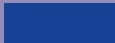




CONTRIBUTION OF THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND  
INVESTMENT FUNDS TO THE 10 COMMISSION PRIORITIES  
INTERNAL MARKET





## HOW ARE THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESI FUNDS) CONTRIBUTING TO THIS COMMISSION PRIORITY 2014-2020?

The Single Market is one of the EU's major achievements and is the economic backbone of the Union, creating much needed jobs and growth. With people, goods, services and capital moving more freely than ever before, new opportunities have opened up for consumers, workers, and businesses.

## HOW CAN THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS HELP?

The wide range of support on offer to **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** will help to achieve a deeper and fairer internal market with a solid industrial base. Types of support could include research and innovation, business development and modernisation, organisation of the food supply chain, entrepreneurship, incubation, technological transfer, internationalisation, energy efficiency and support to clusters. These are all covered in the factsheet: 'a new boost for jobs'.

The use of the ESI Funds in other key areas such as in **infrastructure investments, administrative capacity, and cross-border cooperation** will also help to strengthen the Single Market's industrial base.



## ESI FUND ACTIONS: 2014-2020

### TRANSPORT

ESI Funds are helping develop transport to spur economic activity, and are important for the EU's overall transport policy.

Key infrastructure investments in sustainable transport and energy will help to connect people and regions of Europe. The two Cohesion Policy funds in particular support the [Trans-European Transport Network \(TEN-T\)](#), which is essential for the proper functioning of the internal market.

Close to EUR 70 billion of Cohesion Policy funds will go towards transport investments with an emphasis on smarter, safer, cleaner and multi-modal transport. The kinds of investment vary depending on the region. For example, in [less-developed regions](#) and cohesion countries, the focus is on [basic infrastructure and enhancing accessibility](#) by investing in roads, railways, and ports. In [more developed areas](#), investments are addressing [missing links or bottlenecks](#).

### SME SUPPORT

Entrepreneurship and innovation are encouraged through [interregional networks for smart specialisation investments](#). These networks are responding to information and coordination failures during the development of new value chains and industries. These failures need to be addressed as they are hitting hardest the innovative SMEs that lack the resources to explore new opportunities at the European level. Specific start-up and



development support schemes for agricultural and rural SMEs is planned under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), combining various support measures such as knowledge transfer, advice, investment and one-off start-up payments.

### LABOUR MOBILITY

The European Social Fund (ESF) is supporting transnational labour mobility through, for example, its [financing of the EURES network](#). This investment is helping EURES develop worker mobility schemes and strategies at local, regional, national and cross-border levels.

### SEEKING SYNERGIES

For 2014-2020 the ESI Funds are looking for synergies with the [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#), [Interoperability solutions for European public administrations, businesses and citizens \(ISA\)](#) & [Horizon 2020](#), as well as other EU funds. The first step was to include synergy issues in the Smart Specialisation Strategies and in the first Horizon 2020 calls. The [Seal of Excellence](#) initiative is another step and is a quality label for high-quality project proposals which could not get funding under the SME Instrument of Horizon 2020. This certificate will help SMEs secure ESF and other kinds of funding.

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will provide support for [3 000 innovation projects under the European Innovation Partnership](#). These funds will help turn research results from Horizon 2020 into solutions on the ground, improving the economic and environmental performance of farmers.



## CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

With a greater focus on growth the [Cross-Border Cooperation programmes \(CBC\)](#) will help to tackle so-called obstacles between Member States and regions which impede the better functioning of the Single Market. The launch of the [Cross-Border Review](#) will identify the most prevalent cross-border obstacles. A public consultation on this looked for the opinions of interested parties and closed on 21 December 2015. A study is also on-going with findings expected by beginning 2017.

## STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

Reducing regulatory and administrative burdens while promoting [high standards of transparency, integrity and accountability](#) in public administrations helps to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness. [Support for institutional capacity and efficient public administrations](#) is mobilised through the [ESF and ERDF](#). The [Technical Assistance budget](#) can address shortcomings in how ESI Funds are managed by reinforcing the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use these Funds.



## EXPECTED RESULTS

### TRANSPORT

- 7 515 km railway lines, of which 5 200 km belong to the TEN-T, will be built reconstructed or upgraded.
- 3 100 km of new roads will be built, of which 2 020 km will be TEN-T. 10 270 km of roads will be reconstructed, of which 798 km will be TEN-T. The 2 818 km of TEN-T road to be built or upgraded represents 5 % of the TEN-T network.
- 748 km of tram or metro lines will be constructed or improved.
- 977 km of new or improved inland waterways are foreseen.

### SME COMPETITIVENESS

- ESI Funds will support around 801 500 enterprises and create approximately 354 300 new jobs.
- 396 500 micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises will receive funding to invest in human development and people skills through ESF.
- More than 2 000 LEADER local action groups will receive EUR 6.7 billion to develop innovative locally funded actions to improve services and generate growth and jobs in rural areas.



ESI Funds will support around  
**801 500 enterprises**  
and create approximately  
**354 300 new jobs.**



**7 515 km** of **railway lines**,  
of which 5 200 km belong to the TEN-T,  
will be reconstructed or upgraded.



**396 500 SMEs** will receive  
funding to invest in human development  
and people skills through the ESF.



EAFRD will provide support to more  
than **3 000 innovation  
projects** under the European  
Innovation Partnership.



**2.9 million people**  
will gain a qualification  
on completing an ESF project.



**3.1 million unemployed  
or inactive young people**  
will be supported by the Young  
Entrepreneurs Initiative (YEI).



- EARDF will provide investment to increase the **competitiveness of more than 334 000 farmers and foresters**.
- EAFRD will help almost **30 000 farmers to participate in short supply chains** and local markets.
- Approximately **138 000 farmers** will receive support to **participate in quality schemes**, while nearly 129 000 farmers will partake in producers organisations groups with EAFRD support.
- EAFRD will also **support 161 000 young farmers and 62 000 rural entrepreneurs** in developing their businesses.
- The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) will help small scale fishing which is of high social, economic and cultural importance for local coastal communities, especially in the Mediterranean basin.

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- EAFRD will provide support to **more than 3 000 innovation projects** under the European Innovation Partnership.

### TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- ESF will support 4.1 million people under the **age of 25**.
- 2.9 million people will gain a qualification on completing an ESF project.





## INTERNAL MARKET

- 400 000 people will start education or training after receiving ESF support.
- 3.1 million unemployed or inactive young people will be supported by the Young Entrepreneurs initiative (YEI).
  - 1.6 million unemployed or inactive young people will receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship following YEI support.
  - 1.3 million unemployed or inactive people are expected to take part in education or training, gain a qualification or find employment, including self-employment, following a YEI programme.
- EAFRD will provide 3.9 million places in training courses to farmers and other rural entrepreneurs to develop their businesses. Advice will also be on offer for 1.4 million farmers.



## PROJECT EXAMPLES

- **INNOREG – Developing innovative business models for competitiveness.** The project supports the scientific and technical potential of the Central Baltic region. One key result is its new Flexible Manufacturing System. The project also organises various pilot trainings in mechatronics to test the potential of cross-border collaboration and, based on identified future needs, has created a development plan for the region in the field of mechanical engineering and mechatronics.  
<http://bit.ly/1QKAlHr>
- **The third metro extension in Sofia** makes it the main transport system of the city. Better connections with European, national and local transport networks are now a reality.  
<http://europa.eu/!mr94qk>
- **A rail link cross-border project between Austria (Villach) and Italy (Udine)** provides a much needed connection between the two towns, bringing economic, social and environmental benefits. It also promotes transnational, sustainable and eco-friendly mobility.  
<http://bit.ly/1OfyLaO>
- The provision of venture capital through the **Technology Start-Up Fund in Saxony (TGFS)** addresses the lack of capital needed for the economic exploitation of innovative ideas and technologies. The fund targets young, innovative and technology-based companies and shows how the public sector and financial entities can work together to support the regional economy and promote the creation and growth of young and innovative SMEs.  
<http://bit.ly/1jLEXim>



- Proactive Innovation Support for SMEs (**PROINCOR**) supports innovation in SMEs in the corridor from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. 100 managers and employees received innovation training. The project also organised project adviser visits to SMEs in order to perform free innovation audits and to show entrepreneurs how to develop systems to make the most of innovation, research and technological development.  
<http://bit.ly/1NT1Caz>

More factsheets on how ESI Funds contribute to Commission priorities are available at [http://ec.europa.eu/contracts\\_grants/funds\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/funds_en.htm)

Other factsheets in the series: Jobs, Growth and Investment • Digital Single Market • Energy Union • Economic and Monetary Union • Justice and Fundamental Rights • Migration