



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Summary of the Partnership Agreement for the Netherlands, 2014-2020

Overall information

The Partnership Agreement of the Netherlands is the overarching strategic document covering the investments made with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The PA outlines the way in which the financial means of these four funds will be used to help the Netherlands achieve its smart, sustainable and inclusive growth targets.

The PA focuses on following financing priorities:

- Promotion of an innovation-friendly business environment by
 - supporting actions leading to an increase in the private sector research & innovation investments and to better cooperation between SME's and science and research bodies;
 - enhancing business innovation and competitiveness in agriculture, fisheries and maritime sectors;
- Increasing labour market participation and fostering social inclusion by helping vulnerable groups enter into employment through adequate labour market measures and by promoting and supporting active and healthy ageing;
- Promoting an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy by investing in innovative technologies enhancing energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources in addition to actions aimed at improving eco-systems and safeguarding biodiversity.

These funds offer additional financial leverage for the Netherlands' medium and long-term growth and development strategy. They will help mobilize additional public and private funding for sustainable growth and job creation. The actions funded through the ESI Funds are complementary to the relevant national policy instruments and are well aligned with the EU Council's recommendations made during the European Semester.

Strengthening competitiveness and enhancing innovation are at the core of the strategies of the EAFRD, ERDF and EMFF programmes. Despite the Netherlands' status as one of the top 'innovation followers', it remains important to make the economy more innovation-intensive and to build further upon its strong science base. To that extent ESI Funds' investments will support actions which will further enhance science-business cooperation, improve the transfer of knowledge and create a business environment that lends itself to the creation and development of knowledge-intensive innovative companies.

In an ageing society, to further increase its employment rate, the Netherlands needs to tap into its unused labour potential. Over 70 % of the ESF allocation will therefore be invested in labour integration of people at the margin of the labour market. Labour integration pathways, (re)-training, and individual coaching will be the most prominent tools used by the Dutch municipalities. The latter are best placed to develop tailor-made solutions. The remainder of the ESF investments will go to enterprises and employees to create working environments that enable workers to stay active longer.

But economic growth also needs to remain sustainable. More than half of the EAFRD funds are therefore targeted at restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry. ERDF in turn will invest in measures supporting a shift to a low-carbon economy by targeting measures, which are not covered by the recent national energy agreement, such as early adoption of innovative low-carbon technologies.

Programme implementation has been simplified to improve efficiency and to maximize the effectiveness of the ESIF investments.

ESIF contribution and objectives

ESIF support will predominantly contribute to the Netherlands' efforts to reach the Europe 2020 objectives:

- Boosting research and innovation to attain the target of 2.5% of GDP invested in R&I (compared to 2.13% in 2012) by using EUR 333 million ERDF as a lever for R&I investments in SME's;
- Increasing the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix to 14% (compared to 4.5% in 2012) and realize yearly 1.5% energy savings (compared to an average of 1.1% from 2004-2012) by investing EUR 121 million ERDF in the promotion of the adoption of innovative low-carbon technologies;
- Stimulating labour participation and social inclusion by investing EUR 424 million (of which 85% ESF and 15% ERDF/EAFRD) in active inclusion predominantly aimed at an increase of labour participation to 80% and a reduction of the number of jobless households by 100 000;
- Support employment and labour mobility by investing EUR 126 million ESF in active and healthy ageing.

In addition EAFRD and EMFF will contribute EUR 214 million to increasing the competitiveness of agricultural as well as maritime, fisheries and aquaculture SME's, and EUR 426 million to climate adaptation measures (41%) and environmental measures (59%).

Budget

For the 2014-2020 programming period, EUR 1.4 billion is allocated to the Netherlands for Cohesion Policy (ERDF, ESF) including EUR 389 million for European Territorial Cooperation. An additional EUR 607 million will be invested in the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas by the EAFRD, and EUR 102 million in the maritime, fisheries and aquaculture sectors by the EMFF.

The investments of the funds need to concentrate on a limited number of priorities. This increased focus is one of the cornerstones of the reformed cohesion policy. To that extent the

Netherlands will invest 66% of the ERDF in the promotion of research and innovation and 24% in support to the shift to a low-carbon economy. Thematic concentration is therefore well above the minimum requirements. The ESF share in Cohesion Policy funding is 50%, and more than 70% of the ESF allocation will be invested in measures promoting social inclusion.

10% of the ERDF and 5% of the ESF will be invested in sustainable urban development actions through 'integrated territorial investments' in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht and The Hague (the so-called G-4).

30% of the allocation of the ESI Funds will make a contribution to climate change objectives, which is in line with the overall ambition to devote at least 20% of the budget of the European Union to those objectives.

Programmes architecture

Cohesion policy will be implemented through 5 operational programmes, as was the case in the 2007-2013 programming period.

- 4 regional operational programmes co-financed by ERDF (Noord, West, Zuid and Oost)
- 1 national operational programme co-financed by ESF

Moreover there will be 1 EAFRD rural development programme and 1 EMFF co-financed programme.

Details on the individual allocations are presented in table 2.

Table 1: Allocation breakdown by thematic objective and by fund (except territorial cooperation) in Euro

	ERDF	ESF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
01. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	332,471,268.00	-	22,080,000.00	-	354,551,268.00
02. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	-	-	-	-	-
03. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	-	-	162,330,000.00	21,876,849.00	184,206,849.00
04. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	121,339,440.00	-	-	-	121,339,440.00
05. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	-	-	176,165,000.00	-	176,165,000.00
06. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	-	-	176,165,000.00	73,555,000.00	249,720,000.00
07. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	-	-	-	-	-
08. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	11,659,647.00	126,000,000.00	-	-	137,659,647.00
09. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	21,555,994.00	361,025,498.00	40,960,000.00	-	423,542,343.00
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	-	-	7,440,000.00	-	7,440,000.00
11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	-	-	-	-	-
Technical assistance	20,291,879.00	20,292,729.00	22,165,360.00	6,091,395.00	68,840,513.00
Total	507,318,228.00	507,318,228.00	607,305,360.00	101,523,244.00	1,723,465,060.00

Table 2: Allocation to ESIF programmes

Programme Name	Programme ID	ESI Fund	Thematic Objectives	Total (EUR)
OP ELFPO	2014NL06RDNP001	EAFRD	TO 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10	607,305,360.00
OP EFMZV	2014NL14MFOP001	EMFF	TO 3, 6	101,523,244.00
OP NOORD-NEDERLAND	2014NL16RFOP001	ERDF	TO 1, 4	103,541,823.00
OP WEST-NEDERLAND	2014NL16RFOP002	ERDF	TO 1, 4, 8, 9	189,847,055.00
OP ZUID-NEDERLAND	2014NL16RFOP003	ERDF	TO 1, 4	113,627,056.00
OP OOST-NEDERLAND	2014NL16RFOP004	ERDF	TO 1, 4	100,302,292.00
OP ESF	2014NL05SFOP001	ESF	TO 8, 9	507,318,228.00
			Total	1,723,465,060,00