maldives and Panama). Moreover, it has contributed to enhancing inter-parliamentary cooperation and knowledge on parliamentary matters by supporting specific initiatives such as the ‘AGORA’ platform on general parliamentary knowledge, the ‘iKnowPolitics’ platform on women’s political empowerment or the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)’s Centre for Innovation in Parliament. Finally, this pilot project has also created a momentum managing to positively engaged the EU’s ‘national parliaments’ to work together to support parliaments around the world.

- **EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs)**

In 2019, 30 EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs) took place, in line with the objectives, principles and methodology of electoral observation based on over two decades of operational experience. This includes encouraging professionalism and transparency in electoral management, discouraging irregularities and abuse, and inspiring public confidence in the electoral process. Key objectives are the consolidation of democracies in third countries by improving the reliability of electoral processes and the implementation of the EU methodology, that is considered as one of the most modern ones. This methodology is based on a comprehensive and systematic observation of the electoral process including *inter alia* the conduct of public and private media as well as issues linked to campaign financing.

In terms of achievements based on programme indicators, FPI supported in total 30 electoral processes and democratic cycles, deploying over 800 international mission staff. The following missions were deployed:

- Seven Exploratory missions (to Malawi, Mozambique, Kosovo, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Peru and Guyana) which purpose are to collect information to assess whether a fully-fledged EU Election Observation Mission would be useful, advisable and feasible as to provide pertinent information and recommendations to the HRVP ahead of her/his final decision on the deployment.
- Eight fully-fledged Election Observation Missions (to Nigeria, El Salvador, Senegal, Malawi, Kosovo, Mozambique, Tunisia and Sri Lanka), the main tool for the EU election observation, took place. They are headed by a Chief Observer who is a Member of the European Parliament and consist of a Core Team expert, short- and long-term Observers and a service provider in charge of the operational implementation of the mission. Observers are deployed throughout of the country to observe the whole electoral process: the campaign period and ending with the completion of electoral process. In average, an EOM is present in the field for approximately three to four months.
- Six Expert Missions (to Guatemala, Bolivia, Maldives, South Africa, Afghanistan and Mauritania), what are composed of a small number of experts only, and analyse the entire or specific aspects of the electoral process.
- Seven Follow-up missions (to Paraguay, El Salvador, Honduras, Myanmar, Gambia, Ghana and Zambia) to take stock of the way the recommendations made by fully-fledged election observation missions or expert missions have been implemented, to help develop a political dialogue with the country on democracy and human rights, and to inform potential donors’ support.
- Two studies on a specific electoral issue.

As for previous years, no EU Election Assessment Team Missions teams were deployed since after the assessment of the situation on the ground, it was decided to deploy either EOMs or Exploratory missions.

- **Support to targeted key actors and processes**

Despite increasing attacks against the international human rights system and the international justice system, the EIDHR has continued to staunchly support the key institutions, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) (EUR 1 million per year) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (approx. EUR 4.5 million per year). According to the mid-term review evaluation of EIDHR, especially the support to the ICC underlines the continued relevance of the EIDHR to evolving and emerging challenges.

‘Global Campus for Human Rights and Democracy’ (approx. contribution of EUR 5 million a year) is a unique global network of more than 100 universities teaching and promoting human rights and democracy. Supported by the EU from its beginnings, the Global Campus confers masters degrees in human rights and democracy on more than 250 students a year, covers seven regions in the world and represents a beacon of excellence in human rights and democracy education. The 7th region (Arab region) was included in 2017.

Continued support to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its four regional networks (Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin-America) of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) (EU contribution 3,75 million EUR 2019-21) is strategic and timely: the advice and support these networks provide to individual NHRIs in core mandate areas allow for a more strategic, relevant and impactful engagement of NHRIs at global, regional and national levels. The three-year targeted programme is managed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights as mandated by GANHRI and will build on the results of the previous programme which ran from 2015-2019 which provided much needed training and capacity building opportunities, exchange and communication platforms, institutional development and rapid support for NHRIs in distress through re-granting–

Evaluation/ Studies conducted

The key findings of the latest evaluation ⁽⁶⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statements 2019.

The mid-term review and the related staff working documents were published in 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments is still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments.

The mid-term review was generally positive, confirming that the EIDHR was successful in fulfilling its planned objectives and has overall proven to be ‘fit for purpose’. It has remained an enabling, flexible and responsive ‘niche’ instrument (thanks to its focus on the most pressing and emerging human rights and democracy challenges), able to operate where the others do not or cannot. It has been able to address both well-identified and emerging human rights and democracy challenges, even in the most difficult environments – confirming that EIDHR remains more than ever relevant to the political priorities of the EU.

Forthcoming implementation

Implementation in 2020 will be guided by the EIDHR Multiannual Action Programme 2018-2020 ⁽⁷⁾, and the annual action programmes for EOMs ⁽⁸⁾.

The MAAP 2018-2020 provides for a pragmatic combination of targeted projects and calls for proposals, to be managed by both Headquarters and Delegations. Global, regional and local actions will allow maintaining a largely comprehensive and coherent implementation involving all actors: civil society (main target) as well as international and regional organisations, media, but also newly targeted actors, such as political parties or the private sector. The following activities are planned in 2020:

1. Implementation of the 2 new grant contracts with NGOs for the continuation of the ProtectDefenders.eu initiative (EUR 15 million) and the Emergency Fund Mechanism (EUR 3.3 million), which constitute together the overall EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism;
2. Approximately 100 local calls for proposals managed by EU Delegations via Country-based Support Schemes (EUR 86.3 million);
3. Finalisation of a global call for proposals to support business and human rights, the fight against torture and democratic accountability (EUR 18 million) and launching of a second global call for proposals for new human rights priorities (planned EUR 24.5 million);
4. A facility for direct awards to finance actions in the most difficult situations where the publication of a call for proposals would be inappropriate (EUR 3.5 million);
5. A voluntary contribution to the general budget of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) (EUR 4.5 million);
6. One targeted project to support the International Criminal Court (ICC) (foreseen EUR 1 million);
7. One targeted grant with IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs) to update and consolidate the Indigenous Navigator portal and spread its use for advocacy (foreseen EUR 1 million);
8. One targeted grant to support national human rights institutions in Asia and in the Pacific (EUR 750 000);
9. Procurement to support the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights dialogues (foreseen EUR 300 000).

As for EOMs, in 2020, it is expected that 18 electoral processes and democratic cycles will be supported, observed and followed-up by means of fully-fledged EOMs, Election Assessment Teams and Election Expert Missions proposing recommendations to the

⁽⁶⁾ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/multisite/devco/sites/devco/files/swd-mid-term-review-eidhr_en_0.pdf

⁽⁷⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 6798 final of 19.10.2018

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)8256 of 11.12.2018

host country, as well as Election Follow-up Missions and studies. Some of these missions may be deployed in a volatile security environment, as was the case in previous years. FPI will take necessary measures to mitigate the security risks.

Particular attention will be paid to the follow-up of EOM recommendations with a view to extending this work beyond the formal EFMs and mainstreaming recommendations into the EU's regular bilateral dialogue with the partner countries in line with the recommendations of the Court of Auditors' report of 2017.

As is the case every year, a priority list of countries where the missions could take place was consulted with the Member States at the level of Political and Security Committee and the European Parliament at the level of the Democracy and Elections Group. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission has endorsed the list at the beginning of 2020. The list will be reviewed mid-term of 2020 to take into consideration eventual changes. In 2020, the commitment appropriations foreseen are EUR 48.4 and payment appropriations EUR 33.8 million. Due to the EOMs implementation mode, it is not yet possible to foresee the payment appropriations for year 2021.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

It is proposed, that under the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027, the future Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI – COM(2018) 460 final), which will streamline ten instruments (among them the DCI, the EIDHR, the IcSP), into one broad instrument. Will integrate the EIDHR, by supporting interventions in the area of human rights and democracy in third countries in both its geographic and thematic pillars (a specific thematic action on Human Rights and Democracy is foreseen). The proposal is also designed to support civil society as an effective force for political reform and defence of human rights.

With the ongoing preparations for the NDICI, the budget foreseen for the Electoral Observation Missions is under negotiations. The priority list of missions to be implemented each year is decided by HR/VP based on the discussion with the EU Delegations, and FPI and the consultations with the European Parliament and Member States. The list of priority countries is reviewed once a year. It is therefore not possible at this stage to give the priorities for 2021.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide	2014-2020	1 332,8

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	11,0	10,4	10,6	10,8	11,0	11,5	11,6	77,0
Operational appropriations	173,2	161,4	160,2	173,7	177,1	167,3	184,7	1 197,6
Total	184,2	171,9	170,8	184,5	188,1	178,8	196,3	1 274,6

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	178,828	99,98 %	161,333	97,69 %	196,404	97,44 %	170,747	28,86 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	180,235	99,51 %	165,426	96,93 %	198,182	96,57 %	175,332	28,95 %

(*) 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

In 2019, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) continued to prove itself to be a unique financing instrument both at EU level and at international level for promoting and supporting democracy and human rights worldwide. Building on its key strength, which is the ability to operate without the consent of the host-state government, the EIDHR continued to focus on sensitive issues and difficult situations, using innovative approaches and cooperating directly with isolated and marginalised civil society organisations (specific objective 1).

Concerning specific objective 2 on support for projects aligned with EU guidelines on human rights, the 2018 global call for proposals led to the selection of 11 projects on LGBTI and the death penalty, for a total of EUR 17 million. The main themes

selected by EU delegations during 2018-2019 for the implementation of their country allocations were: women’s and girls’ rights; combating discrimination; economic, social and cultural rights; the death penalty and torture; rights of the child; the environment and human rights; and freedom of religion or belief.

Support to democracy (specific objective 3) included support for domestic electoral observers, media development projects, projects supporting digitalisation, women and youth participation in politics, as well as support for parliaments and accountable institutions. In 2019 alone, new projects and programmes of an overall value of EUR 7 million, on support for democracy, were initiated in 14 countries under the EIDHR.

Furthermore, the 2019 global call for proposals resulted in the award of grants for projects in Brazil, Cambodia and Central Asia on leveraging digital technologies to increase democratic participation, for a total of EUR 5.2 million. With regard to electoral support (specific objective 4), FPI used EIDHR funds to support 16 electoral processes, following up also with dedicated ex-post missions on elections held earlier in seven countries.

Finally, the EIDHR confirmed to be a major supporter of multilateralism and the key institutions of the human rights architecture worldwide (specific objective 5). Throughout 2019, it continued to provide support among others to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Criminal Court (ICC), as well as regional human rights mechanisms and instruments.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse.

Indicator 1: Level of implementation of United Nations Universal Periodic Review* recommendations which have been accepted by states in percentage

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
33.7 %	33.8 %	33.9 %	34.2 %	34.5 %	34.8 %	35.00 %	35.3 %	35.3 %
	Actual results							
	48.00 %	64.7 %	55.00 %	63.8 %				

Methodology: Yearly

Availability of Data: Data for the 2018 UPRs have not been made available yet on the UN OHCHR website

Source: These data are monitored by the UN OHCHR and the UNHRC. Reports can be found through UN OHCHR website. Data from all developing countries; source: http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/-david_frazier_paper_upr_implementation_2011-2.pdf. at mid-term review of the 1st UPR cycle, data from UPR-info: http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2014_beyond_promises.pdf. Data retrieved from <https://www.upr-info.org/database/>; Of accepted recommendations of the first UPR cycle were either partly or fully implemented, data from UPR-info: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2016_the_butterfly_effect.pdf

Unit of measure: Percentage (of recommendations accepted/total UPR recommendations)

General Objective 2: Supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, in particular by reinforcing an active role for civil society within this cycle, the rule of law and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions.

Indicator 1: Number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed, and followed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
20	25	25	25	25	25	25	175	175 (25 per year)
	Actual results							
	24	25	36	35	33	30		

Methodology: Electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed and followed include:

- EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs): fully-fledged election observation missions;
- EU Election Assessment Team missions (EATs): limited observation or assessment missions in countries with particularly difficult security situations;
- EU Election Expert Missions (EEMs): small-scale missions composed of electoral experts of assessment of the election process;
- Complementary activities (studies) which started in 2017: In addition to the electoral missions, preparation of a study or conducting a desk review on an electoral issue and any other activities linked to electoral missions;
- Electoral assistance (e.g. technical assistance, provision of voting material and equipment, support to the registration of political parties and/or of voters, support to civil society organisations in areas such as voter and civic education or training of local observers, media monitoring, training of journalists, etc.).

The first four items are counted in Indicator 1 of Specific Objective 4 below.

Comment: This indicator builds on the number of electoral process at national level that have been established by partner countries' own constitutional calendars. In 2019 electoral assistance was provided in Benin, Madagascar, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo...

Unit of measure: Number (of electoral processes)

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Support to Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk.

Performance

The steady increase in the results of both indicators (1 and 2) shows the effectiveness of both the EU mechanisms for assistance to Human Rights Defenders, and the Crisis Facility to support human rights where they are most at risk. This effectiveness has reached its full potential after more than 3 years of implementation. The rise of authoritarianism worldwide and the shrinking space for civil society in many countries explain the fact that the actual results went beyond the milestones foreseen.

Indicator 1: Number of Human Rights Defender individuals who have received EU support (being protected politically, legally and/or physically and pulled out of their position of abuses).

Milestones and target were updated based on ongoing experience following the strengthened EU support to Human rights and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) at risk under the 2014-2020 instrument and the ever more shrinking space for civil society worldwide that turns into an increasingly number of requests for HRDs protection.

In 2015, at least 258 human rights defenders at risk were supported by the EIDHR (without counting human rights defenders supported by projects financed via global or local calls for proposals for which no data collection exists yet, including for confidential reasons).

In 2016, at least 1,181 human rights defenders at risk were supported by the EIDHR under the Emergency Fund, the new mechanism ProtectDefenders.eu and Headquarters-managed projects (without counting human rights defenders supported by projects financed via global or local calls for proposals for which no data collection exists yet, including for confidential reasons). In 2017, at least 1 231 human rights defenders at risk were supported by the EIDHR under the Emergency Fund, the ProtectDefenders.eu mechanism and Headquarters-managed projects (without counting human rights defenders supported by projects financed via EIDHR Crises Facility and global or local calls for proposals for which no data collection exists yet, including for confidential reasons.).

In 2018, at least 1 394 human rights defenders at risk were supported by the EIDHR under the Emergency Fund, the ProtectDefenders.eu mechanism and Headquarters-managed projects (without counting human rights defenders supported by projects financed via EIDHR Crises Facility and global or local calls for proposals for which no data collection exists yet, including for confidential reasons).

Indicator 2: Number of crisis response projects implemented under the EIDHR.

Target set on the basis of our experience from the last programming period.

In 2014, 9 in country projects (most difficult situations as Belarus, Syria, Ukraine) and 6 global projects were deployed offering a global coverage and compiling a mix of in-country and multi-country projects (most difficult type of HR violation and/or categories of defenders at risk) activities.

In 2015, at least 6 in-country projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility and 2 global projects (EIDHR Emergency Fund and the grant to the EU Comprehensive HRDs mechanism Protectdefenders.eu).

In 2016, at least six projects, four in countries and two regional, under the EIDHR Crises Facility and eleven projects under the Country Based Support Scheme.

In 2017, four country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility, one global project and 22 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (e.g. Syria, Turkey, Philippines, Ethiopia, Yemen).

In 2018, five country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility and an estimated number of 15 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (e.g. Syria, Congo, Philippines, Ethiopia, Yemen).

In 2019, 4 country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crisis Facility, 2 global projects (EIDHR Emergency Fund and the grant to the EU Comprehensive HRDs mechanism Protectdefenders.eu), and an estimated number of 27 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (Honduras, Guatemala (2), Venezuela (2), Nigeria, Niger, Ukraine (2), Russia (2), Sudan, Syria, Serbia (3), Peru, Mexico, Iraq, Kenya (2), Colombia (2), Salvador (2), Bolivia, Myanmar).

Indicator 1: Number of Human Rights Defender individuals who have received EU support (being protected politically, legally and/or physically and pulled out of their position of abuses)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
230	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200
	Actual results							
	421	258	1 181	1 231	1 394	1 520		

Methodology: Yearly

Comment:

Source: UNOPS and Protect Defenders consortium (implementing partners of the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism)

Unit of measure: Number

Indicator 2: Number of crisis response projects implemented under the EIDHR

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	Actual results							
	15	8	17	27	20	33		

Methodology: Yearly

Source: DEVCO B1 EIDHR project database

Unit of measure: Number (of crisis response projects)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects related to situation where Human Right Defenders are most at risk	21 04 01	30	42

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects related to situation where Human Right Defenders are most at risk	F	52	52	52	30	30	30	30
	P	86	18*	26*	31*	19	44	

*A more streamlined, less labour-intensive system has been adopted to channel the grants to beneficiaries resulting to less contracts for a higher number of human rights defenders supported.

Specific Objective 2: Support to other priorities of the Union in the fields of human rights

Performance

Indicator 1: Number of EIDHR projects in line with EU Guidelines

In 2019, the actual result for indicator 1 slightly exceeded the milestone set for this year. The tendency for this indicator to not fully meet the assigned milestone can be explained by 2 factors:

- 1) The increasing size of contracts signed under EIDHR
- 2) The push for more projects to align with objective 1 on support for human right defenders and human rights where they are most at risk, following the findings of the mid-term evaluation report of EIDHR finalised in 2017 and in compliance with the Multiannual Indicative Programme for EIDHR over the period 2018-2020. This push made the attainment of the milestones set under this indicator more challenging, given that 10 EU guidelines out of 11 fall under objective 2 of EIDHR (other EU human rights priorities) and not objective 1.

The increase in the average size of contracts is the main explanation relating to the decrease in the number of contracts. Milestone has been revised in order to reflect the reality of increased average size of contracts. This does not affect expenditure.

EU guidelines are not legally binding, but because they have been adopted at ministerial level, they represent a strong political signal that they are priorities for the Union. Guidelines are pragmatic instruments of EU Human Rights policy and practical tools to help EU representations in the field better advance our Human Rights policy. They also serve as priorities for defining activities in order to put into practice the political orientation. There are 11 Human Rights Guidelines the EIDHR is delivering on:

1. Death penalty (2013);
2. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2012);

3. EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief (2013);
4. Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all Human Rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons (2013);
5. Human Rights dialogues with third countries (2009);
6. Children and armed conflict (2008);
7. Human Rights defenders (2008);
8. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2008);
9. Violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them (2008);
10. International Humanitarian Law;
11. EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline.

Indicator 1: Number of EIDHR projects in line with EU Guidelines								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
150	250	250	250	250	180	180	250	250
	Actual results							
	271	332	132	186	140	204		

Methodology: Yearly

Source: DEVCO B1 EIDHR project database

Unit of measure: Number (of projects)

Indicator 2: Number of Human Rights victims benefitting from EIDHR projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
3 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000
	Actual results							

Methodology: Yearly

Comment:

Availability of Data: Data not available as there is no data collection tool available. Data not available but a new indicator has been added to the EU Results Framework in 2018 (Number of victims of human rights violations directly benefitting from services funded by the EU, output indicator 2.26 for SDG 16).

Unit of measure: Number (of human rights victims)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects	21 04 01	180	55

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects	F	250	250	250	250	180*	180	180
	P	271	332	132	186	140	204	

* The lower number of projects reflects the increasing average size of contracts as well as a slight shift towards objective 1 after the EIDHR mid-term review.

Specific Objective 3: Support to Democracy.

Performance

Indicator 1: The percentage of countries belonging to the Democracy Pilot Countries which have improved their V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index

Data is not yet available to assess the compliance of indicator 1 with the milestone assigned for 2019 (will only become available in April 2020). V-DEM for Varieties of Democracy is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. It is a collaboration among more than 50 scholars worldwide which is co-hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University

of Gothenburg, Sweden, and the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, USA. This percentage includes both the 1st and 2nd generation of Pilot Countries, in total 13 countries, but the sample has increased to 20 countries from 2018.

Indicator 2: The percentage of actions of the democracy support action plans implemented

Regarding indicator 2, the result achieved falls short of the milestone set, by 20 percentage points, and is still some distance off the target for 2020 (all actions embedded in the democracy action plans should be implemented by then). However, it should be noted that the reference document i.e. the source of verification defined for this indicator, the democracy action plans, is not the most relevant one in all beneficiary countries, given that actions are now increasingly based on recommendations deriving from other reference documents such as HRD country strategies, and EOM recommendation follow up plans. This indicator is thus less and less representative of the diversity of EU actions funded in beneficiary countries to support democracy. Democracy action plans were adopted during 2015 and thus their implementation has started in 2016. Democracy action is increasingly driven by other initiatives – such as HRD country strategies, and EOM recommendation follow up plans – thus DAP implementation does not provide a fully representative indicator.

Indicator 1: The percentage of countries belonging to the Democracy Pilot Countries which have improved their V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
0.0	15.0 %	30.0 %	50.0 %	65.0 %	75.0 %	90.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
	Actual results							
		41.6 %	42.9 %	60.0 %	30.0 %			

Methodology: Yearly

Comment: The V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index can be found at V-DEM net (<https://v-dem.net/about>). This percentage includes both the 1st and 2nd generation of Pilot Countries, in total 13 countries. The result for the year 2019 will become available in April 2020.

Availability of Data: Will only become available in April 2019

Source: V-DEM democracy index web portal: <https://v-dem.net/about>

Unit of measure: Percentage (of countries which have improved their VDEM index/total of Democracy Pilot Countries)

Indicator 2: The percentage of actions of the democracy support action plans implemented

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
0	0 %	0 %	15 %	25 %	45 %	60 %	100 %	100 %
	Actual results							
	0	0	25 %	30 %	35 %	40 %		

Methodology: Yearly

Comment:

Source: DEVCO B1 data on implementation of Democracy Action Plans, Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies and EOM recommendations follow-up plans

Unit of measure: Percentage (of actions implemented/total of actions in democracy support action plans)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Projects	21 04 01	40	30

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Projects	F	160	160	110	50*	40*	40*	40*
	P	140	115*	44**	34*	56	25	

*Based on actual trends and increased average size of contracts.

** Increasing number of democracy support actions are taking place in most difficult circumstances (e.g. support to media and journalists under threat, lifeline support to civil society organisations) and have thus been rated as crisis response projects (i.e. Objective 1, indicator 2). This trend is likely to continue in the future.

Specific Objective 4: EU Election Observation Missions

Performance

The total number of processes observed and assessed by the EU depends on:

- the political agenda as defined by the High Representative/Vice President,

- the changes (postponements/cancellations) of the corresponding electoral calendars/processes,
- the annual budget available,
- the EU capacity to deploy electoral missions in view of the operational and security conditions in the countries concerned.

The number of electoral missions is important ‘*per se*’ because election observations contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, build public confidence in electoral processes and help deter fraud, intimidation and violence. Election observation also serves to reinforce other key European Union foreign policy objectives most notably to enhance security and development in partner countries and to support them in improving governance and capacity-building.

Indicator 1: Number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed, and followed by means of Election Observation Missions, Election Assessment Teams and Election Experts Missions proposing recommendations to the host country								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
17	19	21	22	23	18	18	23	23
	Actual results							
	17	16	16	19	21	16		

Methodology: Yearly

Comment: The indicator takes into consideration the:

- EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs): fully-fledged election observation missions;
- EU Election Assessment Team missions (EATs): limited observation or assessment missions in countries with particularly difficult security situations; During the period 2015 – 2018 no EATs have been deployed. It has been decided either to deploy a fully-fledged EOM or an EEM;
- EU Election Expert Missions (EEMs): small scale missions composed of electoral experts of assessment of the election process;
- The studies or desk reviews on an electoral issue and any other activities linked to electoral missions that started in 2017.

The indicator, however, does not take into account the Exploratory Missions, which aim at preparing EOMs and assess the usefulness, advisability and feasibility of the fully-fledged EOM. In 2018, 10 Exploratory Missions were carried out.

Unit of measure: Number (of electoral processes)

Indicator 2: Number of Election Follow-up Missions (post-election expert missions) deployed in countries after an Election Observation Mission to assess the implementation of recommendations.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
2	2	3	4	4	5	5	8	8
	Actual results							
	2	3	3	4	4	7		

Methodology: Yearly

Narrative: Baseline countries: Bolivia and Mozambique

Comment: The aim of Election Follow-up Missions is to take stock of the state of implementation of the EOM/EAT recommendations. EFMs are conducted within a period of 2 to 3 years into the electoral cycle (which starts with the initial EOM/EAT mission). They serve to deepen the dialogue with partner countries on the recommendations, but also open up space for wider political dialogue on the governance and rule of law in partner countries. EFMs have been implemented since 2013. The target for 2020 will be difficult to reach since there will be many important elections that will absorb the Human Resources capacities and budget.

Unit of measure: Number (of electoral missions)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. EU Election Observation Missions and EU Election Assessment Team Missions	19 04 01	8	43,9
2. EU Election Expert Missions	19 04 01	10	3
3. Follow-up missions	19 04 01	5	1,5
Total			48,4

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. EU Election Observation Missions and EU Election Assessment Team Missions	F	8	9	10	11	12	8	9
	P	8	8	7	7	9	8	
2. EU Election Expert Missions	F	11	12	12	12	8	10	10
	P	9	8	9	8	10	6	
3. Follow-up missions	F	2	3	4	4	5	5	6
	P	2	3	3	4	4	7*	

* No EU Election Assessment Team Missions teams were deployed in 2019

Specific Objective 5: Support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms.

Performance

Indicator 1: Number of States that have signed and ratified international & regional Conventions and related optional Protocols

The results of indicator 1 have been consistently in excess of the milestones set for the reporting period. This being said, it must be noted also that, since 2017, the traction for States to adopt international law on human rights has been in decline. This is consistent with the challenges observed at global level for the promotion of human rights through the international rules based order i.e. the UN architecture. These challenges make the scale and consistency of EU support to UN actors all the more important today. Target set on the basis of our experience from the last programming period

In 2017, 27 countries have ratified one of the 18 International Human Rights Treaties or related optional Protocols (<http://indicators.ohchr.org/>)

In 2018, 24 countries have ratified one of the 18 International Human Rights Treaties or related optional Protocols (<https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/SitePages/MonthlyReport.aspx>).

Indicator 2: Number of key actors supported, in particular international, regional and national organisations

Indicator 2 illustrates the vigour of this type of EU support, bearing in mind also that the actual results do not capture a number of human rights dialogues held with authorities and local civil society organisations on human rights and funded through EIDHR. Target set on the basis of our experience from the last programming period.

In 2014, 15 key actors: OHCHR – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, EIUC – European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, National Human Rights Institutes, ICC – International Criminal Court, International Organization for Migration.

In 2015, 11 key actors were supported: European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (7 stakeholders), IOM – International Organization for Migration, OHCHR – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Unicef and indirectly the African Union.

In 2016, 10 key actors were supported: European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (7 stakeholders), ILO – International Labour Organization, OHCHR – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR – the UN Refugees Agency.

In 2017, 15 key actors were supported: Global Campus of Human Rights Education/European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (7 stakeholders), ILO – International Labour Organization, OHCHR – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, ICC – International Criminal Court, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), and four regional NHRI secretariats (5 stakeholders). Support has also been given to the participation of civil society in key processes, e.g. in human rights negotiations, dialogues, etc.

In 2018, at least 15 key actors were supported: Global Campus of Human Rights Education/European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (7 stakeholders), ILO – International Labour Organization, OHCHR – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, ICC – International Criminal Court, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), and four regional NHRI secretariats (5 stakeholders). Support has also been given to the participation of civil society in key processes, e.g. in human rights negotiations, dialogues, etc.

Indicator 1: Number of States that have signed and ratified international & regional Conventions and related optional Protocols								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Actual results							
	34	53	49	27	24	24		

Methodology: Yearly

Source: OHCHR website: <http://indicators.ohchr.org/> and <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/SitePages/MonthlyReport.aspx>

Unit of measure: Number (of states)

Indicator 2: Number of key actors supported, in particular international, regional and national organisations								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
	Actual results							
	15	11	10	15	15	15		

Methodology: Yearly

Comment:

Source: DEVCO B1 implementation data

Unit of measure: Number (of key actors)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support to UN OHCHR	21 04 01	1	4.55
Support to EIUC/ Network	21 04 01	7	4.7
Support to ICC	21 04 01	1	1.0
Other	21 04 01	5	3.75
Total		15	14

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Support to UN OHCHR	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	4	2	2	2	2		
Support to EIUC/ Network	F	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	P	7	7	7	7	7		
Support to regional mechanism	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	5	1	1	0		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Support to environmental human rights defenders	5,0	5,0
Total	5,0	5,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
5,0	5,0	5,0	10,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	40,0

(*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

Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2014-2020 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million). In 2017, the increase in budget is justified by a lot of the global call for proposals that was specifically addressed to Human Rights Defenders active in the field of land and environmental issues (evaluation ongoing, contracts to be concluded in 2018).

Gender mainstreaming

The EIDHR implementation follows a gender-responsive right-based approach. In 2018, 100 % of contracted EOM actions reported a G-Marker1⁽⁹⁾. This data on the Gender Marker is provided in line with Objective 5.3.2 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020⁽¹⁰⁾. European Commission also consistently ensures a gender balance in the selection of (1) Core Team experts, (2) Observers and (3) participants in training. In 2018, 49 % of core team member were women (42.9 % in 2017); 50 % of all observers were women (48.8 % in 2017); and of the total number of 55 trainees from 28 Member States, 64 % were women (54 % in 2017 and 52.7 % in 2016). This data is provided in line with Objective 17.4 of the EU Gender Action Plan.

In 2019, 100 % of contracted EOM actions reported a G-Marker1⁽¹¹⁾. This data on the Gender Marker is provided in line with Objective 5.3.2 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020⁽¹²⁾. European Commission also consistently ensures a gender balance in

⁽⁹⁾ Methodology for calculation of the amounts: 28.7 % of [operational chapter 21 04]. The percentage is calculated based on the 2014 statistics on OECD 40 % of gender marker '1' (= gender equality is 'significant objective' in the programme or project, meaning at least it has been mainstreamed) and 100 % of gender marker '2' (= gender equality is 'main objective' in the programme or project).

⁽¹⁰⁾ 'Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations, 2016-20' – SWD(2015) 182 final of 21/09/2015

⁽¹¹⁾ Methodology for calculation of the amounts: 28.7 % of [operational chapter 21 04]. The percentage is calculated based on the 2014 statistics on OECD 40 % of

the selection of (1) Core Team experts, (2) Observers and (3) participants in training. In 2019, 54 % of core team members, 49 % of all observers and 60 % of 52 trainees from 28 Member States were women. This data is provided in line with Objective 17.4 of the EU Gender Action Plan.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Human rights norms are the basis for all SDGs and thus the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (the EIDHR) – with its focus on human rights, gender equality, vulnerable groups, economic, social and cultural rights, and the protection of HRDs – is contributing to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda.

The EIDHR focus on promotion of the rights-based approach to development (RBA) is fully in line with the paradigm shift the United Nations 2030 Agenda implies as to the interdependence of human rights with development and with peace and security. Indeed, the EIDHR contributes towards ‘a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination’ between and within countries, including gender equality, by reaffirming the responsibilities of all States to ‘respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status’ (SDG Goal 10). Moreover, the SDG goals and targets aim to ‘leave no one behind’ and ‘reach those furthest behind first’⁽¹³⁾ (para 4), which is completely in line with the EU’s EIDHR priorities.

Moreover, EIDHR contributes to the EU-specific framework in support of the SDG implementation, the European Consensus for Development, in three specific areas: (i) People – Human development and dignity, (ii) Peace – Peaceful and inclusive societies, democracy, effective and accountable institutions, rule of law and human rights for all, and (iii) Partnership. These contributions pertain to two particular SDGs, namely SDG 16 and 17.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

EIDHR-funded examples include five projects aiming to strengthen the capacities of political parties in terms of women participation, multi-party systems, and inter-party dialogues. The technical assistance facility ‘Media4Democracy’ continued to support the EU Delegations in their efforts to promote freedom of expression and developed a guide ‘Supporting Access to Information – A practical Guide for EU Delegations’. Direct support continued to the International Criminal Court, as well as civil society organisation supporting its operation. Furthermore, several projects focused on ending all forms of violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. Support also continued to the Global Campus, a unique global network of universities providing education and research on democracy and human rights.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

EIDHR contributes towards ‘a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination’ between and within countries, including to an enabling international environment (in Goal 17 and throughout the framework). EIDHR projects contribute to the right of all peoples to self-determination and the right to privacy. Due to the global scope of the instrument, EIDHR vastly contributes to strengthening partnership worldwide among multilateral organisations and civil society. The great variety of local and international organisations funded under EIDHR underpins this. Goal 17 and many of the international targets under each goal address issues that are related to duties of international cooperation and the right to development.

gender marker ‘1’ (= gender equality is ‘significant objective’ in the programme or project, meaning at least it has been mainstreamed) and 100 % of gender marker ‘2’ (= gender equality is ‘main objective’ in the programme or project).

⁽¹²⁾ ‘Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations, 2016-20’ – SWD(2015) 182 final of 21/09/2015

⁽¹³⁾ All the quotes in this paragraph are from the UN General Assembly Resolution of 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1): ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

Lead DG: FPI

Associated DGs: DEVCO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is one of the EU's main instruments in the areas of crisis response, conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness, and in addressing global and trans-regional threats. It came into force in 2014, replacing the Instrument for Stability (IfS) and several earlier instruments that focused on drugs, landmines, displaced people, crisis management, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The IcSP provides quick, short-term support in countries or regions where a crisis is emerging or unfolding, as well as longer-term support to conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness activities as well as activities addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats. Its activities complement those of the European Union's geographical and other thematic instruments. The actions of the IcSP are structured around three operational articles in its regulation: Article 3 – Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts – consumes 70 % of the financial envelope and is non-programmable; Article 4 activities – Assistance for conflict prevention, peace building and crisis preparedness – consumes 9 % of the financial envelope and are programmable; finally, Article 5, which is implemented by DG DEVCO, covers the third objective of the instrument – Assistance to address global and trans-regional threats – and is also subject to programming.

EU added value of the programme

The Treaty on the European Union, under Article 21, has defined common overarching principles and objectives for the Union's external action, such as to '*preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security*'. Responding to this particular challenge requires a collective effort based on strong partnerships with states, civil society actors, multilateral and regional partners. As a global player, the EU has credibility due to its value-based positions that provide a competitive advantage to intervene in many conflict areas to avoid escalation or to offer assistance in preventing conflicts. Through an integrated approach with other EU instruments as well as through close coordination and cooperation with EU Member States active in crisis response and peace-building activities the EU not only increases the coherence of the response, it also provides the EU with more leverage to make an impact on actors and developments on the ground. Synergies and close cooperation with EU and international donors are required to make scarce resources in this sector reach further.

Implementation mode

Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) is the lead service for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct (mainly through procurement of services) and indirect management with international organisations. The implementation of article 3 actions is predominantly decentralised to the five FPI Regional Teams (Bangkok, Beirut, Nairobi, Dakar, Brasilia) under the authority of the relevant EU Delegations. Management of Article 4 actions are for a large part managed centrally. Most contracts are grants under direct management mode, but around 31 % of contracts are contribution agreements to UN or other international organisations under indirect management mode. Around 5 % of contracts are signed with EU Member State implementing agencies.

The long-term component of the IcSP managed by DG DEVCO is primarily delivered through indirect and direct management, working with EU Member State agencies, UN agencies or other partners such as Interpol. The largest Member State partner as concerns Article 5.1a of the Instrument is *Expertise France* (implementing app. 29 % of the financial resources), followed by *FILAPP* of Spain (15 %), with other Member States representing only approximately 5 % in total. The engagement with the UN is at 16 %, with Interpol at 6 %, while civil society organisations are implementing approximately 10 % of the actions.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

- Throughout 2019, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) remained a key tool for EU diplomacy in crisis contexts and in its efforts in conflict prevention, stabilisation, conflict resolution and peace-building. All of the 51 new crisis response actions presented during the year respond directly to EU political priorities. New actions in the Sahel, Somalia, Iraq, Libya and increased funding for actions in Central African Republic, as well as ongoing programmes in Mali, Niger, Somalia,

the Central African Republic, Libya, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo ⁽¹⁾ and Ukraine, directly complement the work of CSDP missions, thereby contributing to the implementation of the EU Integrated Approach in response to conflicts and crises.

- In 2019, a total of EUR 366.2 million was committed under the IcSP: EUR 256.8 million under the short-term crisis response component (Article 3); EUR 35.5 million under the structural peace-building component (Article 4) implemented by FPI and and EUR 73.9 million was committed under global and trans-regional threats component (Article 5).
- In accordance with the IcSP Regulation, actions under Article 3 – *Response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis* – are not programmable as the actions depend on developments in the international arena, in particular in terms of conflicts and crises. At least 70 % of the overall IcSP financial envelope is allocated to this objective ⁽²⁾.
- Actions under Article 4 – *Assistance for conflict prevention, peace building and crisis preparedness* (9 % ⁽³⁾ of the overall financial envelope), and the third objective under Article 5 – *Assistance to address global and trans-regional threats* – are both subject to programming ⁽⁴⁾. The IcSP programme is implemented in line with the relevant Multi-Annual Indicative Programme and 100 % of allocated funds have been committed. All challenges met are addressed continuously to avoid any impact on the implementation of the programme. All *assistance for conflict prevention, peace building and crisis preparedness* actions under the Annual Indicative Programmes for 2017 and 2018 were launched as planned and implementation is on-going without delays. In 2019, a Multi-Annual Action Programme (MAAP) for 2019-2020 was adopted and implementation has started. A first Capacity Building for Security and Development (CBSD) project under Article 4 was started in 2019 to train military actors in the areas of health, mine clearance or civil protection. A second three-year CBSD action to advance the protection of civilians and stability in East Africa was approved in 2019 as part of the MAAP 2019-2020. In the period 2017-2019, EUR 210.95 million was committed under the IcSP Article 5 and implemented in accordance with the multiannual indicative programme and related strategy. Actions have focused on providing assistance in addressing global, trans-regional, and emerging threats such as the fight against terrorism, organised crime, cyber-crime, illicit trafficking, threats to critical infrastructure, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation under the Centres of Excellence long term programme.

In addition, the programme included actions on Capacity-building in support of Security and Development (CBSD). The CBSD adopted in 2017 constitutes an additional EUR 100 million to support military actors in fragile contexts where there is no civilian actor that can perform the tasks and where there is a major threat to the functioning of state institutions. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace and justice), the EU is seeking to enable partner countries to prevent and manage crises by themselves. EU financial support under the CBSD covers the performance of development and human security-related tasks by the military. Further to the adoption of the CBSD proposal in 2017, projects must have development as their main focus, and must be embedded within the EU-wide strategic framework to support the Security Sector Reform (SSR).

Key programme achievements

IcSP Art. 3 and 4:

At the end of 2019, there were 279 on-going IcSP actions operating in 65 countries. Examples of timely EU responses to high-priority crises on the EU political agenda are given below. Information on the actions funded by the Instrument under Articles 3 and 4 are available for the general public through the following online tool: <https://icspmap.eu/>.

- In response to the increase in deadly attacks against civilians and security forces in the **Sahel** – in particular in the ‘three borders area’ straddling Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger – the Commission mobilised the IcSP to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives and security forces in vulnerable areas, including through CBSD actions. The new initiatives in Burkina Faso and Niger are improving the capacity of the security and defence forces to reinforce security and stability in the regions facing growing instability, allowing the civilian administration, public services and economic activities to continue. In addition, IcSP support to the operationalisation of the police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force was mobilised during 2019 to support the execution of military operations of the G5 Sahel Joint Military Force. These new initiatives complement ongoing support in the region, including projects supporting civil society organisations with activities inter alia in the fields of mediation, dialogue and the prevention of violent extremism as well as efforts to strengthen community resilience and relations between communities and security forces in the Sahel.
- In 2019, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments has continued to step-up its efforts in the field of **counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism**, in line with the June 2017 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on EU external action on Counter Terrorism. In this respect, the IcSP was quickly mobilised to strengthen response capabilities for counterterrorism in both Sri Lanka and the Maldives following the Easter 2019 attacks in Sri Lanka. Similarly, counter-terrorism efforts are supported in the Sahel, in Iraq as well as in South-East Asia with an overall engagement of approximately €50M.

⁽¹⁾ This designation is without prejudice on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁽²⁾ The allocation key is foreseen in the Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1) amended by Regulation (EU) 2017/2306 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 (OJ L 335, 15.12.2017, p. 6–10).

⁽³⁾ Idem.

⁽⁴⁾ The 2014-2020 Strategy Paper and 2014-2017 Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) adopted on 11 August 2014.

- So far, a total of seven CBSD actions have been launched in five countries (Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia, Lebanon and Tajikistan) under article 3 and one regional action under article 4 to train military in the areas of health, mine clearance and civil protection. The Annual Action Programme 2019 for article 5 included one CBSD project aiming to prevent the spread of terrorist armed groups in Burkina Faso and Benin, in order to allow Burkina Faso to regain control of its territory and Benin to preserve peace in its northern region. This contract is in the final stages of negotiation. Under the Annual Action Programme 2018, one CBSD action is under implementation in CAR and one action in Somalia was signed on 6 December 2019.
- Under the component, covering programmable actions for conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (Article 4) a total of **971 processes and 638 entities** benefited from the strengthened capacity attributable to IcSP funding during the course of 2019 ⁽⁵⁾. This allowed the EU to engage with its partners – international, regional, sub-regional organisations, Member States and civil society actors – on structural measures to support peace-building in a more comprehensive manner.

IcSP Art. 5

Under the third IcSP objective covering programmable actions addressing global, trans-regional and emerging threats, preliminary key programme results based on established programme indicators indicate the fulfilment of planned objectives. In terms of overall programme management, a successful change process over the past years has led to actions being designed to be of a longer duration and the average size of contracts has also increased leading to a more effective use of resources and efficiency gains.

Legislative and operational capacity in third countries was strengthened and global and trans-national cooperation frameworks and networks established as demonstrated below. The focus has been two-fold: supporting security capacities at national and regional levels on the one hand and promoting frameworks for effective global and trans-regional cooperation on the other. Following a tailored approach, key countries were identified in priority regions and the capacities of local law enforcement and security units strengthened by setting up or further developing specialised units and inter-agency cooperation. Regional coordination and information-sharing functions continued to be supported to foster regional and trans-regional cooperation, primarily by making use of existing structures whenever possible.

– CBSD

The Annual Action Programme 2019 for article 5 included one CBSD action aiming to prevent the spread of terrorist armed groups in Burkina Faso and Benin, in order to allow Burkina Faso to regain control of its territory and Benin to preserve peace in its northern region. This contract is in the final stages of negotiation. Under the Annual Action Programme 2018, one CBSD action is under implementation in CAR and one action in Somalia was signed on 6 December 2019.

– Cybersecurity

The EU CyberNet action was launched to strengthen the global delivery, coordination and coherence of the EU's external cyber capacity building actions, and to reinforce EU's own capacity to provide technical assistance to third countries in the field of cybersecurity, while promoting an inclusive multi-stakeholder and rights-based approach and ensuring compliance with the rule of law and good governance principles.

– Counter Terrorism and Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism

Counter-terrorism (CT) and the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P/CVE) remained high priorities in 2019 with continued investment in global actions that strengthen the resilience of communities and governments against violent extremism and terrorist attacks.

Specific examples under Article 5 of the IcSP include a EUR 20 million global action on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT). The EU is an important actor in the area of CFT both within and outside Europe. Additional resources have been added to provide assistance to partner countries aimed at supporting efforts to put in place effective AML/CFT frameworks in compliance with EU requirements, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on AML/CFT.

Furthermore a number of global P/CVE-specific actions have been launched around the world under the Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) programme. These STRIVE actions aim to facilitate innovative P/CVE engagement in collaboration with local communities, to strengthen conditions conducive to development, and resilience towards violent extremism. Commencing in 2013, over EUR 33 million has been allocated to actions in over 20 countries across the globe in an effort to prevent and counter violent extremism as part of the STRIVE initiative. The key common factor is that the specific actions under the programme are innovative, testing new ground and creating a platform for learning.

– Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE)

One of the most pressing current concerns in the EU and worldwide is the recent use of CBRN substances by terrorist organisations and criminal groups (example: ricine in FR and DE, use of chlorine gas and sulphur mustard by Daesh in Iraq

⁽⁵⁾ Annual achievement.

and Syria). There is an increased access to technology (especially in the Bio field) and to CBRN ‘ready-to-use’ materials, as well as tutorials on the internet (open sources and Dark Web). In light of this, risk mitigation efforts made through the Centres of Excellences initiative are more important than ever.

At a global level, one major evolution in 2019 is the integration of the risk analysis into the CoE, combined with needs assessments to produce national action plans. This approach provides a sound CBRN risk management approach, which identifies priority areas for both partner countries, regions and the EU, in line with the request of the European Court of Auditors. Donor coordination meetings were organised in several regions. At the request of partner countries, the programme ‘School of Excellence’ has been launched covering several regions in order to increase the capabilities of local experts and training centres.

In 2019, a number of regional achievements have been also successfully implemented:

In the Middle East, a new action was launched to protect critical infrastructures from CBRN threats, ranging from protection of critical command chain to secure the water reserves.

In the Gulf, an unprecedented CBRN AUDIT was carried out in one of the Gulf countries with a team of high level CBRN officials from EU Member States and NATO, with the objective to provide a full scale review of the national CBRN security architecture. It paves the way for an external cooperation approach on security. The first regional CBRN action was approved and launched, bringing together UAE, KSA, Bahrein, Kuwait and Qatar stakeholders;

In Central Asia, a CBRN-Counter-terrorism field exercise (JEYRAN) was organised with Uzbek Elite Forces, involving Security services and their secret situation room, National Guards, State Committee, Min of Emergency and Health.

In the European Eastern neighbourhood, the regional CBRN secretariat in Tbilisi was transferred from the Police Academy to the State Security Services.

In North Africa and Sahel, strong interest was shown to join the Medilab secure programme. Two twin actions on the Security of transportation of dangerous goods were launched in the African Atlantic Façade region (SECTRANS-AAF for Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) and in the North Africa and Sahel region (SECTRANS-NAS for Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia). The actions aim to strengthen and harmonise legislation and regulatory frameworks for the transport of dangerous goods according to the United Nations’ recommendations and to improve safety and security conditions for transportation of dangerous goods in a sustainable manner.

In the Atlantic Façade, the first step of a CBRN master for French Speaking first responders but also CBRN decision-makers has been reached, involving EU and local experts and trainers with a long term perspective. Furthermore, a new action (INSTASUR) was launched as a continuation of a previous action to further enhance sound chemical hazard management within the African Atlantic Façade Region in order to prevent the occurrence of high-risk chemical accidents inside and around all important chemical installations. This action will contribute to the mitigation of emerging and urgent needs, by taking into account the requests from ‘most vulnerable regions’ covered by the EU CBRN CoE.

In Eastern and Central Africa, safety, safeguards and security of the transport of uranium and radiation sources and in the fight of illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials was completed. More than 300 experts coming from 10 countries were trained and several small-scale field exercises were conducted; a first national action plan has been adopted by RWANDA.

In South East Asia, the intensified dialogue between the EU and ASEAN that took place throughout 2019 paved the way for a collaboration in the area of CBRN emergency response and preparedness. An increased cooperation with ASEAN means more political support and sustainability of all actions undertaken to mitigate CBRN risks in the region, which include fight against new epidemics. The quality of the support provided to the region through the projects funded (biosafety, biosecurity and chemical waste) and the demand driven approach of the Initiative were instrumental in renewing Indonesia’s commitment and regional leadership role. a first national action plan has been adopted by Vietnam.

- In the area of **export control**, the EU P2P Export Control Programme for Dual-Use Goods has continued to substantially contribute to partner countries’ creation, consolidation or updating of effective strategic trade controls systems. In 2019, for example, Jordan, Thailand, and the Philippines adopted legislation based on EU regulations. The Programme was extended until 2021.

Evaluation/studies conducted

IcSP Art. 3 and 4:

A sector evaluation of IcSP support under Articles 3 and 4 of **actions on Mediation** from 2014-2018 was carried out in 2019. In addition to desk reviews, two field visits were carried out (Lebanon for the Syria crisis and to Nigeria for the Niger Delta Conflict). The evaluation indicated that IcSP actions were highly relevant and useful to implement EU policies and strategies and that they contributed to reinforce the credibility of EU mediation engagement. It also indicated that IcSP actions were responsive to contextual realities and beneficiary needs in the conflicts addressed. Furthermore, relevant civil society and regional actors (religious/traditional leaders) were included in mediation processes, although a more consistent engagement with youth was still

challenging. Areas for further improvement included increased emphasis on gender and human rights as well as a strengthening of knowledge management and information exchange to improve the way lessons learnt are collected and best practices used.

An evaluation of the IcSP Article 4 action on *Responsible Mineral Supply Chains in Conflict-affected and High-risk Areas* took place between January and June 2019. It concluded that the action was successful in achieving a greater understanding and implementation of the OECD *Due Diligence Guidance* on responsible mineral supply chains. The evaluation mentioned the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo where the action helped initiate domestic political processes related to governance of the extractive industry. In addition, the *Annual Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains* in Paris was highlighted as a specific success as it brings stakeholders from across the world, and all along the supply chain together for exchanges, mutual learning and promotion of the *Due Diligence Guidance*. On the other hand, there was a more critical response regarding how far the resources provided by the action contributed to tackling challenges in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

Forthcoming implementation

The forthcoming implementation for commitments appropriations for the year 2020 is EUR 266 million for Article 3 and EUR 39.8 million for Article 4.

The forthcoming implementation for the payment appropriations for the year 2020 is EUR 240 million for Article 3 ⁽⁶⁾ and EUR 32 million for Article 4.

Given the implementation mode of the instrument, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the forthcoming implementation for the payment appropriations for the year 2021.

IcSP Art. 3 and 4:

As measures under the crisis response component (Article 3) are non-programmable and respond to international developments and crises, it is not possible to outline future implementation measures.

Under the structural peace-building component (Article 4), the following main outputs and policy results can be expected in 2020:

- Support to **in-country civil society actors** in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness will continue in conflict-affected or post-conflict countries and regions. The indicative thematic scope of support will be: (i) mediation; (ii) dialogue and confidence building; (iii) social media and conflict; (iv) natural resources and conflicts; and (v) transitional justice and peacebuilding.
- A new phase of the **Civil Society Dialogue Network** is also envisaged to maintain the forum for dialogue on peace-building issues between the EU and a broad range of civil society actors.
- Continue to enhance EU's **early warning capacities** in order to help bridge gaps between warning and response by enabling policy-makers across the EU to better identify and act upon early signs of conflict before they lead to violence.
- Maintain the capacity for the EU to contribute to **Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBA)** and **Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA)** in collaboration with the UN and the World Bank. This will include the provision of technical expertise including the deployment of experts, dedicated training and coaching as capacity building activities to national authorities and regional/international organisations outside the EU.
- Continue to contribute to peace-building and stabilisation efforts through the **promotion of responsible sourcing and trading of minerals**. The action will in particular aim to engage with the mineral sector at the upstream level (the producing country) as well as downstream (the importing countries including the private sector actors) on the promotion of responsible sourcing and trading to limit the level of illicit financing of armed conflict from the extraction and sale of minerals.
- Strengthen the **capacities of members of EU civilian stabilisation missions**, whether from internal security forces or other civilian services.
- Promote the **active and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes**, in particular through capacity building initiatives targeting youth in fragile countries and regions.

⁽⁶⁾ The EUR 240 million in payments appropriations foreseen for 2020 for Article 3 will be broken down as follows: EUR 220 million for IcSP and EUR 20 million for CBSD.

- **Promote the effective role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding**, through capacity building of women in mediation, including mentorship initiatives, in order to promote the active and effective participation of women in mediation and peace processes at local, national, regional and international level.
- Promote **Social Media for Peace** through a multi-stakeholder collaboration between social media platforms, internet governance and regulatory bodies, as well as conflict prevention and peacebuilding organisations at country and global levels aiming to monitor, analyse and tackle harmful online content (hate speech, violent extremist propaganda, dis-information) in conflict-affected countries.
- Contribute to more concerted and coherent international efforts to prevent conflict and build peace through a **strategic EU-UN Partnership on Peace-Building**. This includes supporting and cooperating with the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF) to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of or affected by violent conflict.
- Support and promote a **conflict sensitive approach to elections** through the development of a free and user-friendly web-hosted resource guide, available to all international and national electoral actors, providing a platform on the prevention of election-related violence.
- Strengthen the capacities of military actors in the exceptional circumstances foreseen in the EU Regulation (EU) 2017/2306 (**CBSD**), to deliver development activities and security for development activities, in particular to protect civilians in conflict or post conflict areas.

IcSP Art. 5:

The Multiannual Indicative Programme for 2018-2020 recalibrated the programming guidance for the instrument based on the evolving nature of global threats while also taking into account the 2016 EU Global Strategy. The AAP 2019 of the ICSP Article 5 includes six priority areas: Countering terrorism; Fighting organised crime; Critical Infrastructure protection; Climate Change and Security; CBRN risk mitigation; and CBSD. Consolidation of existing actions will be the priority in 2020, which is the final year of current financial framework. The following outputs and policy results can be expected in the coming implementation period:

- Cybersecurity: Under the Cyber4Dev project, the Commission aims to achieve a twofold objective: (i) helping partner countries increase their cyber resilience, be more effective protecting their critical infrastructure; and (ii) provide a layer of protection to programmes and projects carried out under the digital 4-development initiative.
- Continuing support and implementation of the CBSD actions in Somalia and the Central African Republic and contracting new planned interventions in Burkina Faso and Benin.
- In the field of CBRN risk mitigation, strengthening national and regional CBRN governance and promoting a culture of CBRN safety internationally will continue. With the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative – security platforms – having reached a stage of maturity in 2018, further efforts will concentrate inter alia on developing its sustainability and involving existing local expertise and experts, enhancing the role of EU delegations, which will help raising the political visibility of the initiative. Consolidation in priority regions will be a key objective (North Africa Sahel, Middle East, Gulf, and Central Asia).
- Continued support to partner countries on CT and P/CVE issues will be provided in 2019. DEVCO launched a EUR 8.5 million facility of training and technical assistance in the field of intelligence cooperation in partnership with the Spanish National Intelligence Centre in January 2019. The project is intended to create or strengthen the capacity to collect, assess and share information. In the area of P/CVE, a new action worth EUR 6 million was launched in the beginning of 2019 and contributes to P/CVE efforts in Central, South and Southeast Asia through a whole society/multi-stakeholder approach, including governments, security actors, civil society and the private sector. Another EUR 3 million project, aiming at strengthening the resilience against violent extremism among the most vulnerable groups of repatriated migrants in Afghanistan, started in January 2019.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

In the future MFF, the current activities of the IcSP will under the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council be continued under a new, Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) ⁽⁷⁾. According to the proposal, what are currently Article 3 actions will be financed under the envelope ‘Rapid Response Actions’ (art. 6.c of NDICI) while Article 4 and Article 5 actions will be financed under the Envelope ‘Thematic Programmes – Stability and Peace’ (art. 6.b of NDICI).

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2018) 460 final 14.06.2018.

The negotiations for the adoption of the NDICI Regulation are still ongoing.

Given the implementation mode of the instrument, it is not possible at this stage to indicate priorities for 2021.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace	2014 – 2020	2 338,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	9,1	8,8	8,9	9,2	9,6	10,7	10,7	66,9
Operational appropriations	267,7	321,6	335,9	251,1	359,9	366,2	383,1	2 285,5
Total	276,8	330,4	344,8	260,3	369,5	376,9	393,8	2 352,5

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	376,903	100,00 %	312,800	98,77 %	393,657	18,68 %	344,550	26,45 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	387,016	99,88 %	322,617	97,99 %	395,929	18,57 %	351,733	26,07 %

(*) 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

Actions through IcSP have enhanced the role of the EU as a relevant and responsive global actor in often sensitive contexts. In the vast majority of countries that have been subject to the EU early warning analysis, the IcSP has been mobilised to translate early warning into early action.

Support through the IcSP has underpinned the commitment of the EU to processes in support of peace in numerous contexts including Colombia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Yemen, Libya, Syria, and Central African Republic. In the latter, three parallel IcSP actions were instrumental in supporting and accompanying the peace process leading to the negotiation of the Khartoum Peace Agreement and its signature in February 2019 in Bangui. In Ukraine, IcSP provided support to ensure cyber-security in connection with the 2019 presidential elections in an environment of intense cyber-attacks.

IcSP actions have supported the EU's commitment to help protect communities and civilians in highly volatile areas including the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, as well as to develop cooperation with security sector actors in numerous countries, e.g. Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nigeria. In Nigeria, an IcSP action helped the national authorities to develop a strategy to address the violent conflict between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt region – a conflict accelerated by climate change. A second IcSP action will support implementation of the strategy.

Through its conflict prevention and peacebuilding component, the IcSP has contributed to enforcing the capacities of the EU and its partners to engage in conflict prevention, peace building and to address post-crisis needs in coordination with international organisations and civil society actors. In particular, IcSP has been instrumental to the strengthening of the dialogue and cooperation with civil society on issues pertaining to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to empower local civil society actors to play an active role in conflict-affected contexts, contributing to more resilient societies and to build long-term peace.

IcSP has also contributed to the EU objective to promote effective multilateralism, through a strategic cooperation with the UN and other international organisations, identifying synergies and coordinated approaches to crisis response, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This includes cooperation with the UN on peacebuilding and mediation, work with the UN and the World Bank on the Post-Disaster and the Recovery and Peace-Building Assessments, as well as the partnership with the OECD on responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict and high risk areas.

During implementation, a number of challenges and lessons have been identified. While aiming to promote the EU's Women, Peace and Security policy, IcSP actions could still increase their focus on gendered conflict analysis and on diversity

mainstreaming. Similarly, IcSP actions in support of demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) have not always been as successful as intended, mainly due to challenges identifying longer term funding to ensure continuity. Furthermore, the IcSP response to the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa show that while the instrument has a clear added value in work to prevent conflict triggered by such a health emergency, the public health component is perhaps better responded to through humanitarian funding as implementing partners do not have the required resources during a major health emergency to accommodate a different set of procedures from the humanitarian ones.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To provide direct support for the Union’s external policies by increasing the efficiency and coherence of the Union’s actions in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and crisis response and peace-building, and in addressing global and transregional threats.

Indicator 1: Number of conflicts worldwide								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total 405	Actual results							399
	424	409	402	379	363	358		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Highly violent conflicts (Level 5+4) 44	Actual results							
	46	43	38	36	40	38		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Violent conflicts (Level 3) 177	Actual results							
	177	180	188	187	173	158		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Non-violent conflicts (level 2+1) 184	Actual results							
	201	186	176	156	150	162		

Comment: NB: This indicator is used on a trial basis and will need to be evaluated over a longer time period whether it is appropriate for the assessment of the EU’s impact on global crises. The indicator is based on the ‘Conflict Barometer’ of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC), which measures the number of crises in the world and quantifies crises by intensity of conflict as: wars (level 5); limited wars (level 4); violent crises (level 3); non-violent crises (level 2); disputes (level 1). The indicator has the merit of establishing a global picture of the situation annually, thus making it possible to track conflicts over time based upon empirical evidence. However, it is difficult to establish a direct link between IcSP interventions and any particular outcome as regards the overall global level of conflict or in relation to the country/region concerned by the intervention. For example, IcSP responses often require a collective effort based on partnerships with other donors, civil society actors, multilateral and regional partners. Moreover, the EU does not intervene in all conflicts and therefore no correlation can be established between IcSP interventions and the number of conflicts. The evolution of a specific conflict, as measured by the Conflict Barometer in terms of intensity, depends on factors, which go beyond the results and the scope of a specific EU intervention. These interventions have to be seen as a contribution to the ultimate goal of either a de-escalation of a conflict or avoiding its escalation, in light of the EU’s comprehensive approach and the efforts of the international community. 2018 is the fourth consecutive year when the worldwide insecurity shifted from an increasing trend to a slight decrease in total worldwide conflicts as measured by the Barometer.

Situation in 2018 (total 363):

1. 40 highly violent conflicts (level 5: 16 wars and level 4: 24 limited wars)
2. 173 violent conflicts (level 3)
3. 150 non-violent conflicts (level 2: 82 non-violent crises and level 1: 68 disputes)

Source: Conflict Barometer published annually by the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research; <https://hiik.de/conflict-barometer/current-version/?lang=en>

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: In a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to swiftly contribute to stability by providing an effective response designed to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the Union’s external policies and actions in accordance with Article 21 TEU.

Performance

Throughout the MFF period, the response through the IcSP continued to display a high degree of flexibility and timely action. In response to the evolving transition process in Sudan, fast and flexible support to assist the new authorities start the transition and reform process was quickly provided through the IcSP. Earlier examples include support to the transition process in Burkina Faso (2015) and in the Gambia (2017), as well as the significant response under the IcSP to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, not least through support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (2014).

Indicator 1: Percentage of projects adopted within 3 months of a crisis context (date of presentation to PSC).								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
69 %					70 %		75 %	75 %
	Actual results							
	68 %	64 %	61 %	47 %	82 %	91 %		

Comment: Of the 46 exceptional assistance measures (under article 3 of the IcSP) adopted in 2019, 42 were adopted (COM Decision) within 3 months of a crisis context (presentation to PSC), a percentage rate of 91.3 %. The objective set for 2020 is to reach a percentage rate of 75 %.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis (except CBSD actions)	19 02 01	32	245,1
Number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis for CBSD	19 02 01 01	3	21
Total number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis (including CBSD actions)	19 02 01 19 02 01 01	35	266,1

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis (projects launched, except CBSD actions)	F	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
	P	30	44	39	36	42	46	
Number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis (CBSD projects launched)	F	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	3	3	3
	P	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	5	4	
Total number of estimated response actions in situations of crisis or emerging crisis (including CBSD actions)	F	32	32	32	32	35	35	35
	P	30	44	39	36	47	50	

The IcSP component ‘crisis response’ is not programmable. However, based on previous IfS experience, some 32 response actions are launched per year. The financing will remain flat over the period 2014-2020.

Throughout the MFF period, the IcSP continued to be mobilised to transform political objectives into concrete actions reflecting EU priorities and strengthening the position of the EU as a global actor. The increase in the number of actions reflects the increased appreciation among EU institutions and services for the usefulness of the rapid response capacities of the non-programmable IcSP action, as well as the support received from EU Member States for timely and politically relevant EU responses.

Specific Objective 2: To contribute to the prevention of conflicts and to ensuring capacity and preparedness to address pre- and post-crisis situations and build peace.

Performance

Through the MFF period, results of the indicator measuring the number of processes (for example: mediation processes, training and coaching) and entities (local communities, regional organisations, NGOs, technical bodies, media outlets) benefiting from strengthened capacity, has steadily increased, partly through accumulation.

Indicator 1: Number of processes and entities with strengthened capacity attributable to IcSP funding								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Total 1 183	Actual results							1 650
	1 373	1 415	1 464	1 487	1 592	1 609		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Processes 734	Actual results							
	512	961	996	922	994	971		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Entities 449	Actual results							
	861	454	468	565	598	638		

Comment: Total: The indicator measures the strengthened capacity of EU and beneficiaries of EU assistance to prevent conflicts, address pre- and post-crisis situations and to build peace. The figure aggregates the processes and entities stemming from the contracting of the year n-1 Annual Action Programme.

Processes: It refers to the annual number of processes (for example: mediation processes, training and coaching, training of trainers, capacity building activities, specific researches) attributable to IcSP funding which contribute to conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building.

Entities: It refers to the annual number of entities (local communities and community-based organizations, youth and women organisations, formalised NGOs, private sector operators, traditional as well local and government authorities) benefiting from strengthened capacity, attributable to IcSP funding in conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of actions launched under the Annual Action Programme (except CBSD actions).	19 02 02	6	37
Number of actions launched under the Annual Action Programme for CBSD	19 02 02 01	1	2,8
Total number of actions launched under the Annual Action Programme (including CBSD actions).	19 02 02 19 02 02 01	1	39,8

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)							
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of actions launched under the Annual Action Programme.	F	5	5	5	5	5	6	6
	P	5	7	7	7	6	7	

Specific Objective 3: To address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability.

Performance

EU contributions towards tackling global and transregional threats has increased continuously over the period, not only under this Instrument. On issues of for example: **Risk Mitigation**, the number of former weapon scientists talents redirected to peaceful activities (Astana and Kiev) has increased while the redirection of former weapon scientists has gradually shifted towards a wider approach, by protecting sensitive knowledge, technologies and materials. Younger scientists with sensitive knowledge are nowadays more and more involved in addition to the remaining ones that were formally involved in soviet weapons programmes.

Several large scale projects **bio safety/security** have been initiated around the Mediterranean basin to prevent and respond to bio threats rising from the migration of diseases linked both with the migration of the population due to desertification or conflict, but

also with the migration of the vectors of diseases.

CBRN actions have worked towards building capacity, strengthening national institutions and developing enhanced cooperation on the national and international levels, facilitated by partnerships through the regionally-established Centres of Excellence. The regional all hazard approach combined with a national inter-agency working method contribute greatly towards an increased security governance by mitigating the impact of future major natural or man-made crisis like the Ebola crisis, the Fukushima accident or the Seveso chemical explosion in the past.

On **counter-terrorism**, actions contributed to address key issues of the CT cycle: threat analysis, judicial international cooperation, strategy development and information exchange from a rule of law perspective, in priority regions, fully in line with the Council Conclusions on Counterterrorism of 2015 and 2017.

For the **fight against organised crime**, actions targeting the illicit trafficking of drugs and small arms and light weapons contributed to reducing illicit drugs and arms flows, increasing the number of seizures and follow-up criminal investigations.

Indicator 1: EU contribution towards tackling global and transregional threats, measured as								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Risk Mitigation: Number of former weapon scientists talents redirected to peaceful activities (Astana and Kiev): 18 000	Actual results							18 600
	18 150	18 300	18 500	18 700	19 425	19 730		
	Milestones foreseen							
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Strengthening capabilities against biological threats: Number of facilities upgraded to international standard level: 2	Actual results							12
	5	8	8	10	10	10		
	Milestones foreseen							
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Regional centres of excellence: Number of partner countries benefitting from the assistance of the EC acting in multilateral framework: 15	Actual results							62-65
	45	52	55	59	62	62		
	Milestones foreseen							
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Countering Terrorism: Number of partner countries covered by the countering terrorism activities financed by the EU: 8	Actual results							20
	12	12	12	29	31	36		
	Milestones foreseen							
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Fighting organised crime: Number of major drug smuggling routes tackled by activities supported by the EU: 2	Actual results							2
	2	2	2	2	2	2		
	Milestones foreseen							
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Protecting critical infrastructure: The number of countries covered by protection of critical infrastructure activities: 4	Actual results							14
	11	14	14	14	29	29		
	Milestones foreseen							

Methodology: Yearly values

Narrative: Cut off date: end of the year.

Comment: Including Tacis period (from 1994)

Source: Statistics issued by the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) and the Science and Technology Center Ukraine (STCU), project data and request of adhesion received and officially accepted

Unit of measure: Number of people, facilities, countries and major drug smuggling routes respectively (look at the names in baseline area of table)

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Number of countries involved /projects covered in the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence initiative	21 05 01	62	24
2. Number of countries/regional organisations covered by critical infrastructure activities	21 05 01	29	9.5
3. Number of major drug smuggling routes covered by the organised crime activities	21 05 01	2	10.5
4. Number of countries covered by the cyber-crime activities	21 05 01	110	0
5. Number of countries covered by counter terrorism activities	21 05 01	31	22.5
6. Climate change project	21 05 01	5	0
7. CBSD	21 05 01	2	8.45
8. Export Support Facility project	21 05 01	10	2.3
Total			77.25

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Number of countries/projects involved in the Centres of Excellence initiative	F	40/40	45/48	50/51	50/55	57/57	59/60	60/60
	P	48/42	52/53	56/60	59	57/62	61	
2. Number of countries/regional organisations covered by critical infrastructure activities	F	10	12	14	14	14	14	14
	P	11	12	14	14	29	29	
3. Number of major drug smuggling routes covered by the organised crime activities	F	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	P	2	2	2	2	2	2	
4. Number of countries covered by counter terrorism activities	F	12	14	16	16	16	16	16
	P	12	14	12	29	31	36	
5. Climate change projects	F	0	2	5	5	6	7	8
	P	0	0	1	5	4	4	
6. Export Support Facility projects	F	6	10	10	10	10	10	10
	P	6	10	10	10	10		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30 % of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Specific objective: Addressing global and trans-regional effects of climate change having a potentially destabilising impact.	7,0	8,0
Total	7,0	8,0

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	5,0		5,5	5,5	7,0	8,0	31,0

(*)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

Climate change is acknowledged to be a threat multiplier and exacerbates conflicts and migration of populations. The actions prepared enhance early warning and prevention measures to help promoting relations aiming at reducing tensions over limited natural resources.

Gender mainstreaming

Gender is a key cross-cutting issue for the IcSP: it is integrated into all actions, both non-programmable crisis response measures under Article 3 and programmable actions on conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness and in addressing global and trans-regional threats under Articles 4 and 5, respectively. Due attention is paid to the relevant provisions of the legal basis particularly those related to combating gender-based violence and promoting the participation of women in peace-building. In this regard, key priority is given to ensuring that all actions contribute to delivering on EU commitments on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) based on the Comprehensive EU Approach to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on WPS (2008) and the EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security (15086/18) adopted by the Council in December 2018.

In line with the EU Gender Action Plan II (GAP II), the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) has markedly stepped up its engagement, either by mainstreaming gender horizontally across its interventions and by dedicating funding to support specific initiatives on the topic. Taking stock of the support and guidance provided in the previous years by the IcSP Gender Facility the staff at Headquarters, in the regional Teams and in the EU Delegations mainstreamed gender more systematically when designing Article 3 and Article 4 actions, addressing Women, Peace and Security (WPS) issues more efficiently in all IcSP actions. It is foreseen to pursue this proactive approach in training and providing coaching to staff on gender issues, with a specific focus on gender-sensitive conflict analysis.

In 2019, two new interventions specifically dedicated to gender were launched under the IcSP: a first intervention – ‘Women as Actors in Peace Processes’ – will aim at strengthening the effective inclusion of women in peace and transition processes at all levels. The action foresees mentorship, networking, capacity-building for women leaders and mediators as well as the provision of resources to allow the effective participation of women in peace process (€3 million, 2020-2022). Activities will focus on the Middle East and North African region where the IcSP can build on previous engagement (i.e. the dialogues on women’s inclusion in the Syrian and Yemeni peace processes, supported in previous years through the European Resources for Mediation Support (ERMES)). The second intervention ‘Preventing Violent Extremism: Integrating a Gender Perspective’ (€2.5 million; 2019-2022) will be implemented through UN Women and will aim to prevent violent extremism in Jordan, Pakistan and globally by strengthening capacities at local level and building resilience, with a focus on the gender aspects of the threat and response.

In 2019, 70 % of contracted actions reported a G-Marker 1,(66 %) or G-Marker 2 (4 %), confirming the progress in gender-focused actions.

This data is provided in line with Objective 5.3.2 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals***SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels***

The IcSP is mainly contributing to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and to providing access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in line with SDG 16. Specifically, IcSP contributes to:

- Sub-Goal 16.1 ‘Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere’,
- Sub-Goal 16.3 ‘Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all’.
- Sub-Goal 16.a ‘Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime’.
- Sub-Goal 16.7 ‘Ensure responsive, inclusive and participatory and representative decision-making at all levels’.

IcSP Art. 3 and 4:

- Regarding target 16a, the IcSP has continued to step-up its efforts in the field of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, in line with the June 2017 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on EU external action on Counter Terrorism. In this respect, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) was quickly mobilized to strengthen response capabilities for counterterrorism in both Sri Lanka and the Maldives following the Easter 2019 attacks in Sri Lanka. Similarly, counter-terrorism efforts are being supported in the Sahel, in Iraq as well as in South-East Asia with an overall engagement of approximately €50M. Furthermore, specific attention was also paid to efforts to counter disinformation, which can be a catalyst for instability or violence as well as to the safe conduct of elections through assistance to the enhancement of cyber-security.

- In relation to sub-goal 16.1, support through the IcSP has also focused on the protection of civilians from the worst consequences of the conflict, e.g. through engagement with governments and security forces. In Ukraine, IcSP support through the NGO Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) managed to support the development of a draft Presidential Order on the adoption of a National Policy on Protection of Civilians in Conflict as well as the establishment of a Civilian Casualties Mitigation Team within the Ukrainian Joint Forces Operation. Due to the success of this action during 2019, it will be followed up with additional resources in 2020. Similarly, in Nigeria IcSP support was instrumental in convincing authorities to improve the protection of civilians in connection with security operations in the country through the promotion of ‘civilian harm mitigation’ measures and approaches. During 2019, the action managed to build a constituency within the government, with civil society as well as with multilateral agencies. This allowed ‘Protection of Civilians and Civilian Harm Mitigation’ to be introduced into the curricula of key military training institutions. At the same time, self-protection workshops were conducted for conflict-affected communities, helping them also to have more regular dialogue with security forces. As a result, security arrangements and military patrols are better coordinated and civilians better protected.
- In relation to sub-goal 16.3, the EU Transitional Justice Facility, launched in January 2019, aims to provide short-term support and expert advice for third countries in the areas of e.g. constitution building and transitional justice. In 2019, through the rapid deployment of experts, the Facility inter alia provided expertise in Colombia to support the transitional justice mechanisms; assess the Constitution building and transitional justice processes in The Gambia; support the ongoing dialogue on transitional justice in South Sudan; and supported work to improve the methodology of documenting detention-related human rights violations in Venezuela.
- Concerning sub-goal 16.7 the IcSP has supported electoral processes in several contexts, one example is Ethiopia, where Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has made promising steps to open political space in Ethiopia and initiate legal, institutional, political, economic and social reforms. These efforts were recognized, with the award of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Nevertheless, the reform process remains perilous and requires support. Ethiopia is facing severe challenges including ethnic violence; more than 3 million internally displaced persons. The first multi-party elections in 2020 may constitute a big step forward, but may also stoke existing social and ethnic tensions, potentially leading to violence. During 2019, IcSP activities were started to help prevent election-related conflict. Relevant stakeholders, such as political parties and civil society started a dialogue to prepare for the electoral process. IcSP support is also being made available for inclusive dialogues among communities in Ethiopia, including on sensitive issues such as ethnic tensions, e.g. through mediation activities in the Guji-West Gedeo region, where many IDPs have arrived. Finally, the EU will provide capacity building to Ethiopian security sector actors to help prevent ethnic and political violence, in particular in relation to the elections.

IcSP Art. 5:

- In the domain of **counter-terrorism**, the CT MENA action contributes to SDG Target 16.3 ‘Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all’. It does so by contributing to materialise the commitments and the political dialogues in the region fully in line with the Council Conclusions on Counterterrorism of 2015 and 2017. CT MENA is actively working with partner countries across the counterterrorism cycle in the MENA region on key issues of CT terrorist cycle: threat analysis, judicial international cooperation, strategy development and information exchange from a rule of law perspective. The programme is also contributing to establish an institutionalized partnership with the League of Arab States and the Council of Ministers of the Interior of the Arab League on CT issues.
- IcSP **fight against organised crime** actions, targeting the illicit trafficking of drugs and small arms and light weapons, directly contribute to the achievement of SDG Target.16.4 ‘*By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.*’ and provide global data on its status.
- **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) actions**, and most notably, the Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative, contribute to the attainment of numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 17, as described below.
- Under the umbrella of SDG 16: CBRN actions work towards capacity building and strengthening national institutions and developing enhanced cooperation on the national and international levels, facilitated by partnerships through the regionally-established Centres of Excellence. The regional all hazard approach combined with a national inter-agency working method contribute greatly to support SDG16 goals towards an increased security governance by mitigating the impact of future major natural or man-made crisis like the Ebola crisis, the Fukushima accident or the Seveso chemical explosion in the past.
- Other actions support SDG 13, especially under the angle of Climate Change Adaptation: several large scale projects bio safety / security have been initiated around the Mediterranean basin to prevent and respond to bio threats rising from the migration of diseases linked both with the migration of the population due to desertification or conflict, but also with the migration of the vectors of diseases. In Central Asia the melting of glaciers could lead to contamination of transboundary rivers with chemical and radiological pollutants (such as heavy metals issued from mining). This is a direct threat for the population but it also can amplify tensions between the countries, which is covered by a new water security project launched in 2019.

- In addition, CBRN is a key action in relation to SDG 3 ‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’. Through the development of CBRN-related National Action Plans (NAPs), based on Needs Assessment Questionnaires (NAQs) and assessments of capabilities and risk, the CoE initiative works towards the achievement of two key indicators for SDG 3: developing national capacities to assist in reducing the risks of illness and death from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination; and strengthening national capacities for early warning, risk reduction, and the management of national and global health risks.
- Similarly, CBRN actions contribute to the attainment of SDG 6 ‘Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all’. Through the CoE initiative, partners are assisted in developing measures to ensure the elimination dumping and the minimal release of hazardous chemicals and materials, in order to improve water quality.
- SDG 11 ‘Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’ is an equally relevant goal. In particular, risk mitigation efforts developed through the CoE Initiative, alongside disaster management planning, are actions which contribute directly to reducing the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters, including water-related disasters. Developing institutional capabilities and resilience to disasters, alongside integrated policies and plans related to CBRN management is of great importance in this area.
- Finally, CBRN actions make a strong contribution to SDG 17 ‘Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development’. Through encouraging national, regional, and international partnerships via established Centres of Excellence, CBRN programmes are able to enhance access to science, technology and innovation in addition to increased knowledge sharing (like in the Caucasus and Balkans through a regional CBRN innovation competition implemented in 2018-2019). Actions including training, tutoring, and the lending of experts and expertise in the field of CBRN, all contribute to enhancing capacity-building and national planning capabilities.

The IcSP Programme contributes also to the SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

During 2019, an Article 3 action contributed to the United Nations Peace Support Facility (PSF) for Yemen (€1 million) and the UN Peace Building Fund was financed with EUR 0.1 million under an Article 4 action.

7. Programme related additional information

The Regulation on the Capacity Building in support of Security and Development (CBSD) ⁽⁸⁾ allows for cooperating directly with military actors to implement actions with clearly civilian development objectives in areas where no civilian authority is able to perform the tasks.

The CBSD amendment to the IcSP Regulation increased the financial envelope by EUR 100 million.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2017/2306 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Humanitarian aid

Lead DG: ECHO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Humanitarian aid programme (HUMA) provides effective relief and protection to populations affected by natural or man-made disasters on the basis of needs. As the world's largest humanitarian aid donor, the EU and its Member States play a central role in tackling humanitarian challenges. HUMA provides aid to most vulnerable populations in countries in crisis, including 'forgotten' crises. In addition, the EU is committed to build capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities and has put in place a resilience action plan.

The humanitarian aid policy is based on the humanitarian principles, in line with Article 214 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Commission contributes actively to shaping humanitarian advocacy and policy development at the European and the global level, including through humanitarian fora such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), humanitarian events in the margins of the UN General Assembly, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Donor Support Group, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Donor Support Group, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Donor Advisory Group. The Commission also holds regular strategic dialogues with its key humanitarian partners including the major UN operational agencies.

EU added value of the programme

Because of the financial weight of its humanitarian actions and its unique position, the EU encourages other humanitarian donors to implement effective and principled humanitarian aid strategies and has a comparative advantage in being able to intervene in politically sensitive situations more flexibly.

The EU is well positioned to rapidly complement EU Member States' bilateral contributions as required in response to crises. A share of the annual budget is pre-allocated to on-going crises (in some cases, the Commission being the only donor, namely in forgotten crisis) and for prevention/preparedness measures, while the rest is deployed to respond to new crises or deterioration of existing ones.

The Commission's strong field presence allows for a comprehensive understanding of the complex needs on the ground, and its neutrality provides greater flexibility and power to act on behalf of the most vulnerable. The Commission is valued by other donors for its technical know-how and capacity for coordination.

The aim of the humanitarian aid policy as defined in Article 214 of the TFEU and the Council Regulation 1297/96 is to provide ad hoc assistance, relief and protection to people in third countries who are victims of natural or man-made disasters, in order to meet the humanitarian needs resulting from these situations.

Over the years, the EU has established itself as an important actor in humanitarian action both at global and field level. Its extensive network of humanitarian field experts based in countries in crisis is a key element in its comparative advantage as a donor. Providing rapid and flexible assistance both in the major crises and in so-called 'forgotten crises' has become a hallmark of the EU's profile as a donor.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through indirect management by NGOs, UN agencies and other international organisations.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The implementation of the programme for humanitarian assistance is on track.

In 2019, the EU focused on the following areas, which are increasingly relevant in the current humanitarian context ⁽¹⁾: supporting education in emergencies, forced displacement, cash transfers, enhancing Protection and compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), gender and age mainstreaming, preventing and responding to gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, resilience, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus as a cross-cutting priority, innovation, technology and big data,

⁽¹⁾ SWD(2017) 464 final

engagement with the private sector, food and nutrition assistance, environment, urban settings, social protection, and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

The General Guidelines for Operational Priorities for Humanitarian Aid (GGOPHA) ⁽²⁾ establish the priorities for the year on the basis of the assessment of foreseen humanitarian aid needs. The GGOPHA provide sufficient flexibility to adapt these priorities to new crises and evolving humanitarian aid needs. Between 15 % and 20 % of the budget is set aside as an operational reserve for unforeseen needs. In 2019, the EU provided EUR 2 billion in humanitarian aid (excluding EDF and externally assigned revenue) to the most vulnerable across more than 80 countries. When adding external assigned revenue from Member States committed for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey or operations in Central and West Africa and EDF appropriations (EUR 415.8 million), the EU, in 2019, managed a total amount of EUR 2.4 billion for humanitarian aid.

Key achievements

In 2019, the EU provided over EUR 2.4 billion (including EDF and externally assigned revenues) in aid to the most vulnerable across more than 80 countries, reaching over 177 ⁽³⁾ million beneficiaries 38 million of which resulting from DIPECHO actions in disaster prone regions ⁽⁴⁾.

In 2019, 45 % of the humanitarian budget went to most vulnerable countries ⁽⁵⁾ and an additional 37.6 % was allocated to forgotten crises (crises with little media attention and poor coverage) ⁽⁶⁾. 62 % of the contracts were issued within a very short timeframe (11 days). In addition, the Union is committed to build capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities and has put in place a resilience action plan for which 80 % of actions are on target.

The EU's principled and needs-based approach to humanitarian aid also includes addressing 'forgotten crises'. The EU was thus present in every significant humanitarian crisis in 2019 with a variety of adapted funding tools. In larger crises, the EU consistently responded to situations where other donors were not present and often played the role of coordinator and catalyst.

As an example of the EU's response to major crises, the Union continues to deliver life-saving assistance and support to millions of people across Syria. The EU's humanitarian assistance is carried out in a principled manner to fulfil the needs of the most vulnerable Syrians throughout the country. Aid is delivered from all humanitarian hubs, including across conflict lines and international border crossings. The assistance contributes to the vital delivery of food, medicine, water, and shelter for millions of Syrians directly affected and/or internally displaced by the conflict. In neighbouring Lebanon, EU funding has contributed to cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, secondary healthcare for life-saving cases, non-formal education and shelter – including water, hygiene and sanitation – to improve the living conditions of the vulnerable families most affected by the displacement. In Turkey and Jordan, the EU supports the most vulnerable refugees inter alia through cash assistance, as this is considered the most cost-efficient and dignified method. Furthermore, the Union contributes to the renewed Partnership Programmes ('compacts') with Lebanon and Jordan.

Education in Emergencies remained more than ever a flagship policy in 2019, 10 % of the budget was dedicated to it, and more than 2.5 million boys and girls benefited from it in over 50 countries. Moreover, the EU remained an active member of the 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies and continued scaling up the use of cash transfers. In addition, the EU took specific measures in order to mainstream the needs of persons with disabilities across all EU-funded humanitarian actions.

The EU continued to invest in disaster preparedness as an essential means to strengthen national response systems in order to mitigate the impact of weather-induced disasters on humanitarian needs. A total of EUR 50 million financed 24 countries and 6 regional interventions across the globe in 2019. The benefits of such investments are immense as Mozambique's experience with cyclones Idai and Kenneth (March – April 2019) has shown. The drone unit of Mozambique's National Disaster Management Authority ⁽⁷⁾ played a critical role in the aftermath of both cyclones in collecting data through areal images. The data was essential for planning the emergency response and rescuing operations in some of the affected areas, which were completely inaccessible. The establishment of the unit was supported by the EU in the framework of two EU-funded disaster preparedness actions implemented by the World Food Programme, with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Mozambique's National Disaster Management Authority in the use of drones (UAVs') technology to support early warning, emergency response and early recovery efforts.

In the framework of its co-chairmanship with Switzerland of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative (June 2018 – June 2020), the EU continued in 2019 to promote principled donor behaviour by steering donor discussions focused on four key priorities: reconciling counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian aid, promoting respect for international humanitarian

⁽²⁾ SWD(2017) 464 final

⁽³⁾ Number of beneficiaries of EU-funded humanitarian aid operations measured by number of interventions (i.e. one and the same natural person in need may have benefited from several humanitarian aid interventions depending on their needs).

⁽⁴⁾ These statistical data are based on the aggregation of the estimated number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded by DG ECHO. One single individual beneficiary in need of humanitarian assistance can benefit from more than one humanitarian action and from more than one project.

⁽⁵⁾ Based on the Index for Risk Management (INFORM), a tool for the comparative analysis of countries to identify their level of risk to humanitarian crisis and disaster.

⁽⁶⁾ As example: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central America, Chad, Colombia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan, Ukraine

⁽⁷⁾ Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades.

law (IHL), innovative financing, as well as assessing the impact of the UN Development System reform rollout on the international humanitarian response in the field. DG ECHO also co-chaired the International Committee of the Red Cross Donor Support Group (DSG) between June 2018 – June 2019. The two main priority themes were ‘digital transformation as part of humanitarian action’ and ‘how to preserve international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles in a counter-terrorism environment’. In all relevant DSG meetings and missions (to Iraq and Ukraine), the EU took a significant role in steering the discussions, as well as providing input and recommendations to the work of the ICRC in line with the EU’s humanitarian policies.

Besides being co-convenor of the Grand Bargain’s work stream 5 on coordinated needs assessments, the EU joined the Facilitation Group (FG) of the Grand Bargain for one year (as of 1 October 2019).

In 2019, the EU continued guaranteeing fast and safe access to the field; ECHO Flights continued supporting Humanitarian Aid Transport Services by transporting more than 25,000 humanitarian aid workers and around 200 tons of cargo.

Additional examples of EU support in humanitarian crisis:

- The EU continued to deliver life-saving assistance and support to millions of people across Syria. The assistance contributed to the vital delivery of food, medicine, water, and shelter for millions of Syrians directly affected and/or internally displaced by the conflict. In neighbouring Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan, EU funding has supported the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance, healthcare, non-formal education and shelter. Under the first and second tranche of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRiT), the Commission has contracted about EUR 2.4 billion on humanitarian projects and supported around 1.7 million refugees, through 64 projects and 19 partner organisations working on basic needs, non-formal education, protection and health.
- In 2019, the EU has provided EUR 36 million in humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya refugee crisis, both in Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar) and Myanmar, in the form of basic healthcare, water, sanitation, shelter, nutrition, education, protection, psychosocial support and disaster risk reduction.
- In response to the complex crisis in the Sahel, in 2019, the Commission covered emergency humanitarian needs in seven countries of the wider Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon). The Commission allocated over EUR 187 million (including more than EUR 141 million to the most vulnerable population in the G5 countries) to support interventions in the sectors of food assistance, health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, protection, coordination and logistics.
- In Yemen, the Commission allocated EUR 115 million of vital assistance, including food, healthcare, education as well as water, shelter and hygiene kits to war-affected areas and displaced populations. It helped treat severely malnourished children, and to stop cholera epidemic and outbreak of measles and diphtheria. DG ECHO also supported the treatment of physiological and psychological shock and assisted disabled people with comprehensive rehabilitation services. Moreover, it supported the rehabilitation of classrooms allowing children back to school. In addition, it supported the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS).
- In Venezuela, a total of EUR 55 million was allocated by the Commission to support the affected population in Venezuela and in the wider Latin America region, mainly for the provision of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, education in emergencies, as well as support to host communities. In order to ensure close follow up to operations, the Commission (DG ECHO) established an office in Caracas in May 2019.
- The Commission has played a critical role to support the response to the large scale and growing humanitarian crisis affecting Sudan, in the midst of a fragile political transition started in August 2019. Overall, 8.5 million people were in need in humanitarian assistance linked to unresolved conflicts, natural disasters, and a fast deteriorating economic crisis. The Commission mobilised EUR 55.7 million to support humanitarians to deliver food assistance, nutrition and health service, water and sanitation and protection.

Evaluation/Studies conducted

The time scope of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96) is not limited to the duration of one Multi-annual Financial Framework. Evaluations could thus cover parts of two different MFF cycles. In addition, because of the ‘continuous’ nature of humanitarian operations, it is deemed that evaluation results have a validity for the medium term (3-5 years) unless actions have been substantially modified which also provides a basis for DG ECHO’s evaluation approach, by which basically all humanitarian interventions are evaluated over a five-year period. The comprehensive evaluation of European Union Humanitarian Aid (2012-2016) was finalised in 2017. The evaluation considered that EU funded actions were found to be overall cost-effective and positively contributing to saving lives, reducing morbidity and suffering as well as improving dignity of life of populations affected by disasters, and presented some areas of improvement that have been subsequently evaluated in evaluations of concrete actions.

Areas for improvement encompass developing, when appropriate, a more programmatic approach to the partnership between the EU as a donor and its humanitarian partners; increasing the involvement of local implementing partners in the delivery of EU-funded actions; scaling up successful innovative approaches and improved reporting; more systematic coherence and synergies between the EU humanitarian aid and civil protection activities; better communication of the rationale of the EU’s strategic directions; as well as continued emphasis on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) and defining exit strategies.

As a response to the above findings, DG ECHO is, among other actions, 1) looking at ways of further facilitating a longer-term approach to the funding of operations where appropriate; 2) putting in place a framework that would allow for a more strategic or more programmatic relationship with key NGO partner organizations; 3) working on the elaboration of an overall strategy on localisation; 4) improving its communication of the underlying rationale for allocations internally and externally; and 5) working to establish a distinct longer-term reflection process on ECHO's data collection needs, in the context notably of ECHO's push for building further its evidence-based policy-making capacity.

The following humanitarian aid evaluations were finalised in 2019:

- Combined evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian interventions in Central Africa, and of humanitarian coordination (2014-2018);
- Combined evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian interventions in Afghanistan, and of the partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (2014-2018).

Evaluations are published on: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en

Forthcoming implementation

In 2020, the EU, through the Humanitarian Aid programme, will maintain its commitment to rapid and needs-based assistance with over 37 % of the initial budget allocated to crises in most vulnerable countries and over 15 % to forgotten crises ⁽⁸⁾. The remainder of the budget will be channelled to the victims of other major man-made and natural disasters. The programme will also continue to support vulnerable countries in establishing resilience priorities.

The 2020 initial budget is lower than the 2019 initial budget due to additional budget received in 2019 as part of the EU budget contribution of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

Activities are planned annually on the basis of the outcome of needs assessment exercises conducted every year. For 2020, the following activities/outputs are planned:

- 100 % of humanitarian aid budget implemented is needs-based;
- >15 % initial planned budget is spent in forgotten crises;
- At least 10 % of initial adopted budget allocated to Education in Emergencies;
- 35 % of aid provided through cash transfers modalities;
- Humanitarian aid is delivered rapidly, for instance, contracts are issued within short timelines (11 days).

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

No specific proposal has been adopted by the Commission with respect to the basic act concerning humanitarian aid under the next MFF. Said basic act is not time-limited and does not contain provisions specifying the overall budgetary means (to be) made available under a given MFF. Against such a background, and as the basic act concerned has proven to allow an efficient and flexible management of EU-funded humanitarian aid operations by the Commission, the latter opted for not submitting an MFF-related revision proposal.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation No 1257/96, Regulation concerning humanitarian aid	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	9,0	9,1	8,8	9,0	9,4	9,2	9,6	64,1
Operational appropriations	1 072,7	1 087,8	1 375,3	1 271,0	1 408,1	1 957,2	1 092,2	9 264,4
Total	1 081,7	1 096,9	1 384,1	1 280,0	1 417,5	1 966,4	1 101,8	9 328,6

2. Implementation rates

2019				2020			
CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate

⁽⁸⁾ As example: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central America, Chad, Colombia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan, Ukraine

Voted appropriations	1 966,450	100,00 %	1 740,346	99,66 %	1 086,034	95,36 %	1 090,499	36,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	2 424,703	99,48 %	2 117,054	97,49 %	1 131,326	91,82 %	1 269,089	32,09 %

(*) 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

In line with Article 214 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1297/96), EU humanitarian aid performed well in 2019 in providing emergency assistance to people in need worldwide, particularly the most vulnerable, hit by man-made or natural disasters. Indeed, 177 million people benefited from EU’s humanitarian aid interventions last year⁽⁹⁾. As the world’s largest humanitarian aid donor, the EU and its Member States retained a central role in tackling humanitarian challenges worldwide, notably thanks to a close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations agencies and other donors. This responded to the overall objectives and principles of the Union’s external action as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including by respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. EU’s humanitarian advocacy at international level also benefited the humanitarian community worldwide and indirectly people in need of humanitarian assistance, which resulted eventually in a more effective provision of humanitarian aid.

A key element explaining the success of EU humanitarian aid lies in the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of the EU’s unique network of humanitarian field offices spread over almost 40 countries. The EU can moreover take advantage of the comprehensive range of humanitarian partners (over 200 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, the international segment of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and non-governmental organisations) through which people in need can receive assistance even in the world’s areas most difficult to reach. The EU also continued to play a leading role in the development of ambitious policy approaches; the ‘Education in Emergencies’ initiative is to be particularly highlighted in this respect as, in 2019 and for the first time, 10 % of the EU’s humanitarian aid budget was dedicated to support actions in this field.

EU-funded humanitarian actions were fully needs-based as EU’s humanitarian assistance went directly to people affected by disaster or conflict, irrespective of their origin, ethnic group, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation, and was not guided by, or subject to, political considerations. As a result, the EU remained firm on acting on the sole basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

EU-funded humanitarian aid actions made an important contribution to the core objectives of saving lives, reducing morbidity and suffering, as well as improving dignity of life of the populations affected by disasters. They ensured a rapid response to crises as they developed and to new needs as they emerged. EU humanitarian aid was delivered while ensuring the necessary flexibility, adequate expertise, relevance, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The scale of funding dedicated to humanitarian aid actions allowed the EU to have a meaningful impact on the ground, addressing the needs of a significant number of beneficiaries in a large number of countries, including in 14 countries considered as ‘very high risk to disasters’ in the INFORM Index⁽¹⁰⁾. Positive impact was also found in regions where funding allocations were more limited, thanks to the selection of projects with high leverage or multiplier effect potential. This was particularly true for ‘forgotten crises’, which received 37.58 % of the EU’s humanitarian aid budget in 2019.

In addition, the EU furthered its commitment to build capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities, in a targeted manner. This was done in complementarity with other EU instruments, as enshrined in the EU’s Integrated Approach and in line with the humanitarian-development nexus. Thanks to the EU’s disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/DRM) actions, local communities were able to react fast and efficiently when disasters occurred, thus helping to save many lives in regions prone to natural disasters and climate change. A crucial aspect underpinning the EU’s positive results in fostering resilience is the progressive move towards cash-based assistance, as the Commission maintained its commitment to deliver 35 % of humanitarian assistance through cash transfers.

The above should not however hide the fact that delivering principled humanitarian assistance is at times uttermost difficult in certain protracted crises, where warring parties disregard on occasions humanitarian principles and interfere with the delivery of assistance in the field. Flagrant violations of international humanitarian law are of particular concern in this respect. Medical facilities and personnel have in effect been the subject of armed attacks; schools also happened to be hit. While the EU has repeatedly reaffirmed its firm commitment to upholding international humanitarian law⁽¹¹⁾, improved compliance in this area implies that recourse be had to political and other means beyond the remit of humanitarian aid assistance as such.

Tribute should also be paid to the versatility and adaptability of many of the EU humanitarian partners, who may have to face difficult logistical challenges when delivering assistance in hard-to-reach areas or other types of unexpected developments in the

⁽⁹⁾ Number of beneficiaries of EU-funded humanitarian aid operations measured by number of interventions (i.e. one and the same natural person in need may have benefited from several humanitarian aid interventions depending on their needs).

⁽¹⁰⁾ <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>

⁽¹¹⁾ See in particular Council Conclusions on Humanitarian Assistance and International Humanitarian Law adopted on 25 November 2019 (14487/19)

field that may hinder said delivery. It is particularly in such situations that the in-house expertise available to the Commission, when managing EU humanitarian aid funding, and interacting with the humanitarian partners in the field proves to be invaluable as it enables the Commission, in close liaison with its partners, to adjust actions in the field and adapt to evolving circumstances.

While being able to meet acute humanitarian needs on a short-term basis in a highly effective manner, EU humanitarian aid is however less well placed to address structural issues, in particular in the context of protracted crises, for which development actors would be best positioned to act. It however happens that development actors are not always in a position to take over. Such situations vindicate the need for developing further the humanitarian-development nexus so humanitarian aid actors can exit a context while being confident that longer-term structural assistance will be available.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The aim of the humanitarian aid policy as defined in article 214 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Council Regulation 1297/96 is to provide ad hoc assistance and relief and protection for people in third countries who are victims of natural or man-made disasters, in order to meet the humanitarian needs resulting from these different situations.

Indicator 1: Number of deaths due to natural disasters								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
98 689	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000	≤ 100 000
	Actual results							
	20 882	23 834	10 273	9 066	10 373	23 947		

Comment: It should be noted that a very important part of the annual results and evolution of this indicator depends on external factors (occurrence, frequency, severity and location of disasters) which are entirely beyond the control of the Commission. The specific contribution of EU humanitarian aid to the evolution of this indicator is difficult to assess.

Source: As recorded in the EM-DAT database

Indicator 2: Number of countries ranked very high risk to disasters in the INFORM Index								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
12	≤ 11	≤ 11	≤ 14	≤ 14	≤ 13	≤ 13	≤ 12	≤ 12
	Actual results							
	13	13	13	11	15	14		

Comment: The index for Risk Management – INFORM is a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team for Preparedness and Resilience and the European Commission, developed in a partnership of 23 international and civil society organisations and governments. INFORM consolidates information about risk from different sources into a risk profile for every country, by assessing natural and human hazards and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity. INFORM categorises countries in five risk clusters: very high, high, medium, low and no risk. More on: www.inform-index.org. In 2017: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen. It should be noted that a very important part of the annual results and evolution of this indicator depends on external factors (occurrence, frequency, severity and location of disasters) which are entirely beyond the control of the Commission. The specific contribution of EU humanitarian aid to the evolution of this indicator is difficult to assess.

Source: INFORM

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Provide needs based delivery of EU assistance to people faced with natural and manmade disasters and protracted crises.

Indicator 1: % of non-emergency agreements signed in maximum 11 working days								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
77 %			≥ 95 %	≥ 95 %	≥ 95 %	≥ 95 %	≥ 95 %	≥ 95 %
	Actual results							
		77 %	72 %	73 %	62 %	66 %		

Comment: This indicator evaluates procedures for non-emergency proposals. In 2018, DG ECHO required partners to provide assurance that they had the right systems in place to prevent and respond to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment cases. This extra procedure delayed the contracting of non-emergency agreements.

Source: Hope database

Indicator 2: Total number of beneficiaries of Commission's interventions								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
106	≥ 73	≥ 73	≥ 73	≥ 73	≥ 73	≥ 73	≥ 77	≥ 77
	Actual results							
	105	110	117	129	144	177		

Comment: Measured by the total number of humanitarian aid interventions (estimated by the number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded by DG ECHO). This indicator is based on the aggregation of the estimated number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded. One single individual beneficiary in need of humanitarian assistance can thus benefit from more than one humanitarian action and from more than one project. DG ECHO is engaged in methodological work and improving data collection aiming at a better estimate of the number of people assisted by EU humanitarian aid in different crises. It should be noted in this context that since 2014 the EU has increasingly been funding operations where multi-sector assistance is provided to beneficiaries (as opposed to a single action providing assistance only in a single sector, such as shelter, or food, or protection), often through recourse to multi-purpose cash interventions. These are becoming a major delivery mode for the EU's humanitarian interventions, with their proportion in the EU's overall humanitarian aid programme steadily rising in recent years (to account for 35 % of the total in 2017), where a single intervention thus replaces several sectorial interventions. This is the case, for example, for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey or large parts of the EU's assistance to refugees in other countries neighbouring Syria.

Source: INFORM

Unit of measure: Million beneficiaries

Indicator 3: % of HA funds spent in 'very high risk to disaster' countries								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
50 %			≥ 53 %		≥ 55 %		≥ 56 %	≥ 56 %
	Actual results							
	51.0 %	52.5 %	53.4 %	52.7 %	45.0 %	40.0 %		

Indicator 4: % of projects in the health, nutrition, food, shelter and WASH sectors using standard output indicators ('Key Result Indicators')

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
		90.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	73.0 %	77.0 %	62.0 %	68.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %		

Comment: Measured by the total number of humanitarian aid interventions (estimated by the number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded by DG ECHO)

This indicator is based on the aggregation of the estimated number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded. One single individual beneficiary in need of humanitarian assistance can thus benefit from more than one humanitarian action and from more than one project. DG ECHO is engaged in methodological work and improving data collection aiming at a better estimate of the number of people assisted by EU humanitarian aid in different crises. It should be noted in this context that since 2014 the EU has increasingly been funding operations where multi-sector assistance is provided to beneficiaries (as opposed to a single action providing assistance only in a single sector, such as shelter, or food, or protection), often through recourse to multi-purpose cash interventions. These are becoming a major delivery mode for the EU's humanitarian interventions, with their proportion in the EU's overall humanitarian aid programme steadily rising in recent years (to account for 35 % of the total in 2017), where a single intervention thus replaces several sectorial interventions. This is the case, for example, for the Facility for Refugees in Turkey or large parts of the EU's assistance to refugees in other countries neighbouring Syria.

Source: List of KRIs available at <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/fpa/Documents/EN.pdf>

Indicator 5: % of EU HA initial budget for specific crises spent in forgotten crises								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
15.6 %			≥ 18 %		≥ 15 %		≥ 15 %	≥ 15 %
	Actual results							
	16.5 %	16.7 %	17.2 %	15.8 %	33.9 %	37.6 %		

Comment: In 2017, the calculation methodology has been modified. While the percentage of the budget allocated to forgotten crises was previously calculated as a proportion of the HA initial budget including the operational reserves, it is now compared to the HA initial budget excluding the operation reserves. This amendment is necessary given that, throughout the year, based on needs assessments, the operational reserves can also be allocated to forgotten crises. Therefore the old method of calculation could potentially underestimate the percentage of the budget allocated to forgotten crises. The baseline and the actual results pre-2017 have been recalculated according to the new methodology. The milestones and targets have also been corrected and updated: the objective for the Commission is to provide a minimum of 15 % of its initial

humanitarian aid budget to forgotten crises.

Source: Forgotten crises countries based on the Commission Forgotten Crises assessment – as explained and described in the yearly Operational Priorities document of DG ECHO.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020 EUR million
HA funds for specific crises in most vulnerable countries	23 02 01	903
HA funds for forgotten crises	23 02 01	164
HA funds for other crises	23 02 01	575
Total		1 642

Outputs		Funds foreseen (F) and funds allocated (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HA funds for specific crisis in most vulnerable countries	F	≥ 481	≥ 450	≥ 467	≥ 476	≥ 501	≥ 511	≥ 522
	P	511	769	867,5	752	962	915	
HA funds for forgotten crises (initial HA budget – EUR million excluding reserve 20 %)	F	≥ 129	≥ 106	≥ 128	≥ 129	≥ 138	≥ 141	≥ 149
	P	127	118	116	148	167		

* The results produced are higher than the foreseen, because of several reinforcements made through the Emergency Aid Reserve and internal transfers (Global Transfer and Art. 26.2).

Specific Objective 2: Build the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster affected communities.

Indicator 1: Number of persons benefiting from DIPECHO actions in disaster prone regions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
18	≥ 18	≥ 18	≥ 18	≥ 18	≥ 18	≥ 18	≥ 19	≥ 19
	Actual results							
	16	24	24	20	28	38		

Source: Hope database

Unit of measure: Million beneficiaries

Indicator 2: No of vulnerable countries with country resilience priorities in place

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	3		10				20	20
	Actual results							
	7	9	11	17				

Comment: Obsolete indicator. DG ECHO and DG DEVCO stopped monitoring the resilience action plan as the priority of the Commission was put on operationalising the nexus approach as of 2017.

Source: EU Del, MIPs, CSPs

Indicator 3: % of actions ‘on track’ of Resilience Action Plan.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	70 %		80 %				90 %	90 %
	Actual results							
	80 %	85 %	85 %	85 %				

Comment: Obsolete indicator. DG ECHO and DG DEVCO stopped monitoring the resilience action plan as the priority of the Commission was put on operationalising the nexus approach as of 2017.

Source: Transition Interservice Working Group on Resilience

Indicator 4: % of ECHO funded operations in which Disaster Risk Reduction has been mainstreamed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
40 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 45 %	≥ 50 %	≥ 50 %

	Actual results						
	49 %	43 %	57 %	65 %	52 %	68 %	

Source: ECHO DRR metrics – E-single form

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2019 EUR million
Operational budget having a DRR component (DIPECHO + DRR mainstreamed in HA operations)	23 02 02 and 23 02 01 (part)	145

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Operational funds including a DRR component (in EUR million)*	F	n/a new	≥ 137	≥ 138	≥ 140	≥ 142	≥ 145	≥ 146
Total produced	P	122	142	175	96	193	340	

* Objectives have been set at 15 % of initial HA funding

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Disaster preparedness activities funded through the Humanitarian Aid budget (budget line 23 02 02) aim to increase the resilience of local communities to withstand climate related disasters	50,0	50,0
Total	50,0	50,0

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
36,2	37,3	37,9	43,1	50,0	50,0	50,0	304,5

(*)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).

Gender mainstreaming

Several assessment parameters have been developed to ensure quality programming one of them being the Gender-Age Marker. The Commission is committed to ensuring that EU humanitarian aid takes into account the different needs and capacities of women and men of all ages.

The Gender-Age Marker is a tool that assesses to what extent humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker uses a set of four criteria to assess how strongly humanitarian actions are adapted to and integrate gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker represents a new generation of assessment tools and strengthening the integration of gender and age concerns is an organizational change process for partners that can take time. In the coming years, the EU will continue the targeted training of implementing partners, as well as the dissemination and further development of guidance and toolkits on the gender-age cross-cutting issues. The development of operational best practices will continue to be based on operational experience. Systematic monitoring of operational guidance implementation via feedback loops will be ensured taking into account the results of the assessment of the first three years of implementation.

A first assessment report on the Gender-Age Marker, covering 2014-2015, highlights the usefulness of the Marker and calls upon partners to continue investing in capacity building on gender and age. In 2015, 81 % of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations ‘strongly’ or ‘to a certain extent’. Preliminary data suggests that in 2016 and 2017, 89 % of all projects integrated gender and age to some extent. A second assessment report will be published in 2020.

In December 2019, the EU launched its first-ever e-learning on its Gender-Age Marker.

Furthermore, the EU continued to operationalise its approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document ‘Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance’, supporting prevention and responding to gender-based violence, including through targeted actions and capacity-building of humanitarian actors in this area.

In 2019, the EU continued to be an active member of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (having previously led the initiative between June 2017 and December 2018). In 2019, an Enhanced Response

Capacity project (UNFPA) that was started during this leadership culminated in the development of inter-agency standards on gender-based violence in emergencies and guidance on how to develop context-specific Call to Action Road Maps (from pilots in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo). During 2018 and 2019, DG ECHO allocated approximately EUR 52 million to prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence. In May 2019, the Commissioner for Crisis Management represented the European Union at an international conference on sexual- and gender-based violence in Oslo reiterating the EU's commitment and showcasing EU actions in this field.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable, sometimes in the form of cash transfers for their basic needs, contributes to paving the way for national social safety nets and more structural poverty reduction national programmes.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Humanitarian food and nutrition aid will continue to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes and food security by applying an integrated and multisectoral approach.

The fight against acute hunger and acute malnutrition (severe and moderate) is at the centre of humanitarian interventions aiming at reducing the excess mortality and morbidity caused by hunger and malnutrition. Nutrition interventions in emergencies respond to specific needs of targeted vulnerable groups (infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women), by addressing the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. Immediate access to food and free access to lifesaving healthcare respond to acute food and nutrition crises; water, sanitation and hygiene measures together with the provision of accessible health services (disease control measures) and safe environments play a dominant role in individual nutritional status.

Climate change, conflicts and economic shocks increasingly influence food security and nutrition in fragile settings. More effective and efficient ways of providing humanitarian aid are important to test innovative approaches (e.g. cash transfers, simplified protocols, community-based management of acute malnutrition surge, anticipatory action systems) to make national systems more resilient and able to prepare for and respond to periodic crises.

For example, in Kenya, food assistance response following drought was coordinated to be aligned to the government response through shock responsive social protection. One of the partners developed a guide to ensure inclusion in the response linked to cash assistance, including trainings for staff.

DG ECHO funding for nutrition aims at providing lifesaving interventions to the most vulnerable populations. For example, severely malnourished children in Sudan are given therapeutic food in treatment centres; in Ethiopia, recurrent droughts make children much more at risk of acute malnutrition in the Somali region. Humanitarian support responds to the nutritional needs of these children in remote areas with no access to basic services. In Syria, children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women disproportionately affected by the conflict are included in nutrition programmes and provided with treatment to severe acute malnutrition and comprehensive healthcare services.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The health humanitarian assistance aims at limiting excess preventable mortality, permanent disability and diseases associated with humanitarian crises. Lifesaving healthcare services are essential for the most vulnerable populations (children under 5 years old, women, displaced populations) affected by natural or manmade humanitarian crises. In fragile and heavily disrupted systems, humanitarian health funding contributes to the provision of primary healthcare (e.g. in cyclone-affected areas of Mozambique), vaccinations (e.g. during the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo), access to medicines and medical devices. Emergency health response to outbreaks and building national capacities for preparedness is important to cope with increased relapse of epidemics.

Mental health and psychosocial support is an integral part of the humanitarian health assistance in case of sexual violence, mental disorders, trauma and high distress (e.g. for conflict-affected people in Ukraine, refugees in Uganda, internally displaced persons in South Sudan). Digitalisation and innovation in the health sector has prominently influenced also humanitarian interventions (e.g. electronic medical records, mobile apps for contact tracing).

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Providing safe and quality education to the most vulnerable children affected by emergencies is a priority of the programme, with funding for Education in Emergencies increasing yearly since 2012. In 2019, the EU invested EUR 165 million in education in emergencies-related activities. Projects focussed on facilitating access to inclusive and quality education by removing e.g. financial, administrative or protection barriers; protecting children on the way to and at school through linking up with child protection support and providing psycho-social support; advocating for the protection of education; supporting teachers; providing teaching and learning materials; investing in school infrastructure rehabilitation; and sensitising parents and communities about the importance of education. At the same time, the Commission published a Staff Working Document on Education in Emergencies in EU-Funded Humanitarian Aid Operations that provides the scope and objectives for actions under the wider policy framework set

out in the 2018 Communication on Education in Emergencies and protracted Crises. The EU continues to be a strong advocate for Education in Emergencies on the international stage.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The EU ensures that gender and age considerations are taken into account in all its humanitarian aid operations. To ensure an effective, quality response, humanitarian action should cater for the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys; and should contribute to the active participation of women and girls in humanitarian aid. Supporting the prevention and response to gender-based violence is considered as a life-saving humanitarian intervention and a priority. During 2018 and 2019, The EU allocated approximately EUR 52 million euro to prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence. In December 2019, the EU launched its first-ever e-learning on its Gender-Age Marker, a tool for mainstreaming gender and age considerations in all EU-funded humanitarian aid projects.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The EU provides safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through its humanitarian aid operations to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensures that the most vulnerable have access to WASH. In 2019, the EU continued to be one of the largest donors to humanitarian WASH interventions, allocating around EUR 1.6 million to WASH projects (or projects with a WASH component). At the same time, collective efforts in the WASH sector have led to a 30-fold increase over the past decade.

The promotion of basic WASH services ('minimal WASH package') and multisector outcomes, as part of other 'stand-alone' sector service deliveries, such as health, nutrition, and shelter, remained the primary objective of the EU's WASH policy, especially in the framework of acute and chronic crises (e.g. WASH operations in South Sudan and in the Sahel zone). Additional to this, contribution to DRR/DP/Nexus strategies by anticipating severe water scarcity crisis, which have the potential to spark massive displacement (e.g. Afghanistan) through adapted responses (i.e. water contingency planning, climate adaptation, groundwater level monitoring) also characterised the EU's WASH assistance for 2019.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience actions, the EU supports local communities to be more resilient to shocks including those resulting from climate (such as the El Niño phenomenon), and to be better prepared in advance.

6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa assists a band of countries across Africa, which are among the most fragile and affected by migration and draw the greatest benefit from this form of EU financial assistance. The contribution for 2019 amounts to EUR 10 million.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

Lead DG: FPI

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations contribute to the preservation of peace, the prevention of conflicts and strengthening international security. CFSP actions help safeguard the Union's values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity, and to consolidate and strengthen democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the application of principles of international law worldwide.

EU budget distinguishes four types of CFSP actions:

- The conduct of *civilian* CSDP Missions to promote stability and build resilience by strengthening the rule of law on the strategic and operational levels in fragile environments.
- The work of the European Union's Special Representatives (EUSRs) who promote the EU's policies and interests in troubled regions and countries and play an active role in efforts to consolidate peace, and to promote stability and the rule of law.
- Operational Actions under Article 28 TEU as well as support to the European Security and Defence College.
- Actions to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (including their delivery mechanisms) and to combat the illicit spread and trafficking of other conventional weapons, particularly through supporting multilateral activities.

For the CFSP to be effective, the EU needs to be ready to respond rapidly and flexibly to emerging threats to its strategic interests. As such, CFSP actions cannot be programmed in advance and the CFSP budget in principle should include a sufficient margin each year to cater for crisis situations. Due to their nature CFSP actions are often announced at short notice and foresee short implementation periods which may later need to be adapted, re-sized, prolonged or terminated, in accordance with the changing needs and priorities on the ground.

EU added value of the programme

The Treaty on the European Union (article 21) defines common overarching principles and objectives for the external action of the Union, in particular to 'preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security'.

While the individual activities of Member States clearly contribute to achieving the goals of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the EU's joint CFSP approach described above provides a critical mass to respond to global challenges. Joint ownership on the EU side, in combination with appropriate diplomacy to communicate the EU's support to partner countries' security and stability needs, are the vector forces that make the CFSP a successful instrument. Given the EU's impartial position to deliver external action on behalf of and with Member States, CFSP operations enjoy enhanced credibility and trust in the countries they operate.

Regarding non-proliferation and disarmament activities (NPD), the EU's support provides significant benefit for the universalisation and effective implementation of international treaties, conventions and agreements addressing the proliferation of both, Weapons of Mass Destruction, including their delivery mechanisms, and of conventional arms. These measures target the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and aim to implement effective controls on international arms transfers, thereby contributing to peace, security and stability worldwide and indirectly to the safety of European citizens.

Implementation mode

The large majority of CFSP actions is implemented through indirect management, through the signature of Delegation Agreements with the relevant CSDP Missions, EU Special Representatives and beneficiaries of funding in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament, notably with the relevant UN organisations. A smaller number of actions is managed through direct management, as for example the grant provided to the European Security and Defence College, and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Grants may also be provided in some cases for non-proliferation actions.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

In 2019, the total commitment for CFSP actions amounted to EUR 359 million. The voted budget for 2019 amounted to EUR 334.3 million, plus carry-overs from 2018 (EUR 15.9 million) and a transfer (EUR 8.5 million). Unused funds that CSDP Missions (EUAM Iraq, EULEX Kosovo, EUBAM Libya, Kosovo Chambers) returned in 2019 due to low absorption capacities, amounted to EUR 35 million which could be fully committed again in 2019.

As most Missions benefit from mandates longer than 12 months, budgetary commitments have been split over the 2018 and 2019 CFSP budgets.

CSDP Missions

The following eleven Missions have been operating between 2017 and 2019:

- EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia)
- EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo)
- EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine)
- EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali)
- EU Capacity Building Mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger);
- EU Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya)
- EU Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia)
- EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS)
- EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah)
- EU Advisory Mission to Iraq (EUAM Iraq)
- EU Advisory Mission to the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA; established in December 2019, launch of operations expected for early summer 2020)

Operational Actions under Article 28 TEU

- Stabilisation action in the Malian regions of Mopti and Ségou in 2017 (closed in 2019)
- Support of the UN Verification Mechanism based in Djibouti (renewed in 2019).

EU Special Representatives

- EUSRs for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, the Sahel, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Horn of Africa, for Human Rights, the Middle East Peace Process and Human Rights
- EUSR for Afghanistan (closed in 2018)

Non-proliferation actions

In addition, the CFSP also supports actions to promote disarmament, non-proliferation and arms export control (NPD actions) as well as horizontal measures contributing to security and peace. During the period 2017-2019, 32 different NPD actions started and another 9 were completed.

Other projects

The CFSP budget also finances the Warehouse II action providing civilian Missions and EUSRs with strategic equipment, the Mission Support Platform (MSP) providing support and advice to Missions in various areas (finance, procurement, logistics, IT, etc.), the European Security and Defence College as well as the *Kosovo* Specialist Chambers based in the Netherlands.

Key achievements

FPI has made considerable progress in its area of competence as regards civilian CSDP, notably concerning the harmonization and simplification of operating procedures in CSDP Missions. Progress was made on a number of key pillars: a central Warehouse funded by the CFSP budget since its start in 2018, a single IT platform (ERP – Enterprise Resource Management) standard guidelines and manuals on procurement and financial matters, and dedicated support service via the Mission Support Platform (MSP), which is also funded by the CFSP budget.

The following covers examples of the work achieved by some of the civilian CSDP Missions and projects in the field of NPD (please also see the section on the ‘specific objectives’):

EU Capacity Building Mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali)

The 22-month mandate of EUCAP Sahel Mali (starting in March 2019) foresees a total budget of EUR 67 million. EUCAP Sahel Mali continued to deliver operational input to help restore state authority and rule of law throughout the country. In May 2019, Member States agreed to enhance the regionalisation process in the Sahel by moving the Headquarters of the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell from Mali to Mauritania. Following the decision to extend EUCAP’s area of operations, the Mission has contributed to the regionalisation of CSDP in the Sahel region by delivering the first training under the umbrella of the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell in Chad. The Mission also continued to ensure the sustainability of its advising and training activities and regularly assessed the implementation of projects and the overall impact of its actions.

The EU Advisory Mission to the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA)

On 9 December 2019, the Council decided to open a new civilian CSDP Mission in Bangui. The objectives of this Mission are to support the sustainable transformation of the Central African Republic’s Internal Security Forces and their operational effective

functioning and deployment. A first core team is expected to be deployed in early 2020 to lay the grounds for the establishment of the Mission. Operations are expected to start in early summer 2020, but maybe delayed to the outbreak of COVID-19. This is the first Mission to be set-up in light of the commitments taken by the Institutions and Member States under the Compact to strengthen civilian CSDP. It brings the total number of civilian EU Missions to currently eleven.

FPI participated in the Technical Assistance Mission deployed in December 2019 to set up the Mission. FPI was able to secure and commit € 7.1 million from the CFSP budget for the six-months establishment phase of the Mission.

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions

The EU has demonstrated its active commitment to effective multilateralism. Through its support for UN organisations ⁽¹⁾, the EU contributes to international and regional safety and security. Between 2017 and 2019:

- 3 countries ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (bringing the total to 169);
- the number of countries submitted National Implementation Action Plans for the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1540 ⁽²⁾, which obliges States, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems (bringing the total to 35), increased by 6 to 39;
- 16 more State parties ratified ⁽³⁾ the Arms Trade Treaty, bringing the total to 105.

In addition, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided support for nuclear safety and security to around 100 countries per year.

Evaluation/studies conducted

As regards civilian CSDP Missions:

- CFSP actions are not subject to classical evaluations through external experts. They are subject to Strategic Reviews, which are conducted by the internal services of the EEAS for assessment by Member States. These Reviews aim at analysing the achievements and efficiency of a Mission and form the basis for the Missions' Operational Plans.
- Apart from the Strategic Reviews that each Mission undergoes individually, the EEAS issues an Annual Lessons Learnt Report based on contributions from within the EEAS-CPCC and from the Missions. As regards to structure, the report addresses both new and previous lessons which are presented by theme and topic. There are four themes: 1) Planning, 2) Conduct of Operations, 3) Mission Support and 4) Horizontal issues. Planning covers both, lessons in operational planning/mission set up and planning aspects of mission reviews and/or transition. The Conduct of Operations phase refers to the time a Mission is operational on the ground in theatre. Functional Mission Support is crucial to support effective mandate implementation and an agreed minimum requirement support for a CSDP Mission is needed before any Mission is launched or established. As Horizontal issues span over more topics than the other themes, this part is the largest.
- According to the last report issued in early 2019, a main issue to note from 2018 is the agreement on a 'civilian CSDP Compact'. This aims to strengthening Civilian CSDP, and many work strands connected to lessons will be covered by the Joint Action Plan to implement the Compact. As such, in some cases, issues are considered learnt in this format, and moved over to the process implementing the Compact.
- Although this was a clear recommendation by the Court of Auditors in its 2017 report on the Sahel Missions, no external evaluations have so far taken place. In addition, the Court recommended setting verifiable indicators to assess the work of Missions. These are contained in the benchmarking sections of the Operational Plans.
- Only the budgetary and financial implementation of the actions undergo regular external auditing as foreseen by the contractual arrangements with the Commission. In addition, the Commission oversees the financial implementation and the respect of procurement rules through ex-post audits, pillar assessments and ad-hoc and planned operational monitoring.

As regards non-proliferation and disarmament actions:

As regards the evaluation of the non-proliferation and disarmament actions, the competent Council bodies (Working Group on Non-proliferation or conventional arms export) establish final impact assessments at the end of each actions for discussion. Annual progress reports are presented to Council on the implementation of the strategies against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition ⁽⁴⁾. In addition, the Commission and EEAS receive quarterly reports on the implementation from the contract beneficiary (e.g. IAEA, UN or Member State agency). Regular financial audits are conducted.

⁽¹⁾ the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation and other international bodies

⁽²⁾ which obliges States, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems

⁽³⁾ or accepted, approved or acceded to the treaty.

⁽⁴⁾ See for instance <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5361-2017-INIT/en/pdf> and <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5975-2017-INIT/en/pdf>

Forthcoming implementation

Safeguarding the EU's ability to respond decisively throughout the spectrum of crisis management tasks will continue to be important, requiring both the availability and flexibility of funding, to respond to new crisis situations or expand the EU's response to existing crises and to continue funding existing CFSP operations. As Member States have outlined in the context of the CFSP Budget Orientation Paper 2020-2021, in view of the unstable security environments in the south and the east, the migration crisis, terrorist threats, and in order to preserve the capability for the EU to react swiftly, the CFSP budget for the coming years should have a sufficiently large margin for contingency and possible new actions.

The Budget Orientation Paper lists a number of factors that could impact on the CFSP budget in 2021. These are, inter alia, the reinforcement of local presences of Missions in Ukraine and Mali, an evolution of their environment allowing EUBAM Rafah and EUBAM Libya to deploy and operate as intended in their host countries and the launch of operations of the newly established CSDP Mission in the Central African Republic.

The high ambitions in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament and arms export control will continue to require important funding. Even though assuming that funding needs for the EU Special Representatives will remain at the same level as in previous years, the CFSP Budget will continue to be under high demand until the end of the current MFF.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) budget allows the EU to respond to external conflicts and crises, build the capacity of partner countries and protect the EU and its citizens, through:

- civilian Common Security and Defence Policy missions
- EU special representatives
- non-proliferation and disarmament

CFSP remains separate but complementary with other conflict and crisis response tools, e.g. rapid response pillar of NDICI.

The negotiations on the MFF are ongoing.

Given the implementation mode of the instrument, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the priorities for 2021.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,5	3,1
Operational appropriations	300,8	269,6	202,4	286,3	347,6	342,9	351,4	2 101,0
Total	301,1	270,1	202,9	286,8	348,0	343,2	351,9	2 104,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	343,184	99,98 %	308,527	99,90 %	351,927	6,95 %	328,650	14,84 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	384,001	93,73 %	361,897	93,82 %	380,377	7,16 %	355,378	18,30 %

(*) 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

Due to the Commission's limited role in CFSP, FPI has no influence on shaping the actual deployment rate. Deployment is managed by the Missions, together with the EEAS-CPCC who assists the Missions by publishing calls for contributions for seconded and contracted personnel. The deployment figures that are used for reporting purposes are based on statistics gathered by EEAS-CPCC and put at the disposal of FPI.

For this reason, this indicator will no longer be used under the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

The deployment rates are outlined in the table ‘CFSP indicators file’.

Apart from the indicator on staff deployment, a close monitoring is conducted as regards the performance of budget absorption rates of CSDP Missions. Missions benefit from the main share of the CFSP budget (up to 80 % each year). While some Missions do have a relatively satisfactory budget absorption capacity, some reaching levels of above 90 %, in 2019, three CSDP Missions and one further CSDP entity returned unused funds to the Commission amounting to a total of EUR 35 million. Therefore, the budgetary performance remains an important milestone for the measurement of the way CSDP entities handle the funding attributed to them.

As regards the achievements of civilian Missions, it has to be noted that Missions are not subject to external evaluations. They report to Member States in regular intervals, under the guidance of the EEAS. As per the Treaties, the Commission is only responsible for the financing of Missions, but does not intervene in the programming or the political steer of the mandates of the Missions. The 2018 EEAS Annual Report on EU CSDP Missions and Operations states the following:

‘CSDP Missions are important in enhancing stability and promoting peace and the rule of law. Since the launch of the first Mission in 2003 in the Balkans, the EU CSDP civilian Missions have been one of the key players of the EU’s response to international crisis, working with the EU’s diplomatic and mediation efforts, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. This constitutes the EU’s integrated approach, which makes it a significant contributor to peace and security and a security provider. The establishment of the Civilian CSDP Compact by the EU Member States in December 2018 strengthened the capacity of civilian CSDP. Member States agreed on strategic guidelines, committing politically to 22 development goals and to increased contributions to civilian CSDP Missions by the Member States’.

From the perspective of the Commission, a key element in the achievement of the Missions is their budget absorption rate, which may vary substantially from Mission to Mission depending on their capacity to do realistic budget planning. While lower absorption rates are at the level of 70 %, Missions with an advanced capacity of budget implementation show spending rates of up to 90-95 %. Please see further information on budget implementation under section 3.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Contribute to the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty (Article 21 (2) (c) which seeks to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and with the aims of the Charter of Paris.

Indicator 1: Actual vs. planned capacity deployment rate (international staff) of the main CSDP missions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
84.0 %	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	80.5 %	82.3 %	82.0 %	80.6 %	88.0 %	80.0 %		

Comment: NB: The indicator measures the actual implementation of the deployment (versus the operational plan) of the CSDP civilian missions under the respective responsibilities of:

– EEAS in terms of human resources mobilization (international staff, i.e. staff seconded from the Member States and contracted staff), IT, logistics, etc.,

– FPI in terms of expenditure management (budget, procurement/contracting, support to Missions in financial issues, etc.).

The indicator monitors the effectiveness of the ongoing civilian CSDP Missions’ deployment but also the level of cooperation between the HRVP’s services (EEAS and FPI). The fulfilment of the objectives of the mission’s mandate depends on the transfer of know-how which is linked to the rapid generation of civilian capabilities. Reaching the full operational capacity of CSDP Missions depends on effective mobilization of human resources and logistics.

Since 2018, most CSDP Missions and EUSRs have two-year mandates. The milestones and targets have been identified on the assumption that these actions will be extended until 2020, while keeping the same objectives.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Support to preservation of stability through substantial CSDP missions and EUSRs mandates

Performance

According to the Treaties, the evaluators of the CFSP achievements are the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Council. Therefore, the Commission has no role in evaluating the degree of achievement of the objectives defined in the Council Decisions or to report on performance of Missions when it comes to their mandate implementation. Currently, the EEAS does not conduct external evaluations to measure the achievements of civilian Missions or EU Special Representatives. Therefore, an accurate assessment of the performance of Missions is currently not available.

Based on information received from the EEAS and the Missions itself, some examples of performance of CSDP Missions (please see also part I of this Programme Statement for further examples) are listed below:

The EU Advisory Mission in support of Security Sector Reform in Iraq (EUAM Iraq) achieved some positive impact in providing advice with regard to national strategies, including developing the Countering Violent Extremism Strategy. The Mission successfully developed and maintained an overview of EU Member States and other international actors activities related to the civilian aspects of the security sector reform and developed tools to ensure effective coordination of the EU and EU Member States' efforts.

The Contribution Agreement with EUAM Iraq covers an amount of EUR 55 million for its 18-month mandate (starting in October 2018). Due to a lower hiring rate than originally foreseen by the Mission, the Mission had to return to the Commission unused funds amounting to EUR 7 million. The Commission was in a position to recommit these funds in the course of 2019 for the benefit of other CFSP actions. The Mission was pillar-assessed and declared compliant in line with the Financial Regulation in 2019.

As regards the EU Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission (EUBAM) in Libya, currently operating from Tunis, the Mission – continued working and engaging with counterparts and relevant stakeholders to prepare the ground for its return to Tripoli. The return took place in September 2019 in a reduced format. Concrete progress was achieved in the area of border management reform, including a dialogue on projects related to the support to the Integrated Border and Migration Management in the south of Libya and in the area of law enforcement and criminal justice, with a workshop on the National Counter Terrorism Strategy and the re-launching of the Criminal Justice Working Group.

The Contribution Agreement signed with EUBAM Libya for its 18-month mandate (starting in January 2019) covers an amount of EUR 49 million. During the course of 2019, the Mission was relocated from Tripoli to Tunis due to the deterioration of the security situation triggered by hostilities between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Government of National Accord (GNA). As a result, the Mission could not implement its activities in full and therefore returned an amount of EUR 10 million to the Commission. This amount was committed again in 2019 for other CFSP actions.

As regards the EU Capacity Building Mission in Niger, in spite of a deteriorating security environment, the Mission, with support from Member States present in Niamey, successfully supported the Nigerien security forces through a set of crisis management exercises in preparation for the African Union Summit which took place in Niamey in July. At strategic level, in cooperation between the Mission and the EU Delegation, a partnership has been established with the Nigeriens in the drafting of a National Policy on Defence and Security. A methodology for mentoring activities has been implemented, which allows the Mission to deliver in an increasing number of competencies, such as forensic, crisis management, detection of forged documents. EUCAP Sahel Niger continues to ensure greater sustainability of its efforts in training Nigerian trainers. The Mission also increased its support to the Nigerien in the trust-building between the security forces and the civil society in particular in Agadez. In addition, work on the Compagnies Mobiles de Controle des Frontieres (CMCF) project advanced well.

Indicator 1: Degree of achievement of the objectives as defined in the respective Council Decision / Joint Action								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUMM Georgia 0.91	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	91.0 %	72.0 %	73.0 %	73.0 %	96.6 %	75.0 %		
2008	Milestones foreseen							2020
EULEX Kosovo 0.91	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	87.0 %	86.0 %	92.0 %	93.3 %	89.0 %	83.0 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUBAM Libya	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %		87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
			25.0 %	95.8 %	72.2 %	47.0 %		
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUPOL COPPS 0.91	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	91.0 %	82.0 %	92.0 %	68.6 %	92.0 %	80.0 %		
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUAM Iraq 0.91	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %		87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %

	Actual results							
					37.0 %	86.0 %		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUCAP Sahel Mali	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	50.0 %	74.0 %	77.0 %	72.1 %	82.9 %	78.0 %		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUAM Ukraine	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	62.0 %	81.9 %	89.0 %	81.2 %	92.1 %	87.0 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUCAP Sahel Niger 0.725	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	80.7 %	79.0 %	65.0 %	74.0 %	86.0 %	85.9 %		
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUCAP Somalia (previously EUCAP Nestor) 0.08	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
	54.0 %	72.0 %	88.0 %	73.2 %	100.0 %	78.0 %		
2018	Milestones foreseen							2020
EUBAM Rafah	80.5 %	82.3 %	85.0 %	86.0 %	87.0 %		90.0 %	90.0 %
	Actual results							
				100.0 %	100.0 %	93.0 %		

Comment: Libya: Operational activities stalled partially or fully between 2014 and 2016 and again in 2019 due to relocation of Mission to Tunis. Iraq: Mission established in October 2017; low deployment rate in 2018, as the authorised strength of Mission was increased from 52 to 98 staff members end of 2018 and recruitment was not finalised by end of 2018.

Source: EEAS-CPCC Statistics on human resources deployment in CSDP Missions.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Draft Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. CSDP Mission: EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia	19 03 01 01	1	22
2. CSDP Mission: EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo)	19 03 01 02	2	79
3. CSDP Mission: EUPOL (EU Police Mission) Afghanistan	19 03 01 03	0	0
4. CSDP Mission: EUCAP Sahel Mali	19 03 01 04	1	29
5. CSDP Mission: EUCAP Sahel Niger	19 03 01 04	1	29
6. CSDP Mission: EU Police Mission for the Palestine Territories (EUPOL COPPS)	19 03 01 04	1	10
7. CSDP Mission: EUCAP Nestor (Somalia)	19 03 01 04	1	24,9
8. CSDP Mission: EUBAM Ukraine	19 03 01 04	1	22
9. Warehouse	19 03 01 04	1	14
10. Other CSDP Missions	19 03 01 04	5	61,527
11. Emergency measures (including reserve for the financing of staff and other costs in support of the EUSRs based outside the EU)	19 03 01 05	1	11
12. Preparatory and follow-up measures	19 03 01 06	2	1
13. EU Special Representatives	19 03 01 07	8	20
Total			323,427

The budget line 'other civilian CSDP Missions' covers the funding for the following: Warehouse II, EUAM Iraq, EUAM Ukraine, EUBAM Libya, EUBAM Rafah, EUPOLCOPPS, EUAM RCA, EUCAP Somalia, EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUCAP Sahel Niger.

Specific Objective 2: Support the implementation and promotion of: 1) strategy on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in order to increase security in this area (WMD); 2) strategy on combating illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as well as measures against illicit spread and trafficking of other conventional weapons; 3) EU's policies in the field of conventional arms exports, in particular on the basis of Common Position CFSP/944/2008

Performance

The different key performance indicators for Specific Objective 2 vary in nature. The number of countries having ratified the Comprehensive Test-ban Treaty has increased steadily, and is currently well on track to reach the goal of 169 ratifications in 2020. The number of countries having implemented the national implementation plan for UN Resolution 1540 started from a very low baseline, and has more than doubled from 14 in 2014 to 39 in 2019. The number of countries provided Nuclear Security Assistance by the IAEA varies year by year, and is not cumulative. The indicator has remained within the bounds of the baseline (82) and the maximum target (120) throughout the period. Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty remains well below the target, only reaching the 100 ratifications milestone for 2017 in 2019 and with no prospect of reaching the 2020 target of 130.

Indicator 1: Number of countries having ratified the treaties mentioned in the baseline								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, CTBTO 159	Actual results							169
	163	164	166	166	167	168	166	
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
UN Resolution 1540	Actual results							192
	14	21	26	31	35	39	175	
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Nuclear security assistance provided by IAEA 82	Actual results							120
	100	104	120	104	97	97	up to 120	
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
Arms Trade Treaty	Actual results							130
	61	79	88	89	95	105	100	

Narrative: Sub indicators comments:

b) Baseline: Number of countries having submitted the National Implementation Plan.

c) Target: Focusing on countries for EU interest.

d) Baseline: number of ratifications NB: entered into force on 24/12/2014

Comment: Progress in other monitoring reports will be followed: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC).

To be noted that some results would seem relatively low, compared to the targets set for 2020. Indeed, the indicator measuring the number of countries having ratified the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is subject to political decisions by states to ratify or not. In addition, delays in the start-up of the support programmes and their implementation further negatively impact on the achievement of actual results. The same is true for nuclear security assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency, as adherence to this programme is demand-driven.

Source: CTBTO website: <http://www.ctbto.org/the-treaty/status-of-signature-and-ratification/>

UN Resolution 1540 website: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>

IAEA website: <https://www.iaea.org/Publications/index.html>

Arms Trade Treaty website: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT/>

Unit of measure: Number of countries or state parties that ratified resolutions

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1. Projects in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction	19 03 02	7	17
2. Projects in the area of non-proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons	19 03 02	4	11
Total			28

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Projects in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction	F	4	5	5	6	6	6	4
	P	4	5	2	7	4		
2. Projects in the area of non-proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.	F	3	3	3	3	3	4	1
	P	1	3	1	6	4		

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Gender mainstreaming

Civilian CSDP Missions and EUSRs

While gender activities are not the main core task of the civilian CSDP Missions, they do, to a certain extent, cover topics related to gender in their work in line with Objective 2.2.1 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020. This is done in particular through measures to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls, such as:

- EUCAP Sahel Mali integrated human rights and gender awareness across its activities, e.g. through the organisation of a workshop on Women, Peace and Security in May 2019 in close cooperation with civil society.
- EUPOL COPP: In close cooperation with the UN Women and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) training department, the Mission has engaged in discussions on the review of the gender training package for the PCP, with the aim of building a more gender responsive organization, including concrete steps to raise awareness and build internal capacities.
- EUBAM RAFAH supported enhancing the awareness of the General Administration for Border and Crossings (GABC) staff on Human Rights and Gender Issues through trainings and projects. In August 2019, the Mission provided the equipment necessary for a breastfeeding room, with the aim of enhancing the ability of the GABC to conduct border checks whilst taking into account gender sensitivities.
- EUAM Iraq works with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior on gender related aspects of the security sector reform and on domestic violence. The Mission also supports the Female Training Institute of the Ministry of Interior. A joint event on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security was organized with the NATO Mission in Iraq.

EUSRs address gender issues throughout their activities. For example, the EUSR Kosovo launched in January 2019 a series of monthly debates ‘EU Gender Talks: Because We Make a Difference’, which gathered more than 400 participants from Kosovo institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. He continued backing government’s efforts to fight gender-based violence. In May 2019, the EUSR launched the project ‘Women in Politics, Confidence, influence and effective leadership’, aimed at training Kosovo women with leadership potential and ultimately at improving the situation of under-representation of women in politics in Kosovo.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions also contribute to a gender perspective. An example is the decision of the Council of 2018 to approve a three-year actions to be implemented by the United Nation Office for Disarmament Affairs aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of small arms control measures through gender analysis and integration of gender perspectives. Activities under the action include training national officials in eighteen countries on gender-mainstreaming and small arms control; promoting gender mainstreaming in regional initiatives; strengthening the small arms control component in the Women Peace and Security (WPS) framework, and awareness-raising and partnerships. The contribution of the EU amounts to EUR 4,4 million.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) contributes directly to the achievement of General Objective No 9 ‘A stronger global actor’ of the priorities of the Juncker Commission as well as those of the new Commission ‘A stronger Europe in the World’ in the area of Security and Defence. Taking into account the distinct, yet shared, responsibilities of the Council, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPi) in relation to CFSP actions, CFSP actions contribute to the support to:

- the preservation of stability through CSDP Missions and EUSR Mandates
- the implementation and promotion of: 1) strategy on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in order to increase security in this area (WMD); 2) strategy on combating illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light

Weapons (SALW) as well as measures against illicit spread and trafficking of other conventional weapons; 3) EU's policies in the field of conventional arms exports, in particular on the basis of Common Position CFSP/944/2008'.

The work of some Missions may in addition indirectly help achieving development SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). However, it is to be noted that CSDP Missions (and EUSRs) do not report on their activities against the SDGs.

The CSDP Missions work in the area of civilian security sector reform, including police and rule of law (EUAM Ukraine and Iraq), the fight against terrorism and organised crime (EUCAP Sahel Mali), maritime capacity building (EUCAP Somalia) and border management (EUBAM Libya, EUAM Iraq). There are three types of Missions: capacity building Missions, monitoring Missions and advisory Missions, and some of their work could indirectly help building accountable Institutions. This is, for instance, the case in Ukraine where the Mission advises national institutions in their fight against corruption and in streamlining community policing and in Kosovo, where the EU Rule of Law Mission provides support to Kosovo Police's crowd and riot control capability. The Mission continues to manage a witness protection programme and assists the Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office based in The Hague with logistic and operational support in line with the relevant Kosovo legislation. As regards the promotion of institutions at all levels, the Art. 28 TEU Action in Mopti can be mentioned, which aimed at stabilising the Centre region of Mali and contributing good governance.

As neither Missions nor EU Special Representatives are subject to external evaluation, the direct or indirect impact of their work towards these goals cannot be adequately assessed by the Commission.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

Lead DG: DEVCO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The promotion of nuclear safety is a key priority for the EU since the early days of the EEC and Euratom. The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation contributes to the promotion of the implementation of international treaties and conventions as well as the adoption of the highest safety standards complementing work inside the EU. It also exports the ‘*acquis communautaire*’ worldwide and promotes nuclear safety cooperation. The INSC is the only specific tool of the European Union addressing nuclear safety issues in partner countries, complementing other external financing instruments, for example as part of the neighbourhood policy. It covers cooperation in nuclear safeguards which is essential to the global non-proliferation policy.

The Fukushima Daichii accident in 2011 after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 showed that any accident has trans-boundary effects, and impacts the international community widely. The access to nuclear or radioactive materials is a security concern for the global world, with proven evidence that non-State actors are trying to access such materials. The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation has successfully contributed to the reduction of both risks, by providing support especially to regulatory authorities, in particular in countries under the EU’s neighbourhood policy such as Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Ukraine engaged in nuclear power generation. It also contains health and ecological measures directed to the population that suffered from the Chernobyl accident in Ukraine and Belarus.

The safe management of waste has included support to Ukraine in dealing with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, as well as in cleaning up contaminated sites, and a large remediation programme in Central Asia to address the legacy of former uranium mining sites left abandoned after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Both programmes have had an important and direct impact on the affected population living in the area, in order to improve their safety as well as their quality of life.

EU added value of the programme

The INSC is the external policy instrument of the EU that plays a role in the framework of the G7 in particular the Global Partnership Program against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and supports G7 decommissioning programmes. It provides for the EU’s policy role at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this field.

The added value of the Instrument received international recognition at the 7th IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety review meeting in 2017, where ‘*the implementation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation Program for assisting non-EU countries*’ was officially acknowledged worldwide as ‘good practice’.

The completed Mid Term Review (MTR) on the external financing instruments of the EU acknowledged INSC’s ⁽¹⁾ unique value added due to the institutional framework that allows the Commission to act at a global level; the instrument is supporting complementarities, coordination and synergies to other thematic and geographical external policies and is effective in leveraging financial resources for nuclear safety.

The major decline over time in the scale of cooperation with nuclear operators (from 63M in 2007-2009 to 3M in 2012-2013) and the cessation of support for safety improvements, due to the events related to the Fukushima accident, warrants careful reflection for the future. Nuclear safety is, in practice, achieved by those who design, construct, operate and decommission nuclear installations. Failure to fully recognise this reality is likely to result in the sub-optimal allocation of future INSC resources in enhancing global nuclear safety. While the importance of transferring European knowledge and experience in supporting the establishment of competent and independent nuclear regulators elsewhere is not in question, the transfer of European experience in the safe design, construction and operation of nuclear installations is likely to be even more effective in enhancing global nuclear safety. This aspect warrants careful consideration in optimising the scope and content of further INSC activities.

Implementation mode

The implementation of the projects is primarily done through centralised management (90 %) by international call for tenders. In specific cases (Chernobyl, Central Asia), the INSC contributes to international funds through grant agreement. DEVCO also uses grant agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Science and Technology Center of Ukraine and the International Science and Technology Center when relevant. Finally, DEVCO is implementing a joint project with a Member State implementing agency in Georgia through a grant agreement.

More information: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/instrument-nuclear-safety-cooperation_en

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0605&qid=1550490928991&from=EN>

II. Programme Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Commission adopted 43 actions for the period 2016 – 2019 to be implemented in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, the Philippines, Georgia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ghana as well as regional projects in Central and South-East Asia, Southern Africa, the Balkans and Gulf countries. These actions are distributed in line with the multiannual indicative programme around the four pillars: promotion of nuclear safety culture (20 actions), safe management of spent fuel and radioactive wastes (13), nuclear materials safeguards (6) and support measures (5).

The annual Action Programme 2017 consists of 11 Actions (Armenia, (2), Georgia, Iran (2), Serbia (2), Ukraine, Contribution to the Nuclear Safety Account and the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia and support measures). The two contributions to the funds managed by the EBRD have been paid in 2017. All actions without financing agreement with the beneficiary countries are subject to N+1 rule and therefore were contracted before 31/12/2018. Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, were contracted by the end of 2021 (7 contracts).

The Annual Action Programme 2018 consists of 4 Actions addressing the promotion of the nuclear safety culture (6 actions), the safe management of radioactive wastes (5), the nuclear safeguards (3) and the support measures (1) implemented in (Ukraine (2), Ghana, Iran, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia (2), Emergency Preparedness and Response, Training and Education (4), cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and support measures). One of the project with Ukraine failed to be implemented; the Programme has been amended to contribute to the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia. The contribution to this fund managed by the EBRD was paid in 2018. All actions subject to N+1 rule will be contracted before 31/12/2019. Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, will be contracted by the end of 2022 (5 contracts).

The Annual Action Programme 2019 consists of 7 Actions addressing the promotion of the nuclear safety culture (4 actions), the safe management of radioactive wastes (3) and the support measures (1) implemented in (Ukraine (2), Armenia, Iran, Georgia, Central Asia and South East Asia. The contribution to the Environmental Remediation Account managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EUR 10 million) has been paid in 2019. All actions subject to N+1 rule will be contracted before 31/12/2021 (4 contracts). Several projects, subject to the N+ 3 rule, will be contracted by the end of 2023 (3 contracts).

Key achievements

Promoting the nuclear safety culture: Competence of the staff working in the nuclear area is of utmost importance to ensure that the use of nuclear technology is safe. Confirming the success of the programme, the Training and Tutoring (T&T) actions transferring the EU knowledge to students and young professionals has trained more than 2 400 staff in the beneficiary countries during 2014-2019 period, of which 33 % of women contributing to the gender goal in a highly specialised scientific area.

Safe management of Radioactive Wastes: The **Central Asia** states have inherited one billion tons of hazardous processing waste highly toxic chemical and radioactive residues left behind and unsafely stored in uranium legacy sites. The EU flagship programme for the remediation of the legacy sites is now mature for implementation, with the completion of the necessary feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments. The EBRD, upon the European Commission request, established in 2015 a dedicated multi-donor Environmental Remediation Account (ERA). The European Commission has organised in 2017 and 2018 a very successful side event during the 72nd and 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York, the latter with the participation of former Commissioner Neven Mimica. A donor's conference took place on 8 November 2018 at the EBRD in London where six donors pledged EUR 17.16 million. The first two remediation projects in Kyrgyzstan are starting in 2020.

A major milestone to make the **Chernobyl** site environmentally stable and safe was met on 29 November 2016 by sliding the New Safe Confinement over the nuclear reactor destroyed in April 1986. The New Safe Confinement is a giant arch-shaped structure that covers the damaged Chernobyl Unit 4 in order to prevent any further radioactive release. It is a unique engineering project with the following proportions: a span of 257 metres, a length of 162 metres and a height of 108 metres. The New Safe Confinement also contains the remotely operated equipment for ultimate removal of the damaged reactor and radioactive material. This important milestone in the project was achieved thanks to the joint effort of the European Union, Ukraine, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the international community. The total project cost is in the order of EUR 1.5 billion, to which the EU contributed more than 430 million (under the Tacis (EUR 210 million) and INSC (EUR 220 million) programmes). In July 2019, the facility was officially handed-over to the Ukrainian government.

Capacity Building: The first project supporting the **Iranian** Nuclear Regulatory Authority has been kicked-off in July 2017 and is running smoothly in a very cooperative atmosphere. Two follow-up projects are on-going to establish the Nuclear Safety Center in Tehran, in compliance with the EU commitment to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and perform the stress tests at the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Another project has been adopted under the Annual Action Programme 2019 demonstrating the reaffirmed commitment of the EU to the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and a fifth one will be submitted under the annual action programme 2020.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU's external financing instruments ('the instruments') to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective

implementation of the EU's assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments is still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments.

The INSC mid-term review report SWD (2017) 605 final ⁽²⁾ was presented by the Commission on 15 December 2017. The final report of the External Evaluation of the DCI for 2014-mid 2017 was published in June 2017.

Three evaluation upon the request of the Member States have been completed and presented to the INSC committee in 2019. They assessed the results of the Training and Tutoring programme, the EU support to Armenia and the support to Ukraine in the area of waste management. A final evaluation of the INSC as foreseen in the regulation is planned for 2023

Forthcoming implementation

The priorities for 2019 / 2020 are defined in accordance with the objective of the INSC Regulation (2014-2020) and the corresponding MIP (2018 – 2020). Priority will be given to Accession Countries (Balkan Countries) and countries in the European Neighbourhood area (ENP East: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine; ENP South: Jordan, Morocco, Iran and Iraq) and Africa. The improvement of the nuclear safety culture will remain the primary objective under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Activities in waste management including environmental remediation and decommissioning will continue and cooperation in the field of Safeguards will be maintained.

In 2020, the support to the Iranian Nuclear Regulator will continue including the establishment of the Nuclear Safety Center foreseen under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and for which the feasibility financed by the EU has been completed early 2018. Continuation with Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia as well as implementation of the action plan for the Western Balkans in emergency, preparedness and response will be proposed. The 2020 programme will include nuclear waste projects to address the issue in Moldova and Ukraine.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission presented the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a European Instrument for Nuclear Safety, complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (EINS). This proposal aims at continuing the activities currently carried out under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation with a global geographical coverage.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) No 237/2014 of 13 December 2013 establishing an Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation	2014 – 2020	225,3

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	1,2	1,4	1,4	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	9,9
Operational appropriations	29,3	59,7	70,4	50,0	31,5	32,2	31,4	304,5
Total	30,5	61,2	71,8	51,4	33,0	33,6	32,9	314,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	33,630	99,94 %	29,527	98,15 %	32,885	2,81 %	25,191	5,54 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	33,630	99,94 %	30,038	98,08 %	32,885	2,81 %	25,715	6,05 %

(*) 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

(2) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0605&rid=1>

3. Performance information

Programme performance

During previous programmes (Tacis from 1991 to 2006 and INSC from 2007 to 2020), cooperation with the regulatory authorities was primarily aimed at improving the governmental, legal and regulatory frameworks, based on the experience in the EU. This involved the transfer of regulatory practices used in the EU Member States. This will continue in the future by transferring the EU regulatory methodologies and providing institutional support, including training and education. It will also aim to promote the EU’s integrated approach towards nuclear safety, and set up regional cooperation in this area, in particular on emergency preparedness and response. This support will also promote relevant international Conventions and Treaties and encourage the countries which are not yet part to consider joining.

The Programme will also continue to support nuclear waste management activities, including environmental remediation and management of radioactive wastes and spent fuel issued from the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. Support will cover, in general, the development of regulatory frameworks, national strategies and feasibility studies and, in some cases, the implementation of the strategies, including establishment of safe and secured waste repositories.

Last but not least, the programme will aim at strengthening and enhancing nuclear material accountancy and control in relevant nuclear fuel cycle facilities. The objective of the cooperation will be the improvement of technical and organisational measures in line with State or Regional System of Accountancy and Control (SAC) mechanisms based on recommended international standards and EU expertise.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Union shall finance measures to support the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries

Indicator 1: Number of countries benefiting from EU support in developing of a culture of safety for nuclear energy								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Countries: 6	Actual results							12
	6	13	17	19	21	25		
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Regions:	Actual results							3
			2		4	4		

Narrative: 3 target regions are Central Asia, Africa, South East Asia

Comment: Armenia, Belarus, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, Iraq, Morocco, Tanzania, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Iran, Mongolia, the Philippines, Georgia, Serbia, Bosna and Herzegovina and Ghana. Regional project in Central Asia, Southern Africa, the Balkans and Gulf countries. The countries embarking on nuclear energy are: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. The countries with radioprotection issues are Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: The promotion of an effective nuclear safety culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and continuous improvement of nuclear safety.

Performance

Indicator 1: Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise

The ultimate aim of the Programme is the functioning of independent and competent nuclear safety authorities in each of the partner countries. This will result in effective and efficient licensing processes and activities of supervision, notification and emergency response. Improved nuclear safety, accident prevention and severe accident management are the major expected outcomes.

At the preparation phase of the projects, a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently during the implementation phase, these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, and draft regulations). This indicator measures the number of nuclear safety regulatory documents (and actions such as laws, regulations, guidelines) that are produced with the support of the EU project and which proposes solution to the issues identified. At the final

stage, those documents are adopted by the Beneficiary country and applied by the concerned stakeholders (operators, regulatory authorities, nuclear facilities).

Indicator 1: Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							Total 2014-2020
4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
	Actual results							
	5	8	13	18	30	36		

Comment: The number of deliverables in 2018 reached a peak corresponding to the reported increase with the completion of major projects. These documents are: i) the feasibility study for the Nuclear Safety Center in Iran foreseen in the annex 3 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action presented in June 2018 to the representatives of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China and Russia; ii) the pre-construction safety assessment report for the radioactive waste disposal facility in Iraq; iii) 6 regulations and guidelines for Jordan; iv) 4 reference regulatory documents for Iran. Commission Implementing Decision of 13.06.2014 on the Instrument for Nuclear Safety cooperation Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014 – 2017) COM(2014)3764 Final.

This indicator describes the implementation of EU projects:

At the preparation phase of the projects, a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently during the implementation phase these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, draft regulations). This indicator measures the number of nuclear safety regulatory documents (and actions such as laws, regulations, guidelines) that are produced with the support of the EU project and which proposes solution to the issues identified. At the final stage, those documents are adopted by the Beneficiary country and applied by the concerned stakeholders (operators, regulatory authorities, nuclear facilities). This indicator is amongst the programme implementation indicators in the MIP 2014-2017.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
1.Number of regulations and/or guidance in nuclear safety benefitting of the transfer of EU expertise	21 06 01	1	9,9
2. number of staff trained in the beneficiary countries	21 06 01	120	3
3. EC additional contribution to EBRD for the Chernobyl accident related projects*	21 06 02		0
Total			12.9

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.number of regulations and/or guidance in nuclear safety benefitting of the transfer of EU expertise	F	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	P	5	8	13	18	30	36	
2. number of staff trained in the beneficiary countries	F	90	180	280	400	520	600	740
	P	291	706	1226	1691	2256	2600*	
3. EC additional contribution to EBRD for the Chernobyl accident related projects (EUR million)*	F	N/A	30	70	100	N/A	N/A	N/A
	P	0	30	70	89.1			

* The number of trainees under the ‘Training and Tutoring’ programme is annual and amount to 344 trainees, among whom 13 tutees in 2019. It reflects the attractiveness and efficiency of the programme that corresponds to an identified need in the beneficiary countries. This increased value (compared to the foreseen output) is due to the cumulative effect of the projects that are running in parallel

Specific Objective 2: Responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, namely transport, pre-treatment, treatment, processing, storage and disposal, and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations.

Performance

It is expected that the projects under this component will contribute to the development and/or improvement of national strategies, feasibility studies and regulatory frameworks related to the management of radioactive waste, spent fuel, nuclear material and radioactive sources, some of which will have implications for the improvement of nuclear security.

The indicator ‘Number of waste management and remediation documents developed with EU support’ measures the number of documents produced with the EU support in the area of nuclear wastes: strategy, policy, regulation, laws, guidelines, environmental impact assessment and feasibility studies for remediation or decommissioning. ‘Waste management documents’ has a broad meaning and does include also documents like spent fuel, nuclear waste and decommissioning strategies.

Indicator 2: Number of waste management and remediation documents developed with EU support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							Total 2014-2020
4	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
	Actual results							
	2	3	5	8	13	18		

Comment: Infrastructure improvement for radioactive waste management remediation of contaminated sites and decommissioning in Ukraine including the following document: ‘Analysis of investigation priorities for 32 DWSF facilities with uncertain site conditions and radioactivity inventory data’; ii) Development and final approval of 2 remediation plans including feasibility studies for sustainable environmental remediation of uranium legacy sites of Degmay and Taboshar in Tajikistan; iii) National Strategy for Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management complemented by Action Plan for the Strategy Implementation and Feasibility Study of radioactive waste management at Sewaqa site in Jordan’. The increase of the target from 8 to 9 is reflecting the newly identified need in Moldova that was unplanned at the beginning of the exercise. We are engaging jointly with Sweden in supporting the country under the current instrument taking into account the framework now fully in place to allow implementation of projects.

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Number of regulatory document issued benefitting of the transfer of the EU expertise	21 06 01	2	13.5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of national strategies developed with EU support	F	1	1	2	2	3	4	4
	P	2	3	3	3	5	5	
Number of regulatory document issued benefitting of the transfer of the EU expertise	F	0	1	1	2	3	3	3
	P	0	1	3	6	7	12	

Specific Objective 3: The establishment of frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in third countries.

Performance

Strengthening and enhancing nuclear material accountancy and control in relevant nuclear fuel cycle facilities remains a priority for this programme. Cooperation is expected to reinforce the training of authorities and intensify the transfer of modern equipment and methodologies. The regulatory body in charge of this area is also often involved in non-proliferation activities. Enhanced safeguards and improved nuclear material accountancy and control of nuclear materials will contribute to the improvement of security. This is in line with the current EU and global initiatives in this field, in particular those under the umbrella of the IAEA.

The indicator ‘Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects’ describes more effectively the implementation of our projects. During the preparation phase of projects a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently, during the implementation phase these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, and draft regulations). The indicator measures the number of national or international safeguards organisations that benefit from projects transferring the EU expertise in the area of safeguards.

Indicator 1: Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							Total 2014-2020
0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	3
	Actual results							
	0	1	1	3	4	4		

Unit of measure: NB: the figures are cumulative.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support to regional safeguards systems	21 06 01	1	5

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Support to regional safeguards systems	F	0	1	1	2	2	3	3
	P	0	1	1	2	3	4	

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

The environmental remediation projects in Central Asia and Ukraine are contributing to the **Climate Change Adaptation** in the concerned regions. Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimize the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. As an example, the environmental remediation program in CA is all about **Climate Change Adaptation**. We are preventing serious ecological and environmental risks and disasters by remediating fragile and unsecure tailings sites located next to the rivers. These rivers are more and more frequently experiencing spring flash floods due to rapidly melting glaciers in Central Asia. Climate change will generate increased natural hazards (as e.g. rainfall, landslides, mudflow, etc.) that will in turn disperse toxic materials if not properly contained.

Gender mainstreaming

The contribution of the programme to gender equality is mainly achieved through all activities related to training and tutoring for which the European Commission strongly encourages the enrolment of women that in turn will provide additional opportunity for career development.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The European Union and its Member States agree to the new framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). The Commission is committed to a thorough approach for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda.

The European Consensus on Development ⁽³⁾ reiterates the need for full compliance with international environmental and nuclear safety standards in partner countries. Through its multidimensional approach that touches on the interlinkages between nuclear safety, health, the environment, and related issues, the INSC programme contributes to various other key areas of the European Consensus on Development. More specifically, the INSC advances the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 2. The remediation programme of uranium legacy sites will clear water and land for a sustainable agriculture in a region known as the breadbasket of Central Asia (Ferghana Valley).

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Remediation programmes in Central Asia and Ukraine will have a direct positive impact on the health of the affected population.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The Training and Tutoring programme provides education opportunities in the beneficiary countries.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Remediation activities, in particular in Central Asia, aim at restoring and providing to clean water.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Remediation activities in central Asia and Ukraine, aim at reversing land degradation.

⁽³⁾ ‘The new European Consensus on Development: Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future’. Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission (OJEU C 210/1, 30.6.2017).

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Union Civil Protection Mechanism – Heading 4

Lead DG: ECHO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) facilitates the cooperation in disaster response among 34 European States (28 EU Member States, the Republic of North Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey). When activated, the Mechanism coordinates, through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission, the provision of assistance that the UCPM Participating States can make available to disaster-stricken countries all over the world. The support provided through the UCPM can take the form of in-kind assistance, deployment of specially equipped teams, or assessment and coordination experts sent to the field.

Under Heading 3, the UCPM coordinates and supplements the actions of the Member States in the field of civil protection with a view to improving the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters within the Participating States of the UCPM.

Under Heading 4, the UCPM supports rapid and efficient disaster response interventions in the event of major disaster in third countries. It also supports disaster prevention and preparedness activities in eligible third countries, the primary beneficiaries of which are the European Neighbourhood Policy countries and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) beneficiary countries, not yet participating in the UCPM.

Cooperation in civil protection with IPA countries as well as with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries is also carried out through the regional IPA, PPRD East ⁽¹⁾ and PPRD South ⁽²⁾ programmes. The aim is that Western Balkan countries ⁽³⁾, Turkey, Eastern and Southern partner countries become closely involved in European civil protection activities. Three programmes are currently ongoing:

The multi-country IPA Floods, which aimed at improving flood risk management, develop, train and equip three different flood response teams for each country (Boats, High Capacity Pumping and Flood Containment modules) and provide technical assistance to support the implementation/approximation to the European flood directive. The programme finished in March 2018.

The multi-country IPA Disaster Risk Assessment and Mapping programme, (IPA DRAM) aims at improving national systems for disaster loss data collection, risk assessment and mapping and support the development of national risk assessments in line with EU guidelines and good practices and establishment of the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas (ERRA).

PPRD East and PPRD South programmes aim to enhance Partner Countries' civil protection capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and response and to strengthen regional cooperation and bringing the Partner Countries progressively closer to the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

EU added value of the programme

Disasters know no borders. A well-coordinated response at a European level is necessary to avoid duplication of relief efforts and ensure that assistance meets the real needs of the affected region. Civil protection assistance consists of governmental aid delivered in the immediate aftermath of a disaster aiming to reduce the loss of human life, environmental, economic and material damage caused by disasters. It can take the form of in-kind assistance, deployment of specially-equipped teams or assessment and coordination by experts sent to the field.

For a coherent, predictable and more visible EU response to disasters, the European Response Capacity was set up ready to help everywhere in the EU and in third countries, when needed.

The EU's added value comes in the form of:

- reducing the loss of human life, environmental, economic and material damage caused by disasters through a comprehensive approach covering disaster prevention, preparedness and response;
- an improved understanding disaster risks through cooperation on risk assessment and planning, and the gradual development of a culture of disaster prevention;
- an improved preparedness for disasters through training, exercises, exchange of best practices and similar activities;

⁽¹⁾ Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).

⁽²⁾ Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Turkey. Mauritania is an observer country)

⁽³⁾ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia,

- an improved coordination of the response to disasters by bringing together and facilitating Member States' offers of assistance; increased cost-effectiveness through the pooling of assistance, the sharing of transport capacities, the identification of complementarities and the avoidance of duplication; a coherent, predictable and more visible response to disasters through the set-up of a European response capacity ready to help when needed.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management (grants and procurement).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

Concerning the international dimension of the UCPM, the activities were implemented as planned in the UCPM legislation and the Commission Implementing Decision in all areas: disaster prevention, preparedness and response. Over this period, 12 prevention and preparedness projects were financed to support national efforts to improve their disaster risk management. Moreover, the UCPM was activated on 49 occasions (68 % of total activations) by third countries during this timeframe.

During this period the UCPM legislation (Decision No 1313/2013/EU) was revised, without affecting negatively the implementation of the instrument. Although the bulk of the legislative review focused on the internal dimension, the external component of the UCPM was also reinforced with references to a closer cooperation with neighbours in all areas.

The period witnessed clear positive impact of UCPM and other EU support to preparedness in the EU Neighbourhood with e.g. concrete examples of solidarity of EU Neighbours among themselves and toward EU Member States. One of the best examples is the forest fires in Georgia in 2019, for which countries such as Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine or Turkey provided assistance to Georgia, putting in place procedures acquired through the disaster management programmes covered by the Mechanism (PPRD East).

In addition, as part of the EU's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Commission proposed to reinforce the UCPM in third countries by EUR 45 million in 2020, so as to support repatriations of EU citizens.

Key achievements

The UCPM intervenes in all phases of the disaster management cycle: prevention, preparedness and response. This section outlines some of the key achievements of 2019 in the three areas:

- The UCPM financed 3 cross-border disaster preparedness projects ⁽⁴⁾.
- Two 'EU Peer Reviews on Disaster Risk Management' were conducted outside of the UCPM (Algeria and Tunisia).
- An advisory mission was deployed through the UCPM to Georgia to provide an assessment of the state of play and to develop a road map for the establishment of the training centre for fire fighters, rescuers and local crisis managers.
- The regional cooperation with Mediterranean countries was revived through a third meeting of Civil Protection Directors General of the Union for Mediterranean (UfM) in February 2019 in Barcelona. The Directors General agreed to continue and deepen operational cooperation in civil protection and to set up three working groups to tackle the following topics: (1) engaging citizens in disaster risk management, (2) civil protection volunteers and (3) preparing for efficient mutual assistance. The latter took place in November 2019.
- A grant was signed to reinforce preparedness in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Two regional programmes were successfully completed (IPA Disaster Risk Assessment and Mapping and the programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Disaster East II – PPRD East II).
- The UCPM facilitated the provision of assistance to the following countries: Bolivia, Lebanon, Bahamas, Albania, Djibouti, Samoa, Mauritius, Mozambique, Iran, Guatemala.. A particular emphasis should be put on was the operation in Mozambique following the landfall of tropical cyclone IDAI, which was one of the biggest UCPM operations outside the EU, given the number of EU rescuers/staff deployed (more than 400) and the length of deployment (more than six weeks). It was by far the largest medical component deployed under the UCPM: four Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), with more than 170 doctors and nurses. There have been 13 European Union Civil Protection (EUCP) missions, with 78 experts and 18 ERCC liaison officers deployed.

⁽⁴⁾ The three projects were: a) BEst Rapid Environmental Assessment Decision sYstem (Be-Ready) – beneficiaries: Italy, Spain, Lebanon, Jordan; b) Commanding and Operations Mechanism for Multisector Analysis of Nexus Disaster data (COMMAND d) – beneficiaries: Croatia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Montenegro; and c) Strengthening Civil Protection Systems through Volunteer Capacities (StrengthVOL) – beneficiaries: Austria, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Ireland.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The key findings of the *latest interim evaluation* were presented in the Programme Statements of 2018 and 2019 (covering the years 2017 and 2018 respectively).

Under the revised Decision 1313/2013/EU, Article 34(2) states that ‘actions receiving financial assistance shall be monitored regularly in order to follow their implementation’. It also contains more general requirements for the Commission to submit a report every two years to the European Parliament and to the Council on the ‘progress towards the capacity goals and remaining gaps’ regarding the European Civil Protection Pool, taking into account the establishment of rescEU capacities. In order to fulfil this requirement, the Commission has launched a preparatory study in October 2018, the so-called ‘Evaluation Study of Definitions, Gaps and Costs of Response Capacities for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism’ whose final report was published on DG ECHO’s website in December 2019. Based on this study, the so-called ‘[Evaluation Study of Definitions, Gaps and Costs of Response Capacities for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism](#)’ whose final report was published on DG ECHO’s website in December 2019. Based on this study, the so-called ‘Art. 34 (2) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on operations and progress made towards the capacity goals and remaining gaps of the European Civil Protection Pool, taking into account the establishment of rescEU capacities’ will be prepared in 2020 (Article 34 of Amended Decision 1313/2013/EU).

Moreover, the Commission should also evaluate the application of the Decision by submitting a communication every five years to the European Parliament and Council on the effectiveness, cost efficiency and continued implementation of the Decision (foreseen for December 2023). Such evaluation should be based on the indicators provided for in Article 3 of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Forthcoming implementation

The immediate focus will be put on the implementation of the new provisions of the legislation in force since March 2019, notably on the development of rescEU capacities and establishment of the Civil Protection Knowledge Network. This also has an immediate impact on the external dimension, since rescEU capacities can be deployed outside the Union (with full Union financing) under certain circumstances.

Some of the key areas in the short-term will be:

- The prevention and preparedness actions with eligible third countries will continue. Prevention and preparedness project, exercises, training and the exchange of experts programme will provide opportunities for the involvement of relevant civil protection authorities to improve their capacities.
- The programme of EU Peer Review on Disaster Risk Management will restart in 2020 with a new 2-year cycle (2020-2021). It is expected that 4 countries in total will undergo a Peer Review, with possibly 1 country (internal or external to the UCPM) in 2020. Response actions outside EU will follow any emergencies that might occur. The voluntary pool will be increasingly used in order to decrease the deployment time after the activation of the Mechanism.
- Cooperation with Mediterranean countries will continue unabated, under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean, with two further working groups on (1) engaging citizens in disaster risk management, (2) civil protection volunteers. Based on the results, a Directors General meeting or a Ministerial could be held in 2021.
- In 2020, based on the results of recent programmes (IPA DRAM and PPRD East II), two regional programmes will start in 2020: one in the Western Balkans and Turkey regarding floods and forest fires and a PPRD East phase III in the Eastern Neighbourhood (Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Disasters). Both regional programmes are financed by funds that are co-delegated from DG NEAR to DG ECHO. PPRD East III will be based on the recommendations of the final evaluation of PPRD East II, that is taking place until early 2020.
- In 2020, two Modex exercises will be held outside of the EU, in Serbia and Turkey. A UCPM full-scale exercise called EU CHEM REACT II will be held in Ukraine. In 2021, Modex exercises will take place in Israel, Moldova and Georgia.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Under the Commission proposal for the next multiannual financial framework period (2021-2027) ⁽⁵⁾, funding related to civil protection has been subsumed into one single heading: Heading 5 ‘Security and Defence’. The specific cluster is ‘Crisis Response’, Title 14, Chapter 02. This cluster will encompass both the internal and external dimensions of civil protection. This is seen as a positive development, as it will make possible an even closer interlinkage between the internal and external dimension of the UCPM.

Concerning the international dimension of the UCPM for the next 7-year period, a revision of the agreements with the Participating States might take place to take into account the developments of the UCPM over the last years. The relationship with the United Kingdom on Civil Protection will also be an important issue, depending on the general advancement of negotiations on the UK’s future relationship with the European Union.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2018) 321 final.

It is also expected that a new international strategy for the UCPM is adopted, outlining the main objectives and priority areas. The enlargement countries and the countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy will continue to be a priority area, given the proximity and close ties. Cooperation with enlargement partners will remain essential as they are either already Participating States or can aspire to become Participating States in the coming years.

The work undertaken with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) will be pursued building on the good dynamic achieved over the past year.

With the revised overall architecture of the future Eastern partnership currently under review politically, the Eastern Neighbourhood countries should remain regionally closely linked to each other and anchored to the UCPM in terms of civil protection cooperation. Inspiration could be sought in the technical and political work carried out under the UfM, to reinforce dialogue between UCPM Member States and Participating States on the one hand and the Eastern Neighbourhood countries on the other hand.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism	2014 – 2020	144,7

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	14,9	19,9	8,1	11,4	6,0	12,6	18,7	91,8
Total	14,9	19,9	8,1	11,4	6,0	12,6	18,7	91,8

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	12,641	100,00 %	8,613	100,00 %	79,519	14,27 %	31,496	4,91 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	13,245	98,53 %	7,204	127,76 %	80,188	14,15 %	32,053	5,91 %

(*) 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 UCPM is not a regular programme funded by the Union, but rather a more complex policy instrument that supports Member States and Participating States in the area of civil protection, intervening in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response). By its external dimension, the UCPM also supports the EU as a global actor, projecting EU solidarity in disasters beyond the EU borders.

In general terms, the UCPM has shown a strong performance over recent years. Notably:

- In the area of prevention and preparedness, cooperation with Enlargement and countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) has been strengthened. As described in the 'Key achievements' section above, the vast array of tools under the UCPM (Peer Reviews, Advisory missions, disaster management programmes, etc.) are being used to support third countries. Of particular relevance is the relaunched cooperation with the Southern neighbourhood from a regional perspective (in addition to the bilateral cooperation), under the framework of the UfM. In 2018, two administrative arrangements were signed, one with Tunisia, one with Georgia, showcasing the political will to cooperate even more on disaster management.
- Concerning response, most of the activations of the UCPM are requested by third countries (85 % of the total number of activations in 2019). This shows the international relevance that the UCPM has acquired over the years. Nevertheless, efforts to raising awareness of the UCPM in third countries should be continued. In this regard, the role of EU Delegations and the DG ECHO regional offices is essential.

Despite a strong performance over the past years, some of the challenges identified recently are listed below, as well some external factors contributing to them:

- The UCPM was not always in a position to respond to activation in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries. However, the reinforced UCPM, and notably the development of the rescEU reserve, can offer further possibilities to respond to disasters in third countries, under specific circumstances.

- Attendance to UCPM Training was not always optimal, in part due to the knowledge of English in the targeted countries. Although English is the main working language in the disaster management area, the Commission has put in place some supporting measures in the intervening time, such as organising training in other languages, such as Arabic and French.
- The rate of application to various activities under the UCPM was sometimes not as high as expected, in part due to the limited knowledge in project management.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The Union Civil Protection Mechanism shall aim at strengthening the cooperation within the EU and facilitating coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters in Third countries.

Indicator 1: Economic damage caused by natural disasters

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2010-2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
155.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0	93.0
	Actual results							
	91.3	78.9	136.1	332.7	105.5	3.1		

Comment: Estimate based on the average of annual economic damage of the 2004-2014 years. The data reflects economic damage caused by natural disasters worldwide excluding the economic damage caused by natural disasters in the Member States of the European Union. The EM-DAT base is frequently updated and historical data revised.

The annual results and evolution of this indicator depends on external factors (occurrence, frequency, severity and location of disasters) which are totally beyond the control of the Commission. In addition, the proportion of reported economic damages varies strongly by countries, disaster type, and time. The specific contribution of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to the evolution of this indicator is difficult to assess.

Source: As recorded in the EM-DAT database

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their effects by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services.

Performance

Indicator 1 shows a divergence with the milestone since in 2019 none of the proposals received under the external call for prevention was successful in the evaluation process. Moreover, as explained in the Programme Statement for Heading 3, a new approach for Prevention and preparedness projects was put in place in 2018, seeking to finance less projects, but with higher impact. As such, the milestones have also been reviewed (reduced) to mirror the new approach. The fact, then, that no projects were financed in 2019 should be understood as an improvement in the methodology and criteria applied to provide funding. Feedback and additional guidance have been provided to applicants to ensure that successful applications can be put forward in the next calls.

Indicator 1: Number of projects financed for prevention in Third countries covered by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and the European Neighbourhood Policy (including exchange of experts)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	4	4	5	7	7	8	8	8
	Actual results							
	4	5	4	3	3			

Comment: In 2019 none of the proposals received under the external call for prevention was successful in the evaluation process.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021*	
		Number	EUR million
Grant agreements	14 02 01		
Contracts	14 02 01		
Total			

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Grant agreements	F	2	2	2	2	2	4-5	2
	P	3	4	3	3	3	2	
Contracts	F			2	1	2	2	2
	P			2	1	0	2	

*In the next MFF, the UCPM will be placed under one single Heading 5 (there will no longer be a difference between internal/external actions). As such, the figures for the draft budget 2021 have been reported in the Heading 3 document of the UCPM.

Specific Objective 2: To enhance preparedness in Third countries to respond to disasters.

Performance

As explained in the Programme Statement for Heading 3, and above in indicator 1, a new approach for Prevention and preparedness projects was put in place in 2018, seeking to finance less projects, but with higher impact. As such, the milestones have also been reviewed (reduced) to mirror the new approach.

Indicator 1: Number of projects financed for preparedness (including training and exercises, workshops and exchanges of experts) in Third countries covered by the Instrument of Pre-Accession and the European Neighbourhood Policy

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	5	5	6	6	6	7	7	7
	Actual results							
	5	6	7	6	3	3		

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021*	
		Number	EUR million
Grant agreements and contracts	14 02 01		

*In the next MFF, the UCPM will be placed under one single Heading 5 (there will no longer be a difference between internal/external actions). As such, the figures for the draft budget 2021 have been reported in the Heading 3 document of the UCPM.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020*
Grant agreements and contracts	F	4	5	6	8	8	6	6
	P	5	6	7	7	3	9	

*As part of the plan to revamp the prevention and preparedness grant programme, it is envisaged a new system whereby projects have to be more targeted and produce higher impact. As a result, fewer projects will be financed, but with a higher financing.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters.

Performance

The improvement witnessed under the indicator measuring Specific Objective 3 needs to be put in context, since this indicator is partly influenced by the number, severity, nature and the specific context of the emergencies for which the UCPM is activated in a given year. As such, an increase or decrease in the reaction time can be explained by the general principle that assistance can only be delivered after the requesting country has accepted the offer. In some situations, the request is made, but the acceptance is not immediate, as the requesting country might consider that it is not needed immediately. In such situations, this creates a distortion in the number of hours, which is not related to the performance of the Mechanism

Indicator 1: Average speed of interventions under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (from the acceptance of the offer to deployment)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
≤ 36	≤ 24			≤ 60			≤ 48	≤ 48
	Actual results							
		22	20	48	75	31		

Comment: The increase in response time in relation to previous years is explained by the general principle that assistance can only be delivered after the requesting country has accepted the offer. In some situations, the request is made, but the acceptance is not immediate, as the requesting country might consider that it is not needed immediately. In such situations, this creates a distortion in the number of hours, which is not related to the performance of the Mechanism. The indicator is measured as a yearly average of the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the EU for movement towards the affected country. The indicator covers modules, as well as for technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories

defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU) of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Quantitative response indicators will be partly influenced by the number, severity and nature of future disasters for which the UCPM is activated and which are unpredictable.

Source: Annual report for the EP on the implementation of the new union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision.

Unit of measure: Hours

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2021	
		Number	EUR million
Number of contracts	14 02 02		
Grant agreement/ service contract	14 02 02		
Number of contracts (deployment of experts)	14 02 02		
Total			

*In the next MFF, the UCPM will be placed under one single Heading 5 (there will no longer be a difference between internal/external actions). As such, the figures for the draft budget 2021 have been reported in the Heading 3 document of the UCPM.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020*
Number of contracts	F	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	P	1	1	1	1	0	3	
Grant agreement/ service contract	F	60	60	70	75	80	70	70
	P	91	67	32	34	14	47	
Number of contracts (deployment of experts)	F					50	50	50
	P	46	36	78	44	27	65	

*2019-2020 figures reflect amendments to the Decision No 1313/2013.

Specific Objective 4: To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters.

Expenditure related outputs

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism strengthens cooperation and coordination between Member States in preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. While response actions are foreseen anywhere in the world, the prevention and preparedness actions are limited to Member States, accession candidates and potential candidates, and European neighbourhood countries. According to Article 20(d) of Decision No 1313/2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision, public information, education and awareness raising and associated dissemination actions are limited to Union citizens. Therefore, the specific objective 4 has been removed (To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters). The progress in increasing public awareness and preparedness is measured only inside the Union.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Climate change linked actions	5,4	7,0
Total	5,4	7,0

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
1,2	2,0	2,1	2,2	2,0	5,4	7,0	21,9

(*)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).

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

DG ECHO and Participating States provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through the UCPM response to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensure that the most vulnerable have access to WASH.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

By providing a faster response to natural and man-made disasters, the UCPM helps minimise their impacts on the economical means of the affected areas, and therefore helps preserve the employment of local workers.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Through our support for a holistic disaster risk management at all levels and through the promotion of prevention actions aiming to reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and decrease the direct economic losses caused by disasters, DG ECHO promotes a more resilient and sustainable urbanisation.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Through preventing, preparing for and responding to climate-related disasters, the UCPM contributes to combatting climate change and its impacts. Climate change impacts are also consistently factored into UCPM activities, including but not limited to risk assessments, early warning systems, funding calls and response capacities.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV)

Lead DG: ECHO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

EU Aid Volunteers brings together volunteers and organisations from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening the local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities.

The programme incentivises and fosters collaboration, exchange of knowledge and good practices and building of partnerships between organisations in the field of humanitarian aid. Organisations participating in capacity building projects form consortia composed of a minimum of 2 EU-based organisations and 2 organisations based in third countries. Technical assistance projects require the participation of 3 organisations based in the EU. Furthermore, the set-up of a dedicated on-site training of selected volunteers to prepare them for deployment creates a strong 'esprit de corps' among European volunteers from different countries training together in groups. This will then further be strengthened during the implementation of the programme through the creation of a network of former and current EU Aid Volunteers, and the sending and hosting organisations, boosting learning and further professionalization of the sector.

EU added value of the programme

The EU added value comes in the form of:

- bringing together Union citizens from different Member States for joint contribution in humanitarian aid operations;
- fostering transnational cooperation of humanitarian aid organisations and stakeholders;
- allowing for economies of scale through complementarities and synergies with other relevant national, international and Union programmes and policies;
- providing for a tangible expression of the European values in general and in particular the solidarity of the Union and its citizens with the people who are most vulnerable and in need;
- contributing to reinforcing active European Union citizenship by empowering Union citizens from different generation and with different social, educational and professional background to engage in humanitarian aid activities.

Implementation mode

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management (grants and procurement). Some tasks are delegated to and implemented by EACEA in cooperation with the Commission services. The division of tasks between the Commission and EACEA is based on *Commission Decision C (2013)9189 of 18.12.2013 delegating powers to the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency with view to performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of education, audiovisual and culture comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union and of the EDF allocations*. The activities deployment and capacity building / technical assistance are implemented through calls for proposals by EACEA. EACEA is also responsible for the management of external evaluators that support the assessment of applications for deployment, capacity building / technical assistance and certification. The selection of evaluators is carried out via a call for expression of interest. Furthermore, EACEA is responsible for the organisation of information events about the calls for proposals that are organised with support of external contractors selected via call for tender or using existing framework contracts. The training of EU Aid Volunteers is implemented by EACEA through specific contracts under an existing framework contract with a training provider. Other support measures (the EU Aid Volunteers platform, outreach and communication activities) are implemented by DG ECHO through existing framework contracts and a service-level agreement with the Directorate General for Informatics (DG DIGIT).

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The Annual Work Programme 2019 of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative was adopted in January 2019 ⁽¹⁾. Two calls for proposals were published in 2019, one for projects in the field of capacity building and technical assistance and another one for the deployment and apprenticeships of EU Aid Volunteers. The training for candidate EU Aid Volunteers was carried out and external evaluators supported evaluation of applications in response to the two calls for proposals, the evaluation of requests for certification and re-certification. An info day to promote the calls was organised and support measures including the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform for project management and networking, and communication and outreach activities, for example a public info

⁽¹⁾ C(2019) 4 final

session on International Volunteer Day in December 2019 and social media campaigns to promote the volunteering vacancies on the EU Aid Volunteers platform. The Annual Report on the implementation of the initiative 2018 was adopted on 24 June 2019 ⁽²⁾.

With a view to the very slow start of this new initiative in 2015, the budget requests in the Annual Work Programme in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 were reduced compared to the planned amounts in the MFF to enable the consumption of the budget. The consumption rate of the operational budget for deployment and capacity building / technical assistance in 2019 was 98 %. As in 2018 the planned budget could actually be spent (40.3 % in 2015, 46.4 % in 2016, 77.4 % in 2017 and 99 % in 2018). This was possible due to a deviation from ambitious MFF 2014-2020 plan figures and the learning from previous years of implementation.

The commitment appropriation for the year 2020 will amount to EUR 19 355 000.

Key achievements

Key achievements in 2019 included the selection of four projects for capacity building (50 participating organisations), one project for technical assistance (8 participating organisations) and ten deployment projects aiming to deploy 424 EU Aid Volunteers in 2020. The deployment of the 368 volunteers selected from the 2018 call for proposals also started in 2019. Until the end of 2019, 10 new sending and 64 new hosting organisations completed successfully their certification.

The deployment target set in the annual work programme 2019 was 450 volunteers (after 368 in 2018) which was not fully met with 424 volunteers as a result of the 2019 call for proposals. In 2020 these volunteers will be deployed to 40 countries all over the world, the majority in Africa (46 %) followed by Latin and Central America (25 %), Middle East (16 %) and Asia (10 %).

Nine face-to-face training sessions were organised in 2019 with 446 candidate volunteers attending. The satisfaction of candidate volunteers with their online and face-to-face training continues to be high with an overall satisfaction rate of 88 % (out of 100 %) in 2019 (87 % in 2018).

Overall, the trend with regard to the certification of new sending and hosting organisations is upward with 63 organisations certified in 2017, 63 in 2018 and 74 in 2019.

Since the start of the initiative, the skills areas of volunteers most often requested for capacity building activities in third countries have been in communication (14 %), disaster risk management (11 %), project management (10 %), finance and accounting (8 %), monitoring and evaluation (6 %), gender equality (6 %), protection (5 %), advocacy (5 %) and community development (4 %).

A climate related achievement is the funding of a new project 'Forests' that started in 2019 and foresees the deployment of 27 EU Aid Volunteer to support forest management in Congo, Ghana, Guinea and Vietnam. Volunteers will conduct mapping studies to assess the vulnerability of forest-dependent communities taking into account effects of climate change (increasing of natural disasters) and will organise seminars with local actors to plan together intervention strategies. More information can be found on this website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/forests_en.

Stories about what volunteers are doing in the field have been published on this website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/echo/eu-aid-volunteers_en/ (213 stories so far).

- Over the course of the implementation period several simplifications were implemented: the number of mandatory members of a project consortium was reduced from 6 to 4 to reduce the administrative burden related to project management and coordination.
- The maximum amount for deployment projects was doubled to increase the numbers of volunteers per project and make the projects more cost efficient for participating NGOs.
- The certification procedure was simplified for sending and hosting organisations and the self-assessment document shortened as far as possible while respecting the provisions in the EU Aid Volunteers regulations.
- The eForm for the submission of proposals was simplified.
- An electronic tool to register candidates for the different trainings was introduced when the number of candidate volunteers started to climb.
- For the deployment call for proposals 2019 budget thresholds were introduced to limit spending for capacity building and communication activities to focus on the deployment of volunteers.

Evaluations/Studies conducted

An interim evaluation was carried out in 2017. The study prepared by an external contractor as well as the report and staff working document on the interim evaluation of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative for the period mid-2014 to mid-2017 adopted by the Commission are published on the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations/thematic-evaluations_en. An ex-post evaluation of the initiative is foreseen in Regulation 375/2014 and shall be completed by 31.12.2021.

⁽²⁾ COM(2019) 289 final, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/who/accountability/annual-reports_en

Forthcoming implementation

The Annual Work Programme 2020 foresees the launch of one call for proposals one call for proposals for the deployment of volunteers, with the objective to deploy 500 volunteers in 2021. It is proposed to not to provide funding for capacity building and technical assistance anymore in 2020.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission proposed to integrate humanitarian volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps for the next multiannual financial framework. This integration will contribute to streamlining and increasing the synergy of volunteering programmes.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative')	2014 – 2020	147,9

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations	12,1	6,6	8,3	16,4	19,0	17,7	19,4	99,5
Executive Agency	0,5	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	6,9
Total	12,7	7,4	9,3	17,4	20,1	18,8	20,6	106,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	18,847	100,00 %	12,661	100,00 %	20,611	6,26 %	18,841	13,31 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	18,858	99,99 %	12,672	99,96 %	20,690	6,24 %	18,924	13,27 %

(*) 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 start of the EU Aid Volunteers implementation was delayed for about a year, due to the adoption of the Implementing Regulation in November 2014. The first volunteers were only deployed from December 2015 / January 2016.

After the launch of the initiative, the uptake of this new programme was below expectations. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative introduced a thorough certification mechanism that requires sending and hosting organisations to prove that they have procedures and policies in place to achieve the high volunteering standards of the programme. This certification mechanism had not existed during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed, which did not materialise.

This situation required an ongoing effort to support the organisations in order to arrive at higher volunteer deployment numbers. Over the course of the period several simplifications were implemented:

- the number of mandatory members of a project consortium was reduced from six to four;
- the maximum funding amount for deployment projects was doubled;
- the certification procedure was simplified as far as possible;
- the eForm for the submission of proposals was simplified;
- an electronic tool to register candidates for the different trainings was introduced.

The 2019 call for proposals for deployment of EU Aid Volunteers was published on 12 April 2019 with a submission deadline of 13 June 2019. The call aimed to co-finance projects for the deployment of EU Aid Volunteers, including apprenticeship placements for junior professionals and additional capacity building activities carried out by volunteers. The 10 projects for deployment started in December 2019 and aim at the deployment of 424 volunteers in 2020, which is 26 less than planned in the Annual Work

Programme 2019 (target: 450) and far below the MFF target of 1125 (for an explanation of the general underperformance of the programme please refer to programme statement 2020).

Capacity building and technical assistance projects supported through funding provided by the EU Aid Volunteers initiative strengthen the abilities of organisations intending to deploy EU Aid Volunteers and ensure that they comply with the standards and procedures set under the initiative. On 22 May 2019, EACEA published a call for proposals with a submission deadline of 4 July 2019. The call aimed at co-financing projects for capacity building for hosting organisations based outside of the EU and technical assistance for EU-based sending organisations, in areas such as disaster risk management, volunteer management and needs assessment methodology. 4 capacity building and 1 technical assistance project were selected and funded under the 2019 budget. Projects started in December 2019.

Organisations that wish to deploy EU Aid Volunteers must be certified as sending or hosting organisations under the certification mechanism of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. This certification verifies whether participating organisations are fully able to apply the volunteer management standards drawn up by the initiative to manage volunteers before and during their deployment.

An open call was published in 2015, allowing for ongoing applications until 30 September 2020. By the end of 2019, 282 sending and hosting organisations have been certified (52 sending and 130 hosting organisations).

Candidate volunteers must go successfully through a mandatory online and face-to-face training before they can be deployed. Nine training cycles were organised by a service provider in 2019 in which 446 candidate volunteers participated. The trainings took place in English, French and Spanish and the satisfaction of the candidate volunteers with the training remained high with 88 out of 100.

In the Report on the Interim Evaluation (COM(2018) 496), the Commission acknowledged the need to improve consistency of the approach to volunteering in third countries with other EU volunteering schemes. Coherence and synergies with the European Voluntary Service and the European Solidarity Corps should be sought. For the new multiannual financing period it was therefore proposed to integrate the EU Aid Volunteers initiative into the European Solidarity Corps.

General objectives

General Objective 1: To contribute to strengthening the Union’s capacity to provide needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries, particularly by means of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and by enhancing the link between relief, rehabilitation and development. That objective shall be attained through the added value of joint contributions of EU Aid Volunteers, expressing the Union’s values and solidarity with people in need and visibly promoting a sense of European citizenship.

Indicator 1: The number of people reached by humanitarian aid provided through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and the average costs per person reached

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of people reached:	0	17 500	25 000	30 000	17 500	42 500	50 000	50 000
	Actual results							
	0	0			8 104	1 527 765		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Costs (in EUR) per person reached:		845	716	733	751	631	550	550
	Actual results							
	0	0			158	1		

Comment: The number of people reached by volunteers are based on the assumption that each volunteer reaches on average 50 persons (i.e. in 2015, 350 deployed volunteers would reach 50 persons each and therefore reach 17 500 people in total). The number indicated for the year 2018 – 8 104 persons – is the result of the first two deployment projects funded from the 2015 budget. These projects lasted 24 months and started to deploy volunteers from December 2015; the final reports from which the number 8 104 was retrieved were received end of 2018. The 2015 proposals foresaw the deployment of 44 volunteers (as indicated for the year 2015 in the programme statement). The actual deployment was in the end 55 volunteers (due to drop-outs and replacements). On average each of these volunteers reached about 147 persons (instead of 50 per volunteer as projected in the planning figures) and 8 104 in total.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Contribute to increasing and improving the capacity of the Union to provide humanitarian aid.

Performance

Please see overall explanations provided in programme statement 2020:

Initially it was planned to launch the initiative in 2014 (MFF 2014-2020), but the adoption of the whole legislative package (Delegated Regulation, Implementing Regulation) providing the legal framework for the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteers was only completed in November 2014. Project implementation was therefore delayed for about a year, and the first volunteers were only deployed from December 2015 / January 2016. The end of 2018 therefore marks the third full year of deployments. The uptake of this new Commission programme, an international volunteering programme in humanitarian aid, started disappointingly slow. This was unexpected because the initiative had been preceded by a 3-year pilot phase during which 289 volunteers had been deployed. In retrospective the targets, starting the first year with 350 deployments, were challenging and did not materialise. Reasons for this are the following:

- The EU Aid Volunteers initiative introduced a thorough certification mechanism that had not existed during the pilot phase and requires not only sending organisations but also hosting organisations to prove to the Commission that they have procedures and policies in place to achieve the high volunteering standards of this programme. Organisations need to commit and prove, for example, that they can ensure the health, safety and security of volunteers, to respect equal opportunities and non-discrimination, to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, are able to provide learning and development for volunteers, etc. In short, they have to respect all the provisions that were set in the Delegated and Implementing Regulations of the initiative. Some organisations provided feedback that it took them a year and substantial effort to comply with all those provisions and provide the required evidence. Furthermore the assessment of compliance by the Commission can take up to six months, because external evaluators are involved in the assessment and many of the organisations that applied for certification (especially in third countries) had never worked with the Commission before and therefore needed to go through the normal administrative procedures to validate their legal entity (PIC number). All this created delays as well as barriers for quick uptake.
- In order to support organisations to prepare for certification, the EU Aid Volunteers initiative provides a funding strand for technical assistance (sending organisations) and capacity building (hosting organisations). Organisations can apply to calls for proposals to prepare for certification and to improve their knowledge about humanitarian principles, disaster risk management or volunteer management. Many organisations made use of this instrument and proposed projects that last up to 24 months before they applied for funding under the deployment strand. In retrospective, this funding led indeed to the participation of organisations later in the deployment strand of the initiative, but it contributed to the delay in uptake.
- Thirdly, in many exchanges with organisations it was found that they adopted a ‘wait and see’ approach with regard to this new initiative. Only when reports from the first (few) deployments were available and published, the confidence among organisations increased that the EU Aid Volunteers initiative could indeed provide benefits for organisations and volunteers. The organisation of two networking events (in 2017 and 2018) by the Commission for organisations supported this confidence and helped to increase deployment numbers from 44 in 2015 to 424 in 2019.
- Fourthly, the targets were also quite challenging because volunteers are normally placed in offices of EU-based organisations abroad or with local organisations. These offices can often only host 1-2 volunteers at a time. By the end of 2019, 230 hosting organisations and 52 sending organisations had successfully gone through the certification process. It therefore requires an ongoing effort to involve many more organisations in order to arrive at higher deployment numbers.

This figure for the indicator ‘number of people reached’ is provided by the projects in their final reports (4 projects funded in 2017). It is often not possible to measure precisely how many people one volunteer reached with his or her activity. Project consortia therefore indicate the number of people reached with the project(s) to which the volunteer contributed. For example, if they recruit a volunteer with a communication profile who contributes to the work of 2 projects, organisations are likely to provide the total number of people reached by these projects, although the volunteer only contributed to this result as a member of staff. They are not in a position to specify precisely how many people the volunteer reached alone through his or her work. This is why the figures look highly overstated.

Indicator 1: Number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed or ready for deployment with the required qualifications								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of EU Aid Volunteers trained ready for deployment with the required qualifications per year:	0	≥ 350	≥ 350	≥ 550	≥ 800	≥ 1 000	≥ 1 250	≥ 1 250
	Actual results							
	0	0	97	178	295	446		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed per year:	0	350	350	550	800	1 000	1 125	1 125
	Actual results							
	0	0	55	162	175	368	424	

Comment: The number of volunteers trained depends on the number of planned deployments as provided in the applications to the call for proposals. In 2017 six proposals were received proposing 175 deployments. As a result 295 candidate volunteers were trained in 2018 for deployments and for the reserve list to cater for drop outs and cancellations. The call for proposals for deployment 2018 resulted in the funding of eleven projects (up from 6 in 2017) proposing the deployment of 368 volunteers. This figure is far below the MFF targets as explained in section II Implementation Update. However, this represents an increase of 110 % compared to the previous year and sustains an upward trend. The average duration of a deployment is 9 months (most deployments are either 6 or 12 months deployments, average is 9 months).
Source: Monitoring Framework for EUAV implemented by EACEA

Indicator 2: Number of EU Aid Volunteers who have completed their contract of deployment								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	0	315	350	550	800	1 000	1 125	1 125
	Actual results							
	0	0	0	66	178	151		

Comment: This indicator reflects the number of volunteers who stayed the whole duration of their contract and did not end their deployment earlier than planned. If volunteers drop out, organisations can fill the remaining volunteer months with reserve candidates. It is difficult to track in the course of a project which volunteers ended their contracts earlier, if other volunteers stayed longer in their placements instead or if reserve volunteers were recruited.

Indicator 3: Number of hosting and sending organisations participating in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative per year.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	100	0	115	110	115	75	120	120
	Actual results							
	88	0	41	179	73	58		

Comment: This indicator is proposed for the first time in the present reporting period and intends to reflect the work done in capacity building / technical assistance provided to organisations which increases the capacity of the sector to provide humanitarian aid. The figure does not include the organisations active deployment projects. The lower figure in 2018 is due to a lower number of projects funded than planned in order to enable more deployments of volunteers (planned 250; result 368). Budget was therefore moved from the capacity building/technical assistance strand to the deployment strand and fewer projects than planned were funded.

Source: Planning / target figures from the Annual Work Programmes of EUAV, Monitoring Framework for EUAV implemented by EACEA.

Specific Objective 2: Improvement of the skills, knowledge and competences of volunteers in the field of humanitarian aid and the terms and conditions of their engagement.

Indicator 1: The degree of satisfaction of the EU Aid Volunteers trained and deployed, of the sending and hosting organisations with regard to the quality of the training, level of knowledge and competences of volunteers, the fulfilment and adequacy of the standards and procedures for management of candidate and EU Aid Volunteers (overall satisfaction rate out of 100 %)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
	0	75	80	80	85	85	85	85
	Actual results							
	0	0	88	90	87	88		

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Training of volunteers	23 04 01	1050	5.25
Deployment	23 04 01	950	13.5
Total			

The training commitments for 2020 include (a) the candidate volunteers selected from the 2019 call (plan: 450 plus 100 reserve) and (b) the costs for the training in 2021 of the volunteers selected through the 2020 call for proposals (plan: 500).

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Training of volunteers and apprenticeships	F	0	540	825	1 025	300	450	600
	P	0	0	97	178	295	446	
No of volunteers deployed	F*	0	0	≥ 350	≥ 550	250	300	400

	P	0	0	44	162	175	368	
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Tables cover expenditure related outputs of objectives 1 and 2.

The number of volunteers trained and deployed depends on the applications received based on a call for proposals published annually. The applications received resulted in an underperformance compared to the planned figures. The targets for 2018-2020 have been amended to reflect – based on the results of the first two years – more realistic foreseen outputs.

Specific Objective 3: Building the capacity of hosting organisations and foster volunteering in third countries.

Indicator 1: Number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
	≥ 1450	≥ 300	≥ 700	≥ 700	≥ 600	≥ 550	≥ 550	≥ 550
	Actual results							
	0	0						

Comment: In relation to the ‘number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions’: it is difficult to provide these figures as they can be provided only for the projects that ended in the respective year and figures do not related to any (annual) target figure. Furthermore, projects provide the numbers per project activity but not for the project as a whole which could lead to double counting. The indicator ‘Number of hosting and sending organisations participating in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative per year’ under specific objective 1 will be monitored

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Capacity building and technical assistance	23 04 01	0	0

It is expected that 0 organisations / beneficiaries will benefit from this activity, because this funding strand is provided to enable organisations to achieve the standards set under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. Projects last normally 24 months so that in 2023 (when projects funded from a call in 2020 would end) different application procedures and standards would be in place

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No of organisations participating to capacity building and technical assistance actions	F	100	n/a	115	110	115	75	50
	P	n/a	88	41	179	73	58	0

Tables cover expenditure related outputs of objectives 3 and 5.

2016: 19 partners receiving funding for capacity building projects, 22 for technical assistance projects.

2017: 157 partners receiving funding for capacity building projects, 22 for technical assistance projects.

2018: 69 partners receiving funding from capacity building projects, 4 for technical assistance.

2019: 50 partners receiving funding from capacity building projects, 8 for technical assistance.

No call will be launched in 2020 and the result will therefore be zero.

This number is lower than in 2018, because budget was shifted from the capacity building / technical strand. As a consequence, fewer capacity building / technical assistance projects could be funded with the remaining budget.

Specific Objective 4: Communication of the Union’s humanitarian aid principles as agreed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Performance

2019:

EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers Platform = 1 event

EUR 400 000 for an event that takes place in 2020 (except if we shall count it for 2019...?) Is the time of the budgetary commitment of interest or the implementation of the action? Then it would be a total of 2 events in 2020.

No other events with budgetary implications were carried out in 2019.

Indicator 1: Number, type and costs of information, communication and awareness-raising actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Number of communication and	2	3	4	5	4	4	4	4
	Actual results							

awareness-raising actions:	2	4	6	5	4	1		
	Milestones foreseen							2020
Cost per action (in EUR):	0	686 234	425 000	565 000	365 000	187 500	165 000	165 000
	Actual results							
		171 559	70 833	113 000	91 250	400 000		

Comment: Note that the indicated support measures budgets from 2016 include EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support measures (Awareness raising events, platform, networking)	23 04 01	3	0.6

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Overall information platform produced and maintained during the programme	F	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
	P	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Awareness raising conference and seminars	F	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
	P	0	2	5	2	3	0	1

Specific Objective 5: Enhancement of coherence and consistency of volunteering across Member States in order to improve opportunities for Union citizens to participate in humanitarian aid activities and operations.

Performance

The indicated support measures budgets from 2019 include EUR 265 000 for the maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers platform and EUR 400 000 for a big event that will only take place in 2020 (contract was signed in 2019). The number of events in 2019 was therefore is zero (and in 2020 is will be one).

Indicator 1: Number of (newly) certified sending organisations applying the standards and procedures for deployment and management of European volunteers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
		50	44	15	20	30	10	10
	Actual results							
		13	10	13	6	10		

Comment: The number reflects the certified sending organisations in 2018 (additionally, 57 new hosting organisations were certified in 2018, which brings the total number of certified organisations to 208.). The certification mechanism is a requirement of the legislation. It seeks synergies with the Commission's partnership instruments in the humanitarian field and existing humanitarian standards, with the aim of administrative simplification. The certification takes into account the important specificities of the programme, notably the management of volunteer staff.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR
Certified sending organisations	23 04 01	50	35 000

NB: the budget also includes the certification of hosting organisations as well as the evaluation of applications for calls for proposals (deployment and capacity building / technical assistance). The figure represents therefore the total evaluation costs for all evaluations under the initiative.

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of certified sending organisations	F	n/a	50	44	15	20	30	10
	P	n/a	13	10	13	6	10	

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

Narrative justification Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Smart growth: part of line 23 04 01 Corresponding to 50 % of the output ‘deployment’ under specific objective 1
 Inclusive growth: part of line 23 04 01 Corresponding to 50 % of the output ‘Training of volunteers and apprenticeships’ under specific objective 1.

<i>Relevant objective/output</i>	<i>Budget 2019 (EUR million)</i>	<i>DB 2020 (EUR million)</i>
<i>Smart Growth (innovation, education, digital society)</i>	5.0	6.75
<i>Inclusive Growth (employment and skills, fighting poverty)</i>	1.5	2.625
Total	6.5	9.375

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

<i>Relevant objective/output</i>	<i>Budget 2019</i>	<i>Budget 2020</i>
Training, capacity building and deployments will focus amongst other on disaster risk reduction and prevention of climate related disasters.	2,0	2,7
Total	2,0	2,7

Programmation climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	0,3	1,0	1,1	1,7	2,0	2,7	8,8

(*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).

Gender mainstreaming

Of all volunteers deployed so far around 72 % are female and 28 % male.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Resilience aims at protecting vulnerable populations from the shocks and stresses that keep people in poverty, whilst providing services, livelihoods and opportunities to address the underlying causes of their vulnerability – to ‘leave no-one behind’. EU Aid Volunteers work together with volunteers in vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience to disasters and to build local capacity.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Volunteers work with vulnerable or disaster affected communities in fields such as food security and nutrition.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

EU Aid Volunteers are for example recruited as gender experts to promote gender sensitivity and mainstreaming of gender considerations in disaster risk management in affected communities.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Volunteers can be recruited to work on prevention and preparedness actions resulting from climate change risks. This could for example include work on risk assessments, small mitigation works, awareness raising actions or the implementation of early warning systems.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Helping people affected by crises and disasters is a global concern and includes coordination at the global level, as essential way to ensure efficient and effective provision of aid to those that need it most. The EU humanitarian assistance includes working in close partnership with a large number of humanitarian and development UN and Civil Society international organisations.

The EU Aid Volunteers Initiative also works together with volunteers in vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience to disasters and to build local capacities. It supports creation of national and local volunteering frameworks and schemes in third countries, which can be instrumental to increase the capacity of countries to cope with disasters as local communities are the first responders.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)

Lead DG: DEVCO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

In the framework of the External Investment Plan (EIP), the European Commission has established the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) ⁽¹⁾ to support investments in Africa and the Neighbourhood. The overall aim of the EFSD is to contribute to the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular poverty eradication, as well as to the commitments under the recently revised European Neighbourhood Policy. By supporting investments in Africa and the Neighbourhood, the EFSD also aims to address specific socioeconomic root causes of migration, including irregular migration, and to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of migrants returning to their countries of origin and to the strengthening of transit and host communities.

The EFSD is managed by the European Commission and implemented through two Regional Investment Platform (i.e. the African Investment Platform, AIP, and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, NIP), which combine financing from the existing external blending facilities for Africa and the Neighbourhood with a newly developed EFSD Guarantee. This will enable using scarce public resources in an innovative way to mobilise public and private investment, thereby creating growth and employment opportunities, maximising additionality, delivering innovative products and crowding-in private sector funds.

Under the newly established EFSD Guarantee, the Commission will provide partial guarantees to eligible counterparts, which in turn will provide support to downstream beneficiaries through a wide range of financial instruments, including loans, guarantees, counter-guarantees, capital market instruments and other forms of credit enhancement, insurance, equity or quasi-equity participations. The EFSD Guarantee will cover portfolios of investments to be implemented by eligible counterparts in targeted areas, so-called Investment Windows. A first set of Investment Windows ⁽²⁾ include: sustainable energy and connectivity; micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) financing; sustainable agriculture, rural development and agribusiness; sustainable cities; digital for development.

Investment under the EFSD will be guided by development and sector policies of the beneficiary, and will help foster an enabling environment (governance, legislation and regulations) through the support provided under pillars 2 (Technical Assistance) and 3 (enabling the business environment) of the EIP.

EU added value of the programme

The EFSD is a bold new approach to support sustainable and innovative investment, going beyond the classical development assistance and building on the experience of existing blending facilities to maximise additionality, deliver innovative products and catalyse private sector investment. The new EFSD Guarantee, in particular, has been conceived as a powerful financial tool to stimulate and support investments in less developed and riskier countries whilst crowding in private sector players in areas and sectors in which they do not traditionally intervene. The EUR 1.5 billion EFSD guarantee plus the EUR 2.6 billion of the Africa and Neighbourhood Investment Platforms mobilised from existing cooperation instruments are expected to unlock private investment and mobilise an additional EUR 44 billion investment until 2020. The multiplying effect and the impact on the ground will thus be much higher than what could be achieved by an investment programme from individual Member States.

The operations financed or guaranteed through the EFSD represent a highly visible and effective tool in support of the Union's external action. In addition, by enabling joint operations – combining bilateral and EU grant funding with eligible finance institutions operations – the EFSD will generate greater coherence and better coordination between donors, in line with the Paris Declaration's principles on aid effectiveness. The pooling of Member States' resources will reinforce the EU's overall effort, while co-financing with non-EU financial institutions will further improve donor coordination and harmonisation.

Implementation mode

The EFSD Guarantee is to be implemented by eligible counterparts in indirect management mode following the established procedures within the blending framework. In line with Article 11 of the EFSD Regulation, eligible counterparts include a broad range of actors, both of public and private nature. These must undergo a 'pillar assessment' to verify that they have procedures which are as equally robust as those of the European Commission and can therefore be entrusted with budget implementation tasks. At present, pillar-assessed eligible counterparts for the Guarantee include: financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; bilateral development banks in the Member States, such as

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 September 2017 establishing the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision C(2017) 7899 of 23 November 2017 on the establishment of the Investment Windows of the EFSD Guarantee.

Agence française de développement, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo; European development finance institutions (EDFIs), such as France's Proparco, Dutch Development Bank – FMO, Germany's Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), Spain's COFIDES (c Compañía Española de Financiación del Desarrollo); and other regional and multilateral development banks, such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank Group. In the absence of a 'pillar assessment', private entities are currently not having direct access to the EFSD Guarantee.

II. Programme Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The entire available budget of EUR 1.54 billion for the EFSD Guarantee was allocated in 2018 to 28 selected proposals. Until end 2019, the Commission signed four guarantee agreements with its partner financial institutions. Three additional guarantee agreements were signed on 22 January 2020, taking the total to seven, for an amount of EUR 361 million. More details are provided in the below section on 'Key achievements'.

In addition, since 2017, the Commission approved almost EUR 3.1 billion for 154 blending operations, of which EUR 1.8 billion for 78 projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and EUR 1.3 billion for 76 projects in the EU Neighbourhood. These operations target a variety of sectors, the main ones being transport, energy, private sector development and agriculture.

Overall, programmes and projects validated by the EFSD governance by the end of 2019 are expected to mobilise around EUR 47 billion of investments, thus exceeding the EU's target of unlocking EUR 44 billion initially planned for one year later, 2020.

Key achievements

On 23 November 2017 the Commission established a first set of Investment Windows for the EFSD Guarantee, which were subsequently endorsed by the EFSD Strategic and Operational Boards. These cover five areas, namely: Sustainable Energy and Connectivity; Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) Financing; Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Entrepreneurs and Agribusiness; Sustainable Cities; and Digital for Development.

Following the establishment of the Investment Windows, partner financial institutions were invited to propose investment programmes to be covered by the EFSD Guarantee. The response by the financial institutions was very positive: the Commission received 46 proposals from 12 partner institutions for a total value above EUR 3.5 billion, thus exceeding the current entire capacity of the EFSD Guarantee by over EUR 2 billion.

On 20 June 2018, the EFSD Operational Board involving the EU Member States gave its green light to a first set of twelve guarantee tools to be supported under the EFSD, accounting for approximately EUR 800 million. Sixteen additional guarantee tools were approved by the EFSD Operational Board on 13 November, thus exhausting the present capacity of the EFSD Guarantee (i.e. EUR 1.54 billion until 2020). Taken together, these guarantee tools are expected to trigger estimated investments of EUR 17.5 billion, out of which almost EUR 11 billion are to be invested by the private sector.

During the course of 2019, the Commission signed four guarantee agreements worth 195 million:

FMO's NASIRA Guarantee Facility, for an amount of EUR 75 million, aiming to provide access to affordable loans to women, youth, and migrant entrepreneurs.

CDP and AfDB's Archipelagos Guarantee Agreement, for an amount of EUR 30 million, aiming to provide access to finance across Africa for high potential small businesses by piloting capital market solutions.

FMO's Ventures Programme Guarantee Agreement, for an amount of EUR 40 million, it will guarantee venture capital provided by FMO to start-up companies, in particular led by young entrepreneurs in the digital space.

EBRD's Framework to Scale-up Renewable Energy Investments, for an amount of EUR 50 million, aiming to scale up renewable energy investments in Neighbourhood countries, in order to increase energy generation from renewable energy sources and assist in the implementation of Paris Agreement climate goals.

Three additional guarantee agreements were signed on 22 January 2020 worth EUR 166 million:

AECID and World Bank Group's Resilient City Development (RECIDE), for an amount of EUR 100 million, aiming to help African cities develop public-private partnerships to cope with the effects of climate change and improve services to the citizens.

KfW's African Energy Guarantee Facility 'AEGF', for an amount of EUR 46 million, aiming to contribute to the promotion of renewable energy solutions to meet growing demand, address bottlenecks to private investments and bridge the gap between real and perceived risks in the African energy market.

EIB's SME Access to Finance Guarantee Agreement, amounting to EUR 20 million, aiming to enhance access to finance to SMEs and enable financial intermediaries to take on more risk and reach out to underserved segments of the economy.

Evaluations/studies conducted

The ex-ante assessment of the EFSD recognised the role of the Guarantee as a complementary tool to the grant and blending facilities already provided by the EU. It supported the implementation of the EFSD Guarantee through a number of eligible lead partners, under a framework similar to the blending investment facilities. It also encouraged the involvement of new private sector lead partners, including local and international financial institutions, as well as insurance and re-insurance companies and investments funds (although the latter might require further study as to their potential for leveraging the guarantees and market distortion).

Despite the early stage of implementation of the EFSD Guarantee, the Commission is preparing an implementation report covering the whole EFSD, i.e. the blending facilities, the EFSD Guarantee and its Guarantee Fund, in line with the Article 17 of the EFSD Regulation. In this context, an independent external study has reviewed the initial functioning of the EFSD in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance coherence and its value added. Its findings be the basis for the Commission’s implementation report.

Forthcoming implementation

The remaining guarantee agreements are expected to be signed during the course of 2020. The financial institutions will subsequently have four years to conclude agreements for underlying operations with co-financing partners, financial intermediaries or final beneficiaries. As a rule, the duration of the guarantees extended to the financial institutions should not exceed fifteen years.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 14 June 2018, the European Commission presented the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, COM(2018)460 final. This proposal aims includes the financing the new European Fund for sustainable Development Plus (EFSD +), building on the actions currently supported under the EFSD.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund	2017-2020	350,0

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Operational appropriations				275,0	25,0	25,0	25,0	350,0
Total				275,0	25,0	25,0	25,0	350,0

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	25,000	100,00 %	25,000	100,00 %	25,000	0,00 %	25,000	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	154,489	61,23 %	479,089	67,84 %	84,889	0,00 %	179,089	27,92 %

(*) 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

With the ambitious development goals set for the EIP and through the EFSD in particular, the Commission shall be able to monitor and evaluate the direct contribution (output level) and the direct (outcome) and indirect, medium-long term influence (impact) of operations supported by the EFSD against the main objectives of the initiative.

The contribution of the EFSD to sustainable and inclusive growth in partner countries will be measured against the objectives set by the EFSD Regulation with a series of outcome and impact indicators in relation to:

- Contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals
- Generation of sustainable and inclusive growth
- Creation of decent jobs
- Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people

- Positively impact on climate change
- Contributing to poverty eradication
- Addressing root causes of (irregular) migration, fostering sustainable reintegration of migrants returning to their countries of origin, and strengthening transit and host communities.

The Commission established a Results Measurement Framework for the EFSD pending agreement with its partner financial institutions. This is being already utilised in the guarantee agreements signed to date. It covers three levels: (1) the EFSD as a whole, including both the EFSD Guarantee and the blending operations; (2) the Investment Platforms and Investment Windows; (3) the investment programmes under the EFSD Guarantee and the projects under the blending operations. The Commission is responsible for monitoring and reporting under the first two levels, based on a set of pre-defined indicators. At programme and project level, the reporting on expected and actual operational results is the responsibility of the lead financial institution. The list of indicators, the frequency and format of reporting are part of the guarantee agreements signed with the financial institutions.

Based on the information provided by the financial institutions in their proposals, the 28 guarantee tools approved to date by the EFSD governance are expected to contribute to the creation of close to 4 million jobs. They should also contribute to reducing carbon emissions by 6000 kT / year and generate 4+ GW, particularly in renewable energy.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The EFSD shall contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda with a particular focus on sustainable growth, job creation, socioeconomic sectors and on the support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises, thus addressing root causes of migration and contributing to sustainable reintegration of returned migrants in their countries of origin while maximising additionality, delivering innovative products and crowding in private sector funds.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: The purpose of the EFSD as an integrated financial package shall be to support through the supply of financing capacity in the form of grants, guarantees and other financial instruments to eligible counterparts investments and increased access to financing starting in African and Neighbourhood partner countries.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020
		EUR million
Provisioning of the EFSD Guarantee Fund	01 03 08	25

In addition, a contribution of EUR 50 million from the European Development Fund in the form of assigned revenue is foreseen in 2020.

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Contribute to achieving sustainable development in the partner countries in a coherent and consistent manner	9,8	9,8
Total	9,8	9,8

Programmation climate action

2014	2018-2019 estimates		2020 programming	Total
	2018	2019	2020	
107,3	9,8	9,8	9,8	136,7

Mainstreaming of climate action

In order to fulfil the political commitments of the EU on climate action, renewable energy and resource efficiency, a minimum share of 28 % of the funding allocated under the EFSD should be devoted to financing and investment operations relevant for these sectors.

It is estimated that the climate-related contribution of the EFSD Guarantee will reach a minimum 39 % of the total guarantee amount, considering only the current allocation for the Sustainable Energy and Connectivity Window. This contribution will be further increased by projects from other windows that are also expected to have significant climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.

The calculation is based on the share of climate change related expenditure estimated to reach, at minimum, 39 % of the allocations from previous years. The actual amounts will be calculated once the guarantee agreements will be signed and implemented.

The following guarantee tools have a specific climate focus:

- **Resilient City Development (RECIDE)** amounts to **EUR 100 million** and it is a partnership with the **Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)** and the **World Bank Group (WBG)**. This guarantee will help cities develop public-private partnerships to strengthen their resilience to climate change and improve public services to their citizens.
- The **Framework to Scale-up Renewable Energy Investments** amounts to **EUR 50 million** and it's a partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**EBRD**). The guarantee will help to generate total investment of up to EUR 500 million in the EU Neighbourhood, including in Ukraine, Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan, in order to increase energy generation from renewable energy sources and assist in the implementation of Paris Agreement climate goals.

Gender mainstreaming

In the framework of the EIP, the EFSD will support the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people.

The following guarantee tools approved by the EFSD governance to date have a specific gender focus:

- **NASIRA Risk-Sharing Facility**: Women are one of the target beneficiaries of the NASIRA programme, which aims to address the high risks involved in lending to under-served entrepreneurs in countries neighbouring the EU and in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will give them access to investment loans by offering local financial institutions, such as banks and microfinance institutions, portfolio guarantees containing loans to entrepreneurs. The EU contributes to this project led by Dutch Development Bank (FMO) by extending a guarantee of up to EUR 75 million.
- **Social Impact Fund for Africa (SIFA)**: While focussing on projects that involve in particular women and young people of low incomes, SIFA will lower the current barriers to investment in, and increase the capital available for, more than 200 businesses engaged in digital innovation. It will do so by enabling investors to share the risks involved, and/or by lowering such risks considerably. The EU contributes to this project led by AfDB by extending a guarantee of up to EUR 25 million.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

As provided by Article 3 of the EFSD Regulation, the purpose of the EFSD is to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1 (poverty eradication), thus addressing specific socioeconomic root causes of migration and fostering sustainable reintegration of migrants returning to their countries of origin, and strengthening transit and host communities.

In particular, the financing and investment operations eligible for support through the EFSD shall contribute, inter alia, to fostering sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, with a particular focus on inclusive and sustainable growth, decent job creation, skills and entrepreneurship, gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people, socioeconomic sectors and on the support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises.

Because of its breadth, the EFSD can thus contribute to a broad range of SDGs, often in an interlinked manner and with co-benefits across goals. In this context, the EFSD is particularly relevant for SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities) and SDG 13 (climate action).

The guarantees approved to date will increase access to finance to small businesses and local under-served entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the EU Neighbourhood, including internally displaced people, refugees, returnees, women and young people, thus contributing to job creation and sustainable economic growth. They will also boost the supply of renewable energy and improve investment in urban infrastructure and services, thus improving the resilience of communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU Neighbourhood to growing populations and the effects of climate change.

HEADING 4: Global Europe

Cooperation with Greenland

Lead DG: DEVCO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

Located between the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean, Greenland is the world's largest island. It is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark and is the only Danish territory associated to the EU. Between 1973 and 1985, Greenland was part of the EU. Following a referendum held in 1982, it withdrew from the EU and is now associated to the EU under the Overseas Association Decision. Greenland is eligible for funding from the EU's general budget through the EU-Greenland Partnership. This has allowed for the continuation of strong relations between the partners and responds to the global challenges, allowing for the development of a proactive agenda and the pursuit of mutual interests. The partnership defines, in particular, the framework for policy dialogue on issues of common interest in areas such as (i) global issues concerning, inter alia, energy, climate change and environment, natural resources, including raw materials, maritime transport, research and innovation and (ii) Arctic issues.

Following the Council Decision 2014/137/EU of 14 March 2014 on relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other, the Commission agreed with the Government of Greenland the 'Programming document for the sustainable development of Greenland 2014-2020' which was signed on 28 October 2014. The education, vocational training and post-elementary school system has been chosen as the concentration sector for the cooperation between the Union and Greenland for the period 2014-2020. The two specific objectives and indicators follow those identified in the Council decision, complemented by indicators on education, taken from the programming document.

The overall objective of the new programme adopted in 2014 is to contribute to a higher standard of living through improved education, skills development and knowledge. This will ensure Greenland's continuous economic progress in the increasingly globalised world economy through provision of a critical mass of qualified, flexible people and a competitive workforce. Increased productivity in the working age population will reduce the growing pressure on the public finances resulting from the growing share of elderly people in the population. Furthermore, a highly educated and skilled labour force will reduce the economic dependence on single sectors and is a prerequisite for development and inclusive growth in emerging sectors.

EU added value of the programme

The EU-Greenland partnership has allowed for the continuation of strong relations between the partners and responds to the global challenges, allowing for the development of a proactive agenda and the pursuit of mutual interests. The partnership defines, in particular, the framework for policy dialogue on issues of common interest for either partner, providing the basis for broad cooperation and dialogue in areas such as (i) global issues concerning, inter alia, energy, climate change and environment, natural resources, including raw materials, maritime transport, research and innovation and (ii) Arctic issues.

As the framework for relations and dialogue with Greenland, the Greenland Decision remains relevant. Informal dialogue on e.g. the Arctic, high-level visits and cooperation in several fora have helped create a mutual understanding between the partners – the EU has gained a better understanding of the conditions in the Arctic, enabling it to better formulate relevant actions and policies, while Greenland supports the EU's application for an observer seat in the Arctic Council.

As the EU is the only donor besides the Kingdom of Denmark, the support allocated through the partnership brings an EU perspective to the development of Greenland. The conditions attached to EU Budget Support have strengthened Greenland's Public Financial Management system and the ability of its administration to plan and implement policies, including in sectors other than education (several ministries have begun to make 10-year plans). The conditions have also stimulated the government of Greenland to maintain the expenditures for education at a very high level of on average 25 % of the Public sector budget, amounting to EUR 300 million per year of which this programme contributes around EUR 30 million per year. This conditionality is the crucial difference compared to the Danish block grant, which does not impose performance indicators.

Greenlanders enjoy the citizenship of the Member State to which they are constitutionally linked (Denmark), and subsequently hold EU citizenship, making for the corresponding parts of the Treaty to apply to them. The EU support strengthens the position of Greenland as an advanced outpost of the EU, based on the common values and history which links the two partners

Implementation mode

The EU provides financial support to the Greenland Education Sector through the implementation of a budget-support Sector Reform Performance Contract under Direct Management by the Commission. The Government of Greenland, through the Ministry of Education, Culture and the Church, is in charge of the implementation of the education programme together a visibility action plan. The Ministry of Finance is coordinating the accompanying action plan to maintain budget support eligibility of the Government of Greenland.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Following the Council Decision 2014/137/EU of 14 March 2014 on relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other, the Commission agreed with the Government of Greenland the 'Programming document for the sustainable development of Greenland 2014-2020' which was signed on 28 October 2014. The objectives and indicators follow those in the Council decision, complemented by indicators on education, taken from the programming document.

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

After Financing Agreements for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Financing Agreement for the 2019 programme to support the Greenland Education Sector was signed with the Government of Greenland on 02 December 2019 (GL/2019/041-554). The Annual Work Plan 2019 was presented by the Government of Greenland and approved. Subsequently, the fixed tranche for the 2019 programme was paid in December 2019.

The Annual Implementation Report 2018 was received from the Government of Greenland providing adequate proof of programme implementation. The achievement rate was higher compared to the previous year, although one target out of five indicators was not met (*Transition rate to education 2 years after drop-out*). The variable tranche 2018 was paid in December 2019 amounting to EUR 5.1 million (80 % of the total foreseen). During the latest Policy Dialogue Meeting in March 2020, the Government of Greenland and representatives of Greenland municipalities showed the further implementation of reforms in the Elementary School system and new planned reforms to increase the compulsory education age limit from 16 year to 18 years. The new reform will also create a cohesive and flexible education system based on 12 years of compulsory schooling, which in turn will create a basis for further education, both in Greenland and abroad. In addition, after an evaluation of the Teacher Training College, the Government implements reforms in the Teachers Education in order to align it with the reforms of the Elementary Schools. The Public Finance Management Reform Plan 2018-2020, a key element for Greenland to maintain its eligibility for budget support, is being implemented by the Ministry of Finance of the Government of Greenland, with a key achievement the adoption of the Public Procurement Law by the Greenland Parliament in June 2019.

In December 2019 the Commission adopted the Capacity Facility Greenland, budget EUR 2.64 million. This project will support the Government of Greenland in increasing its capacity for planning and programming external aid programmes and support Greenland Government participation in Arctic Fora and will support the private sector in improving its capacities to attract external capital.

Three Policy Dialog Meetings were held – one in Greenland (June 2019 in Tasiilaq, East Greenland and Nuuk) and two in Brussels (10-12 March 2020, and 6-8 February 2019). For each meeting an Aid-Memoire was signed between the Government of Greenland and the Commission detailing the main points discussed and conclusions reached.

Key achievements

Whereas the Greenland Education Programme phase 1 (2007-2013) resulted in an increased capacity of the education system and a related improved general access to education, the emphasis during phase 2 (period 2014 – 2020) is on:

- increasing initiatives to reduce the dropout rate, including in vocational education and training (VET),
- improving the quality of the education system,
- the ability of the system to accommodate and include students who are in need of special attention,
- improvements in the transitions between different stages in the education system;
 - o from elementary school to high school or VET from 35.4 % in 2013 to 45.0 % in 2018 and targeted at 48 % in 2020
 - o from high school to higher education from 64.1 % in 2013 to 49.1 % in 2018 and targeted at 72 % in 2020
- reducing the number of the 16 – 18 year olds outside the education system from 61.6 % in 2013 to 57.4 % in 2018 and to 40 % in 2020.

Participation of children in the elementary schools up to the age of 15 is compulsory in Greenland and in general full participation of boys and girls is achieved. Participation in further education is not equal with more women attending and graduating in all types of education. Whereas 54.8 % of female teenagers between 16 and 18 years do not attend education, 60.1 % of male teenagers do not attend. Of the pupils enrolled into Vocational and Training (VET) education, 49.9 % are women while 53 % of the VET graduates are women. The graduation rate in VET education is 50.88 % for women and only 44.87 % for men.

Of the pupils enrolling in High school 62 % are women, while 62 % of the graduates of the High schools are women. The graduation rate in High schools is 54.16 % for women and 45.93 % for men. From the graduates from the High schools, 53.5 % of women continue their education in Higher (=tertiary) education compared to 40.7 % of men. Of all students enrolled in Higher education 71 % are women and 29 % men, while of the students completing their Higher education 72 % are women and 28 % are men.

These marked differences can partially be explained by the higher participation of men in the traditional occupations of hunting and fishing as well as their much higher employment in the industrial fisheries, which is the most important economic sector in Greenland outside the government.

The Government spend some EUR 7.2 million on the replacement and expansion of dormitories, especially in the smaller towns. These new dormitories are built to strict Arctic building standards and are in general 50 % more energy efficient than the wooden barracks they replace. In addition, they can be heated with electricity, which is generated sustainably in Greenland from hydroelectric resources; replacing fossil fuel based heating systems.

Evaluation/studies conducted

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU’s external financing instruments (‘the instruments’) to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the EU’s assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments is still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments.

The mid-term review report of the cooperation under the Greenland Decision SWD (2017) 609 final ⁽¹⁾ was adopted by the Commission on 15 December 2017. This evaluation was partly informed by an independent external evaluation and is based on a wide-ranging consultation process, which included a three-month online Open Public Consultation, technical workshops, and interviews with stakeholders across the board. The final report of the External Evaluation of the Greenland Decision for 2014-mid 2017 was published in June 2017. An ex-post evaluation of the Greenland Decision will be undertaken in 2023 and submitted to the Council and the European Parliament as required by Article 17 of the Common Implementation Regulation.

Forthcoming implementation

Following the external evaluations of the elementary schools and teacher training programme in 2015 and 2016 respectively, the Government of Greenland continues to focus on improving the elementary school system. However, challenges with regards to high dropout rates and low completion rates remain pertinent. The Government prepares an Educational Reform that seeks to create a cohesive and flexible education system based on 12 years of compulsory schooling (currently 10 years). A new law on Higher Education was presented to Parliament in 2019, which aims to fulfil the standards of the European certification ESG-2015. The Government of Greenland increases its focus on accessibility to education in view of the scattered population and limited infrastructure in Greenland. This includes initiative to strengthen distance learning for elementary and high school levels. Recommendations from a group of experts from Greenland, Denmark, Iceland and Canada to strengthen the quality of language training were received and are being incorporated into the Education Reform and the revised teacher training programme.

Targets for the various indicators used in the programme for the year 2020 are mentioned in section III.3 below.

Following the signature of the Financing Agreement for the Capacity Facility Greenland early in 2020, this project will be implemented in the period 2020-2022. The emphasis in 2020 will be on increasing the manpower in key ministries (especially Finance, Industries and Foreign Affairs), training new and existing manpower to draft evidence-based policies, and on providing the private sector with a facility to allow them to improve business and investments plan in order to attract capital.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

The Commission has proposed to merge the Greenland Decision into the new Overseas Association Decision, covering support to all OCTs (see COM(2018)461 final). The cooperation programme with Greenland is expected to continue providing support to the Education Sector, probably in addition to one additional sector that still needs to be identified.

For 2021, the priorities will be for the Government of Greenland to adopt the Education Reform and start implementation of the introduction of 12 years of compulsory education. In addition, the implementation of the Law on Higher Education will be completed.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Decision 2014/137/EU of 14 March 2014 on relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other	2014 – 2020	217,8

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,3	1,8
Operational appropriations	24,6	30,7	31,1	31,6	32,1	32,6	33,2	216,0
Total	24,8	30,9	31,4	31,9	32,4	32,9	33,5	217,8

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017SC0609&rid=1>

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	32,904	99,68 %	29,402	99,36 %	33,489	0,00 %	33,373	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	32,904	99,68 %	29,532	99,34 %	33,489	0,00 %	33,456	0,03 %

(*) 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

Overall, the general objectives of the cooperation with Greenland have been partially met. The cooperation, especially with the key Ministries of Finance, Education, Industry and the Department of Foreign Affairs as well as with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Denmark is good as witnessed by the Policy Dialogue meetings held twice a year in Greenland and Brussels respectively.

However, the programme has not yet resulted in the diversification of the Greenland economy, which is still very much depending in the Fisheries sector for economic development, trade and domestic revenue. This is mainly due to the lack of major investments in the minerals sector with only two small mines having started operations in the past 2 years. Promising development of an Iron and of Rare Earth Minerals, mines have been held back by lack of investment capital caused by low world market prices for such minerals and the difficulties and expense to operate in an Arctic environment.

Still Greenland has witnessed persistent economic growth in the past 5 years and has achieved near full employment of the Greenlandic population. This is affecting the success of the Education support programme as High School graduates find employment opportunities more attractive than continuing their education in the Higher education system. Similarly, youngsters, especially men, can find employment in the booming fisheries sector after completing elementary school. Therefore, the level of 16 to 18 year teenagers outside the education system (VET or High School) remains disappointingly high at 57.4 %.

In the Annual Implementation Report 2018 the performance of the Greenland Education Programme II is measured against an agreed set of indicators. The Government of Greenland's increased focus on education and training since 2004 has been reflected in an increase in the budget for education and training from 14.8 % of the total Government budget in 2005 to 25.02 % in 2018, which amounted to around EUR 351.5 million in the 2018 budget and to 25.10 % in the budget for 2019, which amounts to EUR 346.4 million.

In 2018, one of the main priorities was a continued focus on initiatives to improve the quality of elementary education. The elementary school system has been the object of much attention, especially following the 2015 external evaluation 'The Primary School of Greenland' and the 2016 final evaluation of the Teacher Training Programme. As both evaluations pointed out, the political goals of lifting the quality of the elementary school system had not been completely achieved, and further efforts were needed in order to provide children with a sound basis for lifelong learning. Among the activities undertaken in 2018 was the work on increasing the use of IT in elementary schools. In addition, the Agency for Education has focused on improving cooperation with the municipalities as both preschools and elementary schools remain a municipal responsibility. One of the main issues remain recruitment and retention of personnel. Therefore, the Agency for Education has finalised a 'Strategy and Action Plan for professionals in day-care institutions' in 2018 (see Annex 18). The strategy will form the basis for future initiatives targeting recruitment and retention of staff in preschools.

Furthermore, the Government continued its focus on accessibility to education, including a continuation of the work on examining how distance learning can contribute to both a higher level of accessibility and a higher quality of education, especially for, but not limited to, the elementary and high school levels. The scattered population (population density lowest in the world: 0.028/km²) and limited infrastructure in Greenland remains a challenge for recruiting teachers for elementary schools in settlements and for students to move to cities with youth education institutions. Accessibility to education also covers a need for providing education opportunities for students who are unable to follow regular in-class programmes due to a diagnosis such as autism or ADHD. In 2018, the Government has therefore started both a trial distance learning high school programme (eGUX) and a trial high school programme for students with a diagnosis (GUX-S).

In the Vocational Education and Training sector, the Government decided to work towards more coherence between the education programmes offered and the needs of the labour market. In 2018, the Ministry of Education therefore focused on developing new education programmes that fit the labour market needs, one within technology management and two programmes targeting the fishing industry. Unfortunately, the number of apprenticeships remain at a low level, as companies seem to remain reluctant despite improvements in the economy. In 2018 and 2019, the Ministry of Labour continued to work on a bill that sets minimum requirements for the number of apprentices a company must have based on the amount of skilled workers they employ.

In terms of higher education, the Ministry of Education presented a new Law on Higher Education at the 2018 Parliament Fall Session, which will be further discussed during Spring Session 2019. The new legislation is, among other things, a continuation of the work towards implementing a procedure for quality development, in order to live up to international standards. The implementation is expected to take as much as a decade, since the process includes development of a quality culture and multiple

cycles of review to be undertaken in order to fulfil the standards of the European certification ESG-2015. The Government also welcomed in 2018 a new programme at the University of Greenland, who is now offering a Bachelor of Law with specific focus on the Greenlandic legal system.

Even though the education sector is experiencing an overall positive development, Greenland still faces challenges in terms of dropout and completion rates. A large group of children and young people still do not achieve the necessary skills in elementary school in order to continue straight to youth education and therefore must acquire these in other ways. In 2018, 45 % of the pupils leaving the elementary school progressed to further education (VET Educations or high school) within a year, and even though there has been an increase since 2017 (40 %), this rate needs to accelerate. The youth group (16 to 18 year) outside the education system is decreasing (from 60.1 % in 2017 to 57.4 % in 2018), indicating that it is becoming more and more natural for young people to enrol in further education after completing the compulsory elementary school.

In light of the above, the Ministry of Education decided to start looking into possible long-term and preferably cross-cutting solutions to address these challenges. In 2017, the Government launched the preparatory work on creating a cohesive and flexible education system. The future structure of the education system – if approved by Parliament – will increase from 10 to 12 years of compulsory schooling, which in turn will create a natural basis for further education, both in Greenland and abroad. In addition to a wide range of new flexible educational opportunities, it will still allow the possibility of continuing straight to high school or vocational education after the 10th school year.

Activities related to the special objective 2 are mainly financed by the Government of Greenland directly without support from the EU. In December 2019 the Financing Decision for the Capacity Facility Greenland, budget EUR 2.64 million, was adopted by the Commission. The actions foreseen in this project will create results starting in 2020 and continue in 2021 and 2022.

General objectives

General Objective 1: The EU/Greenland partnership aims to preserve the close and lasting links between the partners, while supporting the sustainable development of the Greenlandic society.

Indicator 1: Percentage of trade balance in GDP								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
-16.1 %	-16.1 %	-16.1 %	-16.1 %	-16.1 %	-15.5 %	-15.5 %	-15.0 %	-15.0 %
	Actual results							
	-13.7 %	-9.6 %	-11.7 %	-2.7 %	-5.3 %			

Source: Statistics Greenland; www.stat.gl, data have been extracted from the Greenland in Figures 2019 (pamphlet provided by the Statistical Bureau of Greenland on an annual basis).

Unit of measure: Percentage

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To support and cooperate with Greenland in addressing its major challenges in particular the sustainable diversification of the economy, the need to increase the skills of its labour force, including scientists, and the need to improve the Greenlandic information systems in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

Performance

Regarding the ‘Percentage of trade balance in DGP’ indicator, no significant change in the trade balance for 2018, 2019 and 2020 is forecasted as only 2 small new mining activities have started up during 2018. The reduction in the trade deficit for 2017 is incidental and caused by the continuing high exports of fish and fisheries products and a reduction in importation of machines and vehicles. As the economy of Greenland is small, individual events, like the delivery of construction equipment for the new harbour and the prison construction in 2016, can have important effects on the trade balance which was elevated in 2016. The baseline and targets 2017 and 2020 have been recalculated by Statistics Greenland due to a change of methodology on their side.

With regards to the Indicator ‘Percentage of fisheries in total exports’, no significant change in the percentage of fisheries in total exports for 2014 to 2018 was realised as no new mining activities were operating during those years. Two small mines started operating in 2018 and 2019, with however only a small economic effect on exports due to their small size. In fact, increased allowable catches and sustained high world market prices mean that fisheries will maintain its leading position in the economy in the near future.

Indicator 1: Completion rate at high school, VET and higher education								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
51.1 %				54.00 %			60.00 %	60.00 %
	Actual results							
	48.9 %	49.3 %	51.62 %	50.8 %	50.69 %			

Source: Ministry of Education, Greenland, Annual Implementation Report, Greenland Education Programme

Unit of measure: Percentage

Indicator 2: Share of age group outside education system								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
61.6 %				57.0 %			40.0 %	40.0 %
	Actual results							
	63.5 %	59.0 %	56.5 %	60.1 %	57.4 %			

Source: Ministry of Education, Greenland, Annual Implementation Report, Greenland Education Programme

Unit of measure: Percentage

Indicator 3: Percentage of fisheries in total exports								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
89.8 %		91.0 %	91.0 %	91.0 %	89.0 %	85.0 %	83.0 %	83.0 %
	Actual results							
	91.0 %	89.4 %	87.4 %	95.2 %	92.4 %			

Source: Statistics Greenland; www.stat.gl, data have been extracted from the Greenland Figures in 2019 (pamphlet provided by the Statistical Bureau of Greenland on an annual basis).

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Support to the Greenland Education Programme Phase II	21 07 01	1	33.22

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Support to the Greenland Education Programme Phase II	F	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
	P	1	1	1	1	1	1	

Specific Objective 2: To contribute to the capacity of the Greenlandic administration to formulating and implementing national policies in particular in new areas of mutual interest as identified in the PDSO referred to in Article 4(1).

Performance

Activities related to this objective are financed by the Government of Greenland directly without requiring support from the EU. Therefore, there are no EU expenditures for this Specific Objective 2. The definitions of the 2 indicators were changed following the signature of the Programming Document for the Sustainable Development of Greenland (C(2014)6775) on 28/10/2014, leading to modification of the baselines. Indicator 2 measures the civil servants with at least 5 years of residence in Greenland and the short term residents which were born in Greenland. Milestones and targets for indicator 2 have not been established as no specific support programme has been identified that influences this indicator directly. However, with a better educated population this indicator is indirectly influenced by the EU support to the education sector under Specific Objective 1. Data on this indicator are monitored and provided by Statistics Greenland.

Indicator 1: Number of administrative staff completing training (participant days)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
1 350				1 500			1 500	1 500
	Actual results							
	1 484	1 467	1 972	2 466				

Unit of measure: Number of staff training days

Indicator 2: Percentage of civil servants that are (long-term) residents in Greenland								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2013	Milestones foreseen							2020
87.2 %	Actual results							
	87.8 %	88.00 %	87.7 %	87.6 %	93.4 %			

Narrative: No target set by the government since it depends on external factors

Source: Statistics Greenland; www.stat.gl, data have been extracted from the Greenland Figures in 2019 (pamphlet provided by the Statistical Bureau of Greenland on an annual basis).

Unit of measure: Percentage

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Capacity Facility Greenland	21 07 01	0	0

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capacity Facility Greenland	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	P	0	0	0	0	0	1	

Activities related to this objective are financed by the Government of Greenland directly without requiring support from the EU. Therefore, there are no EU expenditures for this Specific Objective 2.

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
EU support for the sustainable development of Greenland*	7,5	7,4
Total	7,5	7,4

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
6,0	5,9	6,8	6,9	7,2	7,5	7,4	47,7

(*)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

This contribution is calculated each budget year following the same methodology and based on the following assumptions:

- that around 62.4 % of the overall Greenland Education Programme II Budget is spent on building equivalent to EUR 20.73 million in the budget year (2018 is reference year),
- that the current EU programme contributes 100 % to the overall budget of the GEP,
- that the EU contribution allows the heavy investments in the school buildings and housing (dormitories)
- that most building activity under the GEP replaces old school buildings and especially old dormitories that the new buildings are 50 % more energy efficient.

Gender mainstreaming

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019 (EUR Million)	Budget 2020 (EUR Million)
EU support for the human development of Greenland*	8.9	12.49

This contribution is based on the following assumptions:

- around 50 % of the children attending elementary school are female,
- 58.5 % of the children completing further education are female (for 2017, female completion in high school, VET and higher education were respectively 56.0 %, 53.0 % and 64.3 %),
- therefore overall 54.6 % of the children benefitting from education in Greenland are female

- around 37.6 % of the overall Greenland Education Programme II Budget is spent on non-building activity equivalent to EUR 12.49 million, the current EU programme contributes 100 % of the overall budget of the GEP II.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The EU support to Greenland aims entirely at the Greenland Education Programme, which contributes directly to the **SDG4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and SDG5 Achieve gender equality, and empower all women and girls** as expressed in its specific objectives.

1. Reduced inequality in education by ensuring a well-functioning pre-school and elementary school system, no matter where the children live. The elementary school system shall provide elementary school graduates with the skills needed for them to pursue further education
2. Increased quality of the education system with special emphasis on pre-school and elementary school and increased share of educated personnel in the system
3. Increased efficiency in the education system through reduced dropout between stages in the system, increased completion in the post-elementary education system and a decrease in the time spent in the education system before graduation.

Overall, the share of 35 year olds with a qualifying education (for the labour market) has increased from 50.9 % in 2012 to 52.6 % in 2017. Please note as this concerns the total population of Greenland this number is very sensitive to migration patterns and random fluctuations.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The increased quality of the education system with special emphasis on pre-school and elementary school and the increased efficiency in the education system through reduced drop-out between stages in the system, increased completion in the post-elementary education system and a decrease in the time spent in the education system before graduation benefits especially girls and young women.

Participation of children in the elementary schools up to the age of 15 is compulsory in Greenland and in general, full participation of boys and girls is achieved. Participation in further education is not equal with more women attending and graduating in all types of education. Whereas 54.8 % of female teenagers between 16 and 18 years do not attend education, 60.1 % of male teenagers do not attend. Of the pupils enrolled into Vocational and Training (VET) education, 49.9 % are women while 53 % of the VET graduates are women. The graduation rate in VET education is 50.88 % for women and only 44.87 % for men.

Of the pupils enrolling in High school 62 % are women, while 62 % of the graduates of the High schools are women. The graduation rate in High schools is 54.16 % for women and 45.93 % for men. From the graduates from the High schools, 53.5 % of women continue their education in Higher (=tertiary) education compared to 40.7 % of men. Of all students enrolled in Higher education 71 % are women and 29 % men, while of the students completing their Higher education 72 % are women and 28 % are men.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The overall objective of the programme ('to contribute to a higher standard of living through improved education, skills development and knowledge') contributes to **SDG10 Reduce inequality within and among countries**, especially in reducing the inequality within the country.

HEADING 4: Global Europe**Financial Statement for the Macro Financial Assistance (MFA)**

Lead DG: ECFIN

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

Macro-financial assistance (MFA) is a form of financial aid extended by the EU to partner countries experiencing a balance of payments crisis. It takes the form of medium/long-term loans or grants, or a combination of these, and is only available to countries benefiting from a disbursing International Monetary Fund programme. MFA is designed for countries geographically, economically and politically close to the EU. These include candidate and potential candidate countries, countries bordering the EU covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and, in certain circumstances, other third countries.

EU added value of the programme

The financial assistance provided under MFA operations and the policy measures attached to them aim at supporting the EU agenda vis-à-vis the recipient countries, notably by promoting macroeconomic and political stability in the EU's neighbourhood. The policy measures associated with MFA cover selected provisions related, where applicable, to the accession-related agreements, Stabilisation and Association Agreements, Association Agreements, Partnership and Cooperation Agreements and European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans or equivalent documents. They also cover other conditions aimed at fostering a sustainable balance of payments and budgetary position, raising potential growth, promoting integration and regulatory convergence with the EU and strengthening public finance management.

MFA complements EU assistance under the 'programmed' instruments (e.g. IPA, ENI) and maximises its effectiveness by alleviating the risks of disruption of the regular EU cooperation framework whilst at the same time laying the basis for structural change and sustainable economic and social development of the beneficiary countries. MFA is also complementary to the other EU crisis response mechanisms (e.g. the Instrument for Stability and humanitarian aid) and EIB lending.

When using loans, MFA operations increase the effectiveness of the EU budget through the leverage effect. MFA operations allow the EU as a whole to bundle financial resources and negotiate with recipient countries on modalities of the assistance and policy conditions as a unified actor.

By complementing the resources made available by the IFIs and other donors, EU MFA contributes to the overall effectiveness of the financial support agreed by the international donor community.

Implementation mode

Management mode: Direct management,

Type of EU assistance: Macro-financial assistance

Entities charged with implementation: Commission

II. Programme Implementation Update***Implementation Status (2017-2019)***

During the course of 2019, the Commission made important progress in the implementation of a number of MFA operations. These include:

(a) two MFA operations for which the Commission's legislative proposals were adopted by the co-legislators in 2016 were successfully completed:

- **Jordan II** (EUR 200 million, in loans). The MFA Decision for Jordan II was adopted in December 2016. The first tranche (EUR 100 million) was disbursed in October 2017, whilst the second tranche (EUR 100 million) was disbursed in July 2019, successfully completing the operation.
- **Tunisia II** (EUR 500 million in loans). The MFA Decision was adopted by the co-legislators in July 2016. The first tranche of EUR 200 million was disbursed in October 2017. The release of the second tranche (EUR 150 million) was approved in June 2019, whilst the third and final tranche (EUR 150 million) was disbursed in October 2019.

(b) one MFA operation for which the Commission's legislative proposal was adopted by the co-legislators in 2017:

- **Moldova** (EUR 100 million, including EUR 40 million in grants). The MFA decision for Moldova was adopted by the co-legislators in September 2017. The programme was kept on hold from June 2018 due to political preconditions not being fulfilled. Following a change of government in June 2019, the EU considered that the political preconditions and the policy conditions were fulfilled. The Commission approved the release of the first tranche (EUR 20 million in loans and EUR 10 million in grants) in October 2019. Following another change in government in November 2019, the second and third

instalments could follow in 2020 provided that the political pre-conditions and the agreed policy conditions are fulfilled, and that the IMF programme is successfully concluded. This MFA programme expires in July 2020

(c) one Commission's legislative proposal for a new, follow-up MFA operation was adopted in 2019, and subsequently adopted by the co-legislators in 2020:

- **Jordan III (EUR 500 million in loans).** The follow-up MFA operation for Jordan was proposed by the Commission on 6 September 2019, following a request received by the Jordanian authorities in July 2019. The new MFA was adopted by the co-legislators on 15 January 2020. Negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jordanian authorities are ongoing. The assistance is expected to be implemented in three instalments during 2020 and 2021.

Key achievements

MFA has gained increasing prominence in the EU's external toolbox, aiming to address exceptional financing needs of countries that are geographically, economically and politically close to the EU. Since 1990, the EU has implemented a number of MFA operations in candidate, potential candidate and neighbourhood countries, for a total amount of over EUR 10 billion. Since 2014, around EUR 4.62 billion have been disbursed and additional EUR 1.095 billion have been committed for and are expected to be disbursed between 2020 and 2021 (not considering the new MFA operations to be adopted soon or currently in the pipeline).

MFA volumes increased substantially following the global economic and financial crisis of 2008-2009, which profoundly affected the emerging economies of the European Union's neighbourhood. Six new MFA operations were approved between 2009 and 2010 in support of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, accounting for a total of EUR 1.3 billion. The EU made an even greater use of MFA from 2011, partly reflecting the effects of the euro area's sovereign debt crisis and in response to regional developments. The political and economic upheavals in the Arab Mediterranean partner countries put heightened pressure on these countries' budgets and external financial positions, which led to an increased demand for MFA in 2012 and 2013, with requests for support from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. In 2014, the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the marked deterioration of the country's economic and financial situation triggered MFA support at an unprecedented level, all in the form of loans. Indeed, since 2014, a total of EUR 3.8 billion was committed for Ukraine under four MFA operations.

In response to persisting regional instability, in 2016 decisions on further MFA operations in Tunisia and Jordan were adopted, for a total amount of EUR 700 million, and in 2017 a new operation in Moldova for an amount of EUR 100 million was adopted. In 2018, two new, follow-up MFA operations in Georgia and Ukraine were adopted, for an amount of EUR 35 million and EUR 1 billion, respectively. In 2020, a new follow-up MFA operation for Jordan was proposed by the Commission on 6 September 2019, and subsequently adopted by the co-legislators on 15 January 2020.

In the eastern neighbourhood, MFA was particularly instrumental in helping Ukraine to stabilise the macroeconomic situation and undertake the necessary reforms so as to bring the economy on a sustainable growth path. Indeed, since 2014, a total of EUR 3.3 billion was disbursed to Ukraine under four MFA operations. Under the fourth MFA operation – adopted in 2018 for an amount of EUR 1 billion – another EUR 500 million are available to Ukraine. In effect, MFA has proven to be an important tool to address an acute balance of payments crisis and support reforms in public finance management, anti-corruption, financial sector restructuring, trade and taxation and energy.

In the southern neighbourhood, MFA was also instrumental in helping Tunisia respond to the economic downturn it has faced following the 2011 revolution and the economic and political transition process that ensued. Indeed, since 2014, EUR 800 million have been made available to Tunisia under two MFA operations (EUR 500 million disbursed to date). The programmes helped redress Tunisia's fiscal and external balances, whilst having a considerable focus on policies to foster employment and provide financial support to the poorer sections of society. Additionally, in **Jordan**, a total of EUR 380 million have been made available under the two MFA programmes since 2014, (EUR 280 million disbursed to date). The assistance has helped the country to deal with pressing economic and social issues arising from regional conflicts and the refugee flows from Syria and Iraq. More generally, the assistance helped Jordan to address immediate external and fiscal financing needs, whilst encouraging structural reforms and contributing to macroeconomic stability in a very challenging economic and regional context.

As outlined in the independent ex-post evaluation reports carried out so far, evidence shows that MFA operations have contributed to restoring macroeconomic stability and returning the external financial situation of beneficiary countries on a sustainable path, whilst underpinning economic adjustments and structural reforms in the medium term through conditionality. However, given its specificities, MFA cannot be linked directly to identifiable outputs, and its concrete achievements are therefore difficult to assess.

More details on past MFA operations, including under the current MFF, can be found in the Annual Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Macro-Financial Assistance to third countries, and related Staff Working Document.

Forthcoming implementation

Currently, the pipeline of MFA programmes for 2020/2021 includes:

(a) Implementation of ongoing MFA operations, as described above. These include:

- **Moldova** (EUR 100 million, including EUR 40 million in grants). Following another change in government in November 2019, the second tranche (EUR 30 million) and third tranche (EUR 40 million) could be disbursed subsequently in 2020

subject to fulfilment of political pre-conditions, successful implementation of the policy measures laid down in the MoU and satisfactory progress with the IMF programme.

- **Georgia II** (EUR 45 million, including EUR 10 million in grants). The second tranche of EUR 25 million (EUR 20 million in loans and EUR 5 million in grants) is expected to be disbursed in 2020, subject to fulfilment of the policy measures laid down in the MoU and satisfactory progress with the IMF programme.
- **Ukraine IV** (EUR 1 billion in loans). The second tranche of EUR 500 million in loans is expected to be disbursed in the first quarter of 2020, subject to successful implementation of the policy measures laid down in the MoU and satisfactory progress with the IMF programme.
- **Jordan III** (EUR 500 million in loans). The MFA was adopted by the co-legislators on 15 January 2020. Negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jordanian authorities are ongoing. The assistance is expected to be implemented in three instalments during 2020 and 2021.

In addition, the European Commission may launch other **new MFA operations**, both in the enlargement and the neighbourhood regions, in 2020 and beyond, in view of the deteriorated economic environment in several of these countries as a result of, among other things:

- conflicts in some countries, which have a negative impact on the economy, notably through refugees/internally displaced persons (IDPs);
- terrorist attacks in some countries, which have a direct impact on some sectors of the economy and overall on economic sentiment, business environment and level of investment;
- deterioration of the economy of the major economic partner(s) of some EU neighbouring countries, which has a negative economic impact through the remittances, the trade and the currency/monetary channels;
- lower oil/gas prices;
- internal shocks in some countries (e.g. banking crisis) and/or structural weaknesses translating into high fiscal deficit and/or current account deficit.

On 22 April 2020, the Commission adopted a **new proposal for a €3 billion MFA package** to ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them to limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. The assistance would take the form of medium-term loans provided to the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Tunisia and Ukraine. The proposal is subject to adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

According to the Commission proposals for the MFF 2021-2027, MFA will maintain its current legal status, with assistance being granted on the basis of case-by-case Decisions adopted by Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP) under Article 209, 212 or 213 TFEU. MFA will remain separate from the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), proposed by the Commission in June 2018 in the context of the MFF 2021-2027 package.

NDICI foresees the creation of a new External Action Guarantee (EAG), in support of the new European Fund for Sustainable Development+ (EFSD+) operations as well as of MFA and Euratom loans, building on the existing Guarantee Fund for External Actions and the EFSD Guarantee. The Mid-term Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 confirmed the strong European value added and high leverage of the instrument. The related provisioning will be financed from the geographical lines of NDICI and from the new Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, depending on the countries concerned.

Although loans provide for the majority of assistance disbursed, in line with the logic behind the instrument, grants have proved to be a key element for complementing the operations in situations of high vulnerability. Indeed, in the upcoming MFF post-2020, a number of countries could still require large MFA operations, in terms of both loans and grants, to restore their balance of payments situation and financial stability. Some of these might require large interventions from the international community, including possibly in the form of grants to support economic reconstruction

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations	38,3	0,5	0,4	40,3	10,6	0,1	20,0	110,2
Total	38,3	0,5	0,4	40,3	10,6	0,1	20,0	110,2

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	0,130	96,85 %	10,305	100,00 %	20,000	0,35 %	27,000	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	0,130	96,85 %	10,305	100,00 %	20,000	0,35 %	27,000	0,00 %

(*) 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

Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) is an EU financial instrument designed to address exceptional external financing needs of countries that are geographically, economically and politically close to the EU, in order to restore their macro-financial stability. It is conditional on the existence of an adjustment and reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and can take the form of either loans, for which the Commission borrows the necessary funds in capital markets and on-lends them to the beneficiary country, or, under certain circumstances, grants financed by the EU budget.

Following a request for assistance by the national authorities, the Commission assesses whether the necessary conditions are in place to propose MFA. Eligibility for MFA is guided by the Joint Declaration by the European Parliament and the Council adopted together with the decision providing further macro-financial assistance to Georgia of 2013 ⁽¹⁾. The criteria for deciding whether the MFA will be in loans, grants or a combination of the two have been addressed in the above mentioned Joint Declaration as well as by a note that was endorsed by the Economic and Financial Committee in January 2011 ⁽²⁾ and relate mainly to the level of development of the recipient country and its debt sustainability and/or creditworthiness. Following the adoption of the proposal by the Commission, the European Parliament and Council adopt the Decision under the ordinary legislative procedure. The Commission and the beneficiary country agree on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will define the MFA programme conditionality, after having consulted the Member States Committee under comitology rules.

Disbursement under the proposed MFA programmes is conditional on the fulfilment of political pre-conditions, good progress by the beneficiary country with the IMF programme and on the implementation of the policy measures agreed in the MoU. In turn, each disbursement of MFA reflects good progress by the beneficiary country in implementing the country-specific measures agreed with the EU.

MFA disbursements are sometimes delayed compared to initial expectations. External factors that might be impacting programme timelines include:

- The beneficiary country does not fulfil the political pre-conditions.
- The IMF Programme in the beneficiary county is off-track or expired.
- The implementation of agreed reforms are affected by capacity constraints and institutional weaknesses.
- Changes of government result in shifting policy priorities.

2019 was characterised by the successful completion of the MFA programmes in Jordan and Tunisia, with the Commission disbursing the last instalments of both programmes throughout the year. There was also renewed progress in the implementation of the ongoing MFA programme in Moldova, which had encountered significant delays, and progress in the MFA programme in Ukraine. Finally, the Commission proposed a new follow-up MFA operation in Jordan in September 2019, which was subsequently adopted by the co-legislators in January 2020.

Ex-post evaluations of MFA operations

All MFA operations are subject to an ex post evaluation, which is normally carried out within two years from the end of the availability period defined in the legislative decision granting assistance. The objective is twofold: (i) to analyse the impact of MFA on the economy of the beneficiary country and in particular on the sustainability of its external position; (ii) to assess the added value of the EU intervention.

The evaluations carried out so far conclude that MFA operations do contribute, albeit sometimes modestly and indirectly, to the improvement of external sustainability, the macroeconomic stability and the achievement of structural reforms in the recipient country. In most cases, MFA operations had a positive effect on the balance of payments of the beneficiary country and contributed to relax their budgetary constraints. They also led to a slightly higher economic growth.

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 778/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 August 2013 providing further macro-financial assistance to Georgia

⁽²⁾ 'Criteria for Determining the Use of Grants in EU Macro-Financial Assistance', note of the European Commission to the EFC, January 2011.

All evaluations highlight that an important attribute of the EU MFA versus alternative sources of financing is its highly concessional terms, i.e. relatively low interest rates, long maturity and long grace period. This generates fiscal space and contributes to public debt sustainability in the beneficiary countries.

The ex-post evaluations also confirm that previous MFAs were implemented efficiently, and were well coordinated with other EU programmes and with programmes of other donors (notably, the IMF and World Bank). Indeed, the EU’s MFA complements and is conditional on the existence of an adjustment and reform IMF programme in the beneficiary country. MFA policy conditionality is separate from the IMF conditionality, but complementary and/or reinforcing. Recent experiences show that the presence of two independent but coordinated programmes reinforces the capacity of delivering results, through complementary conditionality and combined financial resources.

The evaluations also note the shortcomings of each MFA operation, with the most common ones being the lack of visibility of the MFA operation, and in certain cases, the speed of the legislative approval process. The Commission will further consider the identified limitations in the upcoming MFA meta-evaluation planned for 2020.

The most recent completed ex-post evaluations of MFA operations, in 2019, are:

- MFA II to Georgia: ‘The MFA-II was a coherent part of a comprehensive package of EU assistance to Georgia, reflecting a close coordination of these interventions. The EU’s added value was most apparent in stimulating the structural reform process in Georgia. MFA-II also helped to mitigate fiscal pressures and resulted in significant savings due to favourable terms of the assistance.’ ⁽³⁾
- MFA to Kyrgyz Republic: ‘The evaluation finds that MFA was effective in contributing to the stabilisation of the Kyrgyz economy, particularly when combined with the IMF’s support programme, which it complemented. Due to its grant component and loans bearing long maturity and very low interest rates, MFA contributed to improving Kyrgyzstan’s public debt sustainability. More broadly, the impact of EU’s MFA and the IMF assistance could be seen through their positive impact in supporting economic recovery.’ ⁽⁴⁾

Ex post evaluations for the MFA programmes in Tunisia I and Ukraine III are currently ongoing, and are expected to be finalised in 2020. Additionally, an MFA meta-evaluation is planned to be launched in the second half of 2020. The study will assess the principles and characteristics governing the MFA instrument aiming to provide input on how to improve the instruments’ relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, value added and its ability to respond to the changing priorities of the EU external action. The study will also make suggestions on how to operationally improve MFA interventions. Finally, the study will consider the quality of MFA evaluations undertaken in the period 2010-2020 and explore ways of improving future evaluations.

All final reports of completed ex-post evaluations of MFA operations are published on https://ec.europa.eu/info/evaluation-reports-economic-and-financial-affairs-policies-and-spending-activities_en

General note: Given the specificities of MFA, a precise assessment of its impact is difficult to make, as effects on macroeconomic variables over time cannot be uniquely attributed to MFA operations. In addition, as MFA is by nature a short-term crisis related instrument spanning over 2 to 3 years maximum, it is not possible to quantify its objectives in terms of indicators/milestones beyond the horizon of the MFA operations themselves or, at most, of the beneficiary countries’ programmes agreed (or to be agreed) with the IMF. Therefore, for years going beyond the MFA operation or the IMF projections, the figures below reflect the latest data available.

General objectives

General Objective 1: Restoring a sustainable external finance situation for countries facing external financing difficulties

Indicator 1: Official foreign exchange reserves in months of imports of goods and services.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Jordan: 7.6						7.0	7.4	7.4
	Actual results							
			7.6	7.5	6.4			
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Georgia: 3.3						3.7	3.6	3.6
	Actual results							

⁽³⁾ External evaluation available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/evaluation-reports-economic-and-financial-affairs-policies-and-spending-activities/ex-post-evaluation-macro-financial-assistance-mfa-operation-georgia_en

⁽⁴⁾ External Evaluation available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/evaluation-reports-economic-and-financial-affairs-policies-and-spending-activities/ex-post-evaluation-macro-financial-assistance-mfa-operation-kyrgyz-republic_en

				3.4	3.6			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Tunisia: 4.7						3.0	3.1	3.1
	Actual results							
		4.7	3.5	3.1	2.7			
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Ukraine: 3.3						3.1	3.2	3.2
	Actual results							
				3.3	3.2			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Moldova: 4.4						4.7	4.5	4.5
	Actual results							
		4.4	4.6	4.9	4.9			

Narrative: Baseline: Beneficiary countries' international reserves position in a year of application

Target: Maintain adequate level of foreign reserves broadly covering 3 months of imports and short-term foreign debt by the end of the programmes.

Comment: General objective note: Given the specificities of MFA, a precise assessment of its impact is difficult to make, as effects on macroeconomic variables over time cannot be uniquely attributed to MFA operations. In addition, as MFA is by nature a short-term crisis related instrument spanning over 2 to 3 years maximum, it is not possible to quantify its objectives in terms of indicators/milestones beyond the horizon of the MFA operations themselves or, at most, of the beneficiary countries' programmes agreed (or to be agreed) with the IMF. Therefore, the indicators are aligned with the timing of implementation of each individual MFA operation, with the baseline put at the year of application for MFA by the beneficiary country and the target for 2020 consistent with the availability period for the MFA.

Source: Central Banks, IMF

Unit of measure: Months

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Providing macro-financial assistance to third countries in resolving their balance of payment crises and restoring external debt sustainability

Indicator 1: Current account balance.								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
Jordan: -9.4 %						-7.0 %	-6.2 %	-6.2 %
	Actual results							
			-9.4 %	-10.6 %	-7.0 %			
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Georgia: -8.8 %						-4.6 %	-4.8 %	-4.8 %
	Actual results							
				-4.8 %	-4.7 %			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Tunisia: -8.9 %						-10.4 %	-9.4 %	-9.4 %
	Actual results							
		-8.9 %	-9.3 %	-10.2 %	-11.1 %			
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020
Ukraine: -2.2 %						-2.8 %	-2.2 %	-2.2 %
	Actual results							
				-2.2 %	-3.4 %			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Moldova: -6.1 %						-9.1 %	-8.9 %	-8.9 %
	Actual results							
		-6.0 %	-3.5 %	-5.8 %	-10.5 %			

Methodology: As percentage of GDP

Narrative: Baseline: beneficiary countries' current account balance as percentage of GDP in year of application

Source: Central Banks, IMF

Indicator 2: External debt.									
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target	
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Jordan: 37.0 %							72.3 %	73.0 %	73.0 %
	Actual results								
			67.4 %	69.6 %	69.1 %				
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Georgia: 113.2 %							117.0 %	118.6 %	118.6 %
	Actual results								
				114.0 %	111.9 %				
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Tunisia: 67.8 %							91.7 %	93.0 %	93.0 %
	Actual results								
		67.8 %	72.9 %	84.2 %	89.4 %				
2017	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Ukraine: 104.1 %							92.3 %	86.7 %	86.7 %
	Actual results								
				104.1 %	95.5 %				
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020	
Moldova: 79.4 %							64.9 %	65.5 %	65.5 %
	Actual results								
		79.4 %	76.8 %	76.5 %	64.9 %				

Methodology: As percentage of GDP

Narrative: Baseline: beneficiary countries' external debt as percentage of GDP in a year of application

Source: Central Banks, IMF

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2019		Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million	Number	EUR million
MFA grant commitments to third countries	01 03 02	1	26.4	1	26.4
Operational assessments, PEFA* studies and ex post evaluations	01 03 02	4	0.6	4	0.6
Total		5	27.0	5	27.0

* Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability

7. Programme related additional information

Commitments for grants 2017-2020 (tentative) – in million EUR					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2017-2020
New MFA operations + Operational assessments, PEFA* studies and ex post evaluations	40.3	10.6	0.125	27.0	104.9
Total	40.3	10.6	0.125	27.0	104.9

Payments for grants 2017-2020 (tentative) – in million EUR					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2017-2020
MFA Moldova			10.0	30.0	40.0
MFA Georgia	10.0	5.0		5.0	20.0
Total	10.0	5.0	10.0	35.0	60.0

MFA loan disbursements in 2017-2020 (tentative) – in million EUR					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total 2017-2020
MFA Ukraine III	600				600
MFA Ukraine IV		500		500	1000
MFA Georgia I	13				13
MFA Georgia II		15		20	35
MFA Jordan II	100		100		200
MFA Jordan III				300	300
MFA Tunisia I	100				100
MFA Tunisia II	200		300		500
MFA Moldova			20	40	60
Total	1013	515	420	860	2808

NB: The forecast for 2020 is preliminary and includes only MFA operations for which a decision has been adopted by the co-legislators as at 5 May 2020.

SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS

SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Lead DG: EMPL

Associated DGs: BUDG

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) expresses Union solidarity by providing support to workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation or the negative effects of the global economic and financial crisis. The EGF is an emergency relief instrument and co-finances active labour market policy measures to help redundant workers. In regions of high youth unemployment, the EGF provides also support for young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). The EGF co-finances up to 60 % of the cost of the measures proposed by the Member States. The EGF is outside of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and due to its specificity, it does not have an annual budget that should be absorbed.

EU added value of the programme

The EGF's added value was clearly confirmed in the mid-term evaluation 2014-2020 published in 2018 ⁽¹⁾. The EGF created true EU added value by increasing the number, variety and intensity of services offered to more dismissed workers and for a longer period of time than would be possible without the EGF funding. EGF measures are always offered on top of standard national measures and intensifying them.

Member States' final reports confirmed that the EGF allows better tailor-made and more in-depth assistance to targeted beneficiaries than would be possible without it, including measures to which they would not normally have access (e.g. third-level education). The EGF enhances Member States' attention to vulnerable people, such as the lower-skilled ones or those with a migrant background, and provides support with a better counsellor-beneficiary ratio.

The result of the beneficiary survey, carried within the frame of the EGF mid-term evaluation, has shown that 67 % of the respondents were of the opinion that the EGF is creating EU added-value by offering assistance to workers made redundant in major restructuring events.

Implementation mode

Shared management with Member States

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The implementation of EGF cases takes the form of coordinated packages of personalised services, which consist of tailor-made assistance. The EGF can co-finance a range of services for the redundant workers, from individual job guidance, career advice, coaching and training courses, to assistance in setting up their own business. These services help the workers re-position themselves on the labour market and return to employment as quickly as possible by enabling them to update their knowledge and skills, or benefit from other suitable means, e.g. mobility allowances, childcare allowance.

As a special instrument applied in unforeseen events, the EGF is only mobilised if a Member State requests EGF funding. The Member State has to demonstrate a clear causality between the job losses and either globalisation or a financial and economic crisis. The number of EGF applications has always been highly cyclical, following economic trends.

Between 2017 and 2019, 14 applications (10 in 2017, 3 in 2018 and 1 in 2019) were submitted by 10 Member States (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) out of which 13 resulted in the mobilisation of EUR 41 million from the EGF funding to the benefit of 12 896 targeted workers and 1 155 NEETs. Due to some divergent views on the link between the eligibility criteria and the redundancies, as justified in this case, the vote on one application submitted in 2019 by Belgium did not reach qualified majority in the Council, thus the EGF support could not be mobilised.

From the 13 successful applications, 9 were submitted under the trade-related globalisation criterion and 4 under the economic and financial crisis criterion. These cases covered 11 different sectors. The greatest number of workers targeted were in the machinery and equipment sector (2 285), followed by retail trade (2 225) and air transport (1 858).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SWD:2018:0192:FIN:EN:PDF>

Key achievements

The overall aim of the EGF is to ensure that the largest possible number of beneficiaries find sustainable employment as soon as possible. The main sources of information on the results achieved by the EGF are the final reports submitted by the Member States, six months after the end of the implementation. Based on the final reports received between 2017 and 2019, it can be observed that on average 61 % of the assisted workers have taken up new employment following EGF intervention.

One of the cases supported by EGF in 2018 looked into the manufacture of wearing apparel sector from Portugal. Following the application submitted by the Member State, the EGF mobilised EUR 4.7 million to support 1 161 workers made redundant in this sector and 730 NEETs under 30 years old. The redundancies occurred in the NUTS level 2 regions of Norte, Centro and Lisboa, where the unemployment rate is higher than the national average (9.5 % vs 8.9 %). The impact of the redundancies in the affected territories was linked to the difficulties of redeployment for workers with low educational level and low skills (78 %). More than 20 % of the workers were over 55 years old and 88 % were women. The personalised services provided to redundant workers and NEETs consisted of vocational and continuing training, promotion of entrepreneurship and training allowances to cover costs incurred by the job-seeker during a training. The final report on the implementation of the financial contribution is expected to be submitted to the Commission in December 2020.

In terms of operational effectiveness and efficiency, the EGF cases from 2017 and 2018 in Finland (Rauma, Broadcom, Computer programming, Microsoft and Retail) can be regarded as examples of best practice. At the end of the implementation period, up to 92 % of the workers have found reemployment. The absorption rate was also high: about 83 % of the EGF funds were used.

The key elements that led to these results include:

- 1) wide consultation for the preparation and implementation of the EGF measures, including representatives of the dismissed workers, the trade unions, the employers, the regional and national authorities and the local government;
- 2) experienced regional network of labour offices and regional development offices which, along with the Ministry of Economy and Employment, is very efficient in identification of the beneficiaries, planning and implementing the EGF measures;
- 3) service providers experienced in EGF;
- 4) very quick reaction of the Member State to the dismissals.

All the key achievements presented above contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (4) *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*, (5) *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, (8) *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all* and (10) *Reduce inequality within and among countries*.

Evaluations/Studies conducted

The key findings of the latest mid-term evaluation were presented in the Programme Statement linked to the 2020 draft budget.

Based on Article 20 of EGF Regulation, the 2014-2020 ex post evaluation is due by 31 December 2021. The survey from the contractor on which the Commission will base its Staff Working Document on the ex post evaluation is due by the end of 2020.

On 16 September 2019, the Commission presented the regular biennial report ⁽²⁾ to the European Parliament and Council, providing a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the activities of the EGF in 2017 and 2018. The report focuses on the applications submitted, decisions adopted, actions funded and results achieved by the EGF.

Forthcoming implementation

During the last year of the current programming period, the Commission will continue monitoring the implementation of three ongoing EGF cases and assess seven final reports expected to be submitted in 2020.

In its Communication on the coordinated economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak (COM(2020) 112 final), the Communication on Coronavirus response (COM(2020) 143 final) and its proposal to amend the Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (COM(2020) 174 final), the Commission underlined that the current health crisis has brought about significant economic implications and there is a need to mobilise all available resources to enhance economic recovery. To this end, the EGF can be mobilized to provide support in case of permanent redundancies due to the critical economic situation, triggered by the Covid-19 crisis. Applications presented by Member States will be assessed by the Commission, who will prepare a proposal for the mobilisation of the EGF if the conditions set out in the EGF regulation are fulfilled.

In order to foster the exchange of best practices and discuss issues of common interest, the Commission organises biannual EGF Contact Persons' meetings (CPM), inviting the Member States' representatives responsible for managing the EGF cases on the ground. In 2020, these meetings have been planned in March (in Lisbon) and in October (in Brussels).

At the same time with the CPM, the Commission organises the EGF Networking Seminars for policy-makers, project promoters, counsellors, trade unions and beneficiary representatives. The Seminar in March 2020 is dedicated to the ex post evaluation of the EGF for the 2014-2020 programming period.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2019/EN/COM-2019-415-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

Throughout 2020, the Commission will continue to conduct monitoring visits and to attend events or conferences related to the EGF in the Member States.

Outlook for the period 2021-2027

On 30 May 2018, the Commission transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council a proposal for EGF Regulation post 2020 ⁽³⁾ with improvements, such as broadening the scope of the EGF to any type of significant restructuring event regardless the cause and lowering the threshold from 500 to 250 dismissed workers. This would ensure that the fund is flexible enough to respond to current and future economic challenges such as automation and digitalisation, the transition to low carbon economy, etc., and become more inclusive. The Commission also proposed to align the EGF co-financing rate with the highest ESF+ co-financing rate in the respective Member State.

Moreover, the Commission has proposed to make available technical assistance for further avenues to exchange information and for peer-to-peer learning activities. To better analyse the EGF's effectiveness, the Commission proposes to extend the number of common output and results indicators in order to collect more detailed monitoring data, especially on the category of workers (professional and educational background), their employment status and the type of employment found. Flexibility and simplification have also been at the core of the Commission proposal.

The Commission will continue to support the negotiations by providing expertise, if needed, to both Council and Parliament.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total Programme
Administrative support	0,3	0,6	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,6		2,6
Operational appropriations	120,1	159,3	165,2	168,6	172,0	175,1	179,3	1 139,6
Total	120,4	159,9	165,6	168,9	172,3	175,7	179,3	1 142,2

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	175,748	0,33 %	0,610	4,66 %	179,263	0,00 %	10,000	0,00 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	199,467	0,29 %	24,536	0,61 %	187,774	0,00 %	19,054	0,25 %

(*) 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 EGF contributes to smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and promotes sustainable employment in the Union by enabling it to demonstrate solidarity towards and to support workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, a consequence of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis addressed in Regulation (EC) No 546/2009, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis.

The EGF is implemented through shared management with the Member States. Hence, it is the responsibility of the Member States to programme and implement the active labour market measures best suited to reintegrate targeted beneficiaries into sustainable employment, either within or outside their initial sector of activity.

As a special instrument (and not an operational programme) applied in unforeseen events, the EGF is only mobilised if a Member State requests EGF funding. The number of EGF applications has always been highly cyclical, following economic trends. In 2019, the Commission received only one application, which could be explained by fewer massive layoffs (involving more than 500 redundancies) due to globalisation and overall improvement of the economic situation in the Member States that facilitates the

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018PC0380&from=EN>

reintegration of workers into the labour market. EGF objectives are met and demonstrate the EU added value directly to the general public. Based on the final reports received between 2017 and 2019, it can be observed that on average 61 % of the assisted workers have taken up new employment following EGF intervention. However, when analysing case by case, this varied from 40 % to 92 %. Taking into consideration that the beneficiaries supported by EGF co-funded measures are usually among those facing the greatest difficulties on the labour market, these results are very encouraging. The results are also influenced by absorption capacities of local and regional labour markets. Hence, the reintegration rate may considerably differ depending on the economic sector, and the area concerned. It is worth mentioning that while assessing the applications for the EGF funding, the Commission advises that the measures should reflect the prospected needs of the local or regional labour market.

The mid-term evaluation of the 2014-2020 EGF identified a few areas for improvement. These include the mobilisation procedure that was considered to be too long. Furthermore, many Member States reported problems putting together the extensive background analysis of the event (globalisation or crises) that triggered the redundancies. These concerns have been addressed through the Commission proposal for the next MFF where EGF shall base support solely on the significant impact, set as a minimum of 250 displaced workers.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To contribute to smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to promote sustainable employment in the Union by enabling the Union to demonstrate solidarity towards and to support workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis addressed in Regulation (EC) No 546/2009, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis

Indicator 1: Proportion of redundant workers reintegrated into employment following EGF supported measures								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2012	Milestones foreseen							2020
47 %				49 %			> 50 %	> 50 %
	Actual results							
	49 %		47 %		60 %	65 %		

Methodology: The actual results, milestones and targets are yearly.

Narrative: The increase of reintegration rate mostly results from the economic recovery in the Member States concerned, combined with targeted measures that help beneficiaries find job quickly. It is important to note that reintegration rates vary widely not just across Member States, but also within Member States, depending on the regions or sectors concerned, the profiles of beneficiaries, etc.

Source: The results reported by the Member States in their final reports submitted to the Commission by calendar year.

Unit of measure: Percentage.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Active labour market policy (ALMP) measures for workers made redundant as a result of changes in world trade (number people)	F	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
	P	13 848	13 273	5 030	11 166	1 730	0*	
Measures supporting NEETs (number people)	F	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
	P	1 893	1 051	0	425	730	0*	

* The vote on one application submitted in 2019 by Belgium did not reach qualified majority in the Council, thus the EGF support could not be mobilised.

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
20 million less people should be at risk of poverty

Narrative justification Contribution to Europe 2020 priorities

100 % (lines 04 04 01 + 40 02 43)

Gender mainstreaming

The Article 10 of the EGF Regulation provides for the Commission and the Member States to ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are integral parts of and promoted during the various stages of the implementation of the financial contribution from the EGF. To that end, the Member States formally confirm the respect of this

principle at the time of application where they provide a breakdown of the workers targeted for assistance. This is, however, a general principle applied across the implementation of the EGF and it is not relevant to estimate budget contributions.

Between 2007 and 2019, the greatest number of redundant workers benefiting from EGF support came from sectors, which traditionally employ more men than women (motor vehicles, computer, electronic, machinery and construction of buildings). As consequence, most workers made redundant and then targeted by the EGF applications were male (68 % men vs. 32 % women). However, since 2017, a significant number of redundancies took place in sectors with high numbers of employed women (retail trade, call centre, wearing apparel and financial services) hence 55 % of men and 45 % of women were targeted by the EGF between 2017-2019.

In 31 % of all EGF cases women represent at least 40 % of the dismissed/targeted workers and in 20 % of cases they are representing more than 50 %.

In eight cases there is a positive balance i.e. the percentage of targeted women is higher than the percentage of dismissed women. This difference goes between 4.5 % – 9 % in four of the cases, between 10.25 % – 13.25 % in three of the cases and is 26 % in one case.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (*)

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Measures aimed at upgrading and updating skills are among the core measures offered by EGF assistance. Long-term educational programmes are also eligible for EGF funding.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The EGF is helping to achieve gender equality by providing support to all dismissed workers. However, it has been observed that the greatest number of redundant workers benefiting from EGF support came from sectors, which traditionally employ more men than women (motor vehicles, computer, electronic, machinery and construction of buildings). Therefore, in certain areas, men are more disadvantaged. However, starting 2017 a significant number of redundancies took place in sectors with high numbers of employed women (retail trade, call centre, wearing apparel and financial services) hence 55 % of men and 45 % of women were targeted by the EGF between 2017-2019.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

As stipulated by the EGF Regulation, the aim of the fund is to contribute to smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to promote sustainable employment in the EU by enabling the Union to demonstrate solidarity towards, and to support workers made redundant. Thus, sustainability and inclusiveness are among the core values of the EGF and the Member States when drawing their application and should favour measures aiming at reintegration into sustainable employment. They are invited to show how the measures are compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Furthermore, EGF measures aim particularly at disadvantaged people, helping them to return to the labour market and obtain decent work. Job creation and fostering entrepreneurship are the focus of many EGF cases. The goal to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation is indirectly supported by improving and updating the skills of workers made redundant due to restructuring events, and by making them ready for future job market needs. In NUTS 2 level regions where youth unemployment rates are at least 20 %, the EGF may provide personalised services to NEETs. In cases implemented in Belgium (Hainaut-Namur Glass and Hainaut Machinery), Greece (Supermarket Larissa) and Spain (Castilla y León mining of coal), the support offered has been picked up to a large degree by the young people targeted and has provided them with assistance that they would not have received through national mainstream services.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The EGF is an emergency fund and is only mobilised in redundancy events that have a significant impact on the regional economy. By offering upskilling measures to workers made redundant, the EGF helps regions to offer measures to make their workers ready for future labour market needs, thereby fostering economic growth. Some EGF cases also include measures that foster responsible mobility of displaced workers.

(*) This section should be read in conjunction with the ‘Key achievements’ section.

SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS

European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

Lead DG: REGIO

I. Overview

What the programme is about?

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), created in 2002, can be mobilised in the event of major and regional disasters upon application from the national authorities of the country concerned; the Commission may not activate it upon its own initiative. Financial assistance from the EUSF is awarded from appropriations raised by the budgetary authority (Council and European Parliament) over and above the normal EU budget. This ensures that in each case EUSF aid comes as an expression of solidarity with the full backing of Member States and the Parliament, not just as an administrative act of the Commission.

EU added value of the programme

Solidarity is one of the core values of the European Union and a guiding principle of the European integration process. The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), is one of the most concrete demonstrations of solidarity between Member States in acute times of need caused by the occurrence of a severe **natural** disaster by providing financial assistance to Member States and to countries negotiating their accession to the EU.

Implementation mode

The EUSF financial contribution helps alleviate national/regional budgets from the financial burden inflicted on them by the need to respond to natural disasters. It is implemented under the principle of shared management (indirect management for eligible non-Member States) and can be used to (re-)finance emergency measures from day one of the disaster. Eligible measures include the restoration to working order of basic infrastructure, providing temporary accommodation and funding rescue services to help the population affected, securing of preventive infrastructure, protection of the cultural heritage and cleaning-up operations. In order to have greater budgetary effect there is no national co-financing requirement.

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation Status (2017-2019)

The EUSF is activated upon request of an eligible State when major or regional natural disasters eligible for EUSF aid occur, such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, forest fires, storms, etc. Eligibility is essentially determined by total direct damage which must exceed a threshold specific to each Member State/country negotiating EU accession or region at NUTS level 2. The number and size of eligible disaster determines the amount of spending in a given year. The total annual budgetary allocation to the Fund which is laid down in the multi-annual financial framework is a ceiling rather than a spending target. The EUSF is therefore not programmable for example like the ESI Funds, as it entirely depends on the unpredictable occurrence, nature and magnitude of these disasters.

In 2019, the Commission received four applications. The first application came from Austria and related to extreme weather conditions of 2018. Austria received the payment of the EUSF financial contribution amounting to EUR 8 154 899 in October 2019.

The second application came from Greece and related to the storm in Crete early 2019. Greece received the advance payment of the EUSF financial contribution amounting to EUR 455 252 in August 2019 and the balance payment amounting to EUR 4 097 265 in February 2020.

The third application was submitted by Portugal and related to hurricane Lorenzo in the Azores in 2019. After a preliminary assessment, Portugal received the advance payment of the EUSF financial contribution amounting to EUR 821 270 in late December 2019. The balance payment amounting to EUR 7 391 427 will be paid when the findings are confirmed and the Fund is mobilised by the budget authority.

Finally the fourth application in 2019 came from Spain and related to extreme weather at the end of 2019. On the basis of the preliminary assessment, the financial contribution from EUSF is likely to amount to EUR 56 743 358. The advance of 10 % of the anticipated financial contribution from the Fund amounts to EUR 5 674 336.

In 2018, the Commission received four applications, namely from Bulgaria relating to flooding in 2017, from Cyprus relating to the drought in 2017- 2018, from Italy relating to the floods of 2018 and from Romania relating to flooding of 2018. Bulgaria received the payment of the EUSF financial contribution amounting to EUR 2.258 million in November 2018 while the application from Cyprus was found not to meet the criteria and consequently had to be rejected. The assessment of the 2 other cases continued into 2019.

Since 2015, under the terms of the EUSF Regulation as revised in 2014, Member States, when submitting their EUSF application, have the possibility to request an advance payment of 10 % of the anticipated aid amount, limited to a maximum of EUR 30 million. Accordingly, for their applications received during 2019 Greece, Portugal and Spain received 10 % advance payments. Austria did not request the payment of an advance.

For each case, following the adoption of the mobilisation decision by the budgetary authority and prior to making the payment, the Commission adopts an implementing decision addressed to the beneficiary State, specifying the conditions for the use of the money (with indicative amounts per measure). Spending is limited to the four types of eligible emergency and recovery operations laid down in the EUSF Regulation. Eligibility starts however from the first occurrence of the damage and costs (for emergency and recovery operations) taken before the Commission's decision may therefore be eligible for the intervention too. After the end of the 18 months implementation period, the beneficiary State has six months to present a report on the implementation of the financial contribution from the Fund with a statement justifying the expenditure incurred. It should be noted that the EUSF was not set up with the aim of meeting all the costs linked to natural disasters. The Fund is limited in principle to non-insurable damage and does not compensate for private losses. Long-term action – such as lasting reconstruction, economic redevelopment and prevention – are not eligible for EUSF aid. In most of the above cases, the beneficiary States decided to dedicate EUSF aid for the restoration of public infrastructure.

Key achievements

In 2019 the Commission paid out EUSF contributions amounting to EUR 293 551 794 for 3 applications relating to disasters which occurred in the course of 2018: namely flooding in Romania, severe weather in Italy, and severe weather in Austria. A total EUSF financial contribution of EUR 1 276 522 was also paid out as regards the applications from Greece (advance payment for storm in Crete early 2019) and from Portugal (advance payment for hurricane Lorenzo in the Azores in 2019).

In 2018 the Commission paid out EUSF contributions totalling EUR 151 889 676 for 9 applications relating to disasters which all occurred in the course of 2017: namely one case from France (hurricanes Irma and Maria), two cases from Greece (earthquakes in Lesbos and Kos), Latvia (flooding), Lithuania (flooding), Poland (storm), Portugal (major forest fires), Spain (fires in Galicia) and Bulgaria (flooding). Additional amounts totalling EUR 4 million had already been awarded as advance payments to France, Greece and Portugal during 2017.

After assessment of the implementation reports and independent audit opinions received for earlier EUSF cases, the Commission also closed one intervention concerning Italy (2011 flooding Liguria and Tuscany).

The EUSF contribution is determined by awarding 2,5 % for the part of total direct damage up to the 'major disaster' threshold and 6 % for the part of the damage exceeding the threshold; accordingly, for regional disasters and disasters accepted under the 'neighbouring country' provision, the EUSF contribution is 2,5 % of total direct damage. The overall impact of the EUSF is targeted on the affected population. However as, by its nature, the EUSF cannot follow the programme approach (unlike the ESI Funds), it is usually not possible to identify the specific part of the population or areas covered by the EUSF intervention alone as most emergency and recovery operations are substantially covered by the beneficiary State's own budget.

Evaluations/studies conducted

In September 2017 an external in-depth ex-post evaluation of the EUSF was launched and was completed in May 2019 with the adoption of the Staff Working Document (SWD (2019)187). The purpose of the ex-post evaluation was to assess the implementation and performance of the financial assistance provided by the EUSF over the period 2002-2016. The evaluation also assessed the synergies between the reformed EUSF and other EU policy instruments in contributing to strengthened measures for the prevention and management of natural disasters in beneficiary States. It is intended to enhance policy learning and ensure transparent communication on the implementation and performance of the instrument.

Between 2002 and 2017, the EU Solidarity Fund mobilised EUR 5.24 billion for interventions in 84 disaster events in 23 Member States and one accession country. Around 90 % of these resources were allocated to disasters generating significant damage at national level, primarily for assistance with earthquakes, floods and storms. The revision of the regulatory framework of the Fund in 2014 introduced a number of changes in the activity of the Fund, in particular the clarification of admissibility criteria for applications for regional disasters, the extension of the regulatory deadline for applications, the extension of the implementation period, and the introduction of advance payments. The evaluation confirms the effectiveness of the Fund, the effects of the 2014 reform, and the synergies between the EU Solidarity Fund and other EU policy instruments for disaster risk management. The analysis highlights also the stakeholders' perceptions of the Fund's EU added value, and its role in inspiring further policy developments in national systems for preparedness, prevention and management of disaster risks. The evaluation concludes that the EUSF is a valuable instrument in the EU toolkit for interventions in disaster situations, bringing EU added value to the post-disaster response in Member States and accession countries. It also calls for further consideration to be given to policy actions that increase the potential for the Fund to intervene.

The evaluation results were disseminated to the general public, national and regional authorities, the Council, the European Parliament, the Court of Auditors, as well as to stakeholders interested in the activities and the performance of the EUSF.

Forthcoming implementation

The occurrence of natural disasters cannot be predicted and applications are submitted if and when an eligible State decides to make an application following the ad hoc nature and impact of such natural disasters.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

Distinct from the ESI Funds the EU Solidarity Fund does not follow a programming approach. Its basic act is open ended and individual interventions of the Fund follow the unpredictable occurrence of disasters.

It is currently not envisaged to modify or replace Council Regulation 2012/2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund in the foreseeable future or to introduce any significant changes in its mode of operation. The Commission has proposed to maintain its maximum annual budget allocation over the next financial framework at the current level.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund, amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Operational appropriations	126,7	82,8	81,5	1 241,2	181,6	343,6	50,0	2 107,4
Total	126,7	82,8	81,5	1 241,2	181,6	343,6	50,0	2 107,4

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	343,552	85,82 %	295,337	99,83 %	50,000	0,00 %	50,000	19,54 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	373,300	78,98 %	295,337	99,83 %	98,723	9,90 %	50,000	19,54 %

(*) 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

Member States and regions are increasingly confronted with natural disasters, which often appear to be linked to climate change. In 2019, the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) continued to offer them vital support, adding to financial relief but also a clear and tangible sign of European solidarity to the populations affected. Close to EUR 296 million in EUSF assistance were thus awarded to 3 Member States in order to help them finance emergency and recovery operations. Furthermore, support from the EUSF helps to increase the Member States' and regions' resilience and preparedness to address the consequences of these natural disasters.

During 2019, the Commission received four new EUSF applications concerning flooding in Austria which occurred at the end of 2017 and originated in the same severe weather phenomenon for which Italy had requested EUSF assistance at the end of 2018, severe weather in Cyprus (Greece), hurricane Lorenzo affecting the Azores (Portugal), and severe weather and flooding in the southeast of Spain.

In the spring of 2019 REGIO completed the first ever evaluation on the EUSF; the Staff Working Document in May 2019.

This evaluation concludes that the European Union Solidarity Fund is a valuable instrument in the EU toolkit for interventions in disaster situations, bringing EU added value to the post-disaster response in Member States and accession countries. The evaluation also calls for further consideration to be given to policy actions that increase the potential for the Fund to intervene.

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: To grant financial assistance to Member States or countries negotiating their accession to the EU in the event of a major natural disaster with serious repercussions on living conditions, the natural environment or the economy for the financing of emergency operations undertaken by the public authorities in support of the affected population
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Indicator 1: Number of population helped in overcoming a crisis situation where their living conditions have been affected								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
Milestones foreseen								
							100 %	
Actual results								
				Italy severe earthquakes of 2016/2017 which was fully paid from 2017 and 2018 allocation frontloaded in accordance with Article 10(2) of the MFF regulation. 10 EUSF applications were received, of which 8 were accepted in 2018, 2 were rejected. Advance payments for 3 cases were executed in 2017.	Payments for 8 EUSF applications from 2017 were executed. 4 new EUSF applications were received, from which 3 are still in the progress of assessment and 1 was paid in 2018.	4 EUSF applications were received. The EUSF financial contribution of EUR 293 551 794 was mobilised for 3 applications in 2018: flooding in Romania, severe weather in Italy and Austria. An additional payment of EUR 1 276 522 was also mobilised for the advance payments regarding Greece (Crete 2019) and Portugal (hurricane Lorenzo 2019).		100 %

Narrative: The EU Solidarity Fund was set up to enable the EU to respond to natural disasters and help a Member State affected to bear the financial burden that is the consequence of the disaster and exceeds a certain order of magnitude. The Solidarity Fund can be used for emergency assistance to the population including for temporary accommodation, for restoring essential infrastructure, cleaning-up operations, and for the protection of cultural heritage assets from further damage. Damage to private property, including businesses, is however not covered.

2017: 10 EUSF applications: From Spain for the Galicia fires of 2017; From Portugal for the fires of 2017; From Greece for the Lesbos and Kos earthquake 2017; From Poland for the storm of 2017; From Latvia for the flooding of 2017; From Lithuania for the flooding of 2017 and; From France relating to hurricanes Irma and Maria of 2017.

2018: 1 paid application: From Bulgaria relating to Burgas flooding of 2017.

2019: 4 EUSF applications: From Austria related to extreme weather conditions of 2018; From Greece related to storm in Crete of 2019; From Portugal related to hurricane Lorenzo in the Azores of 2019; From Spain related to extreme weather of end 2019.

Comment: 10 applications were received in 2017, two were rejected and 8 applications were still in the progress of assessment by the end of 2017. Award decisions and commitments were done in 2018. For 4 applications received in 2018, one award decision was adopted in 2018 and commitment/payment was done in the same year.

Unit of measure: Percentage of population affected and eligible under the EUSF Regulation upon the Member States' request, but due to availability of data it measures applications from Member States.

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
1.Number of applications received and assessed	130601		
	130602		
2.Number of award decisions adopted and commitments done	130601		
	130602		
3.Overall committed amount			

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