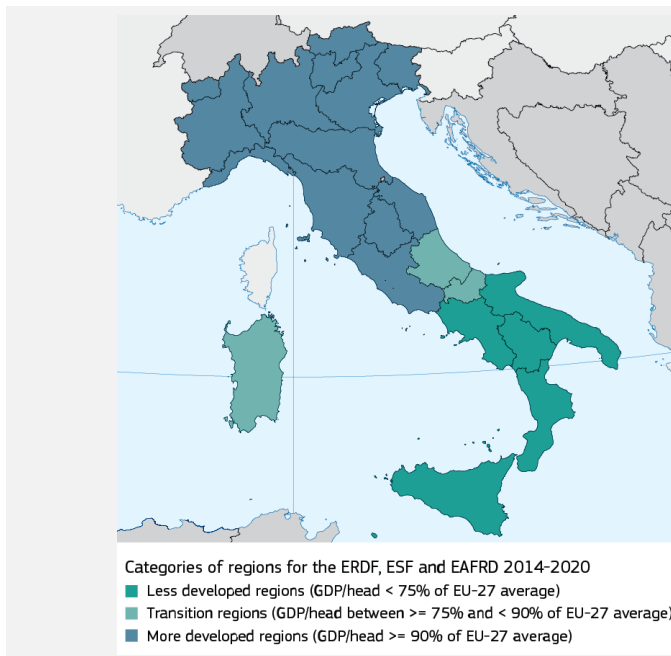


# EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS<sup>1</sup>



## ITALY

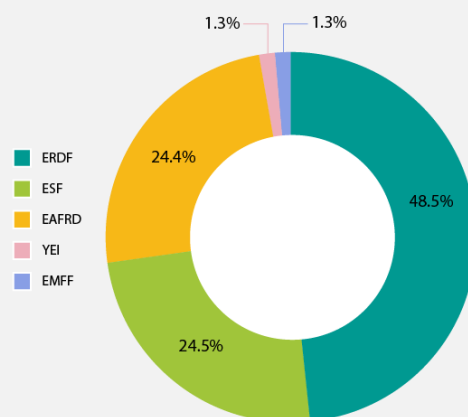
With a budget of **EUR 454 billion** for 2014-2020, the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine five Funds: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**; **European Social Fund (ESF)**; **Cohesion Fund (CF)**;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



Through 75 national and regional programmes, Italy has been allocated **EUR 42.77 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 30.96 billion**, Italy has a total budget of **EUR 73.73 billion** to be invested in various areas, from **jobs and growth** to boosting **research and innovation** as well as protecting the **environment** and increasing **labour market participation**.

## ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR ITALY (2014-2020)<sup>2</sup>

- EUR 20.75 billion through the ERDF
- EUR 10.47 billion through the ESF
- EUR 10.44 billion through the EAFRD
- EUR 537 million through the EMFF
- EUR 567 million through the YEI



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

<sup>2</sup> Only those Member States with a gross national income (GNI) per inhabitant of less than 90 % of the EU average benefit from the Cohesion Fund. As such, Italy is not eligible to benefit from the CF.

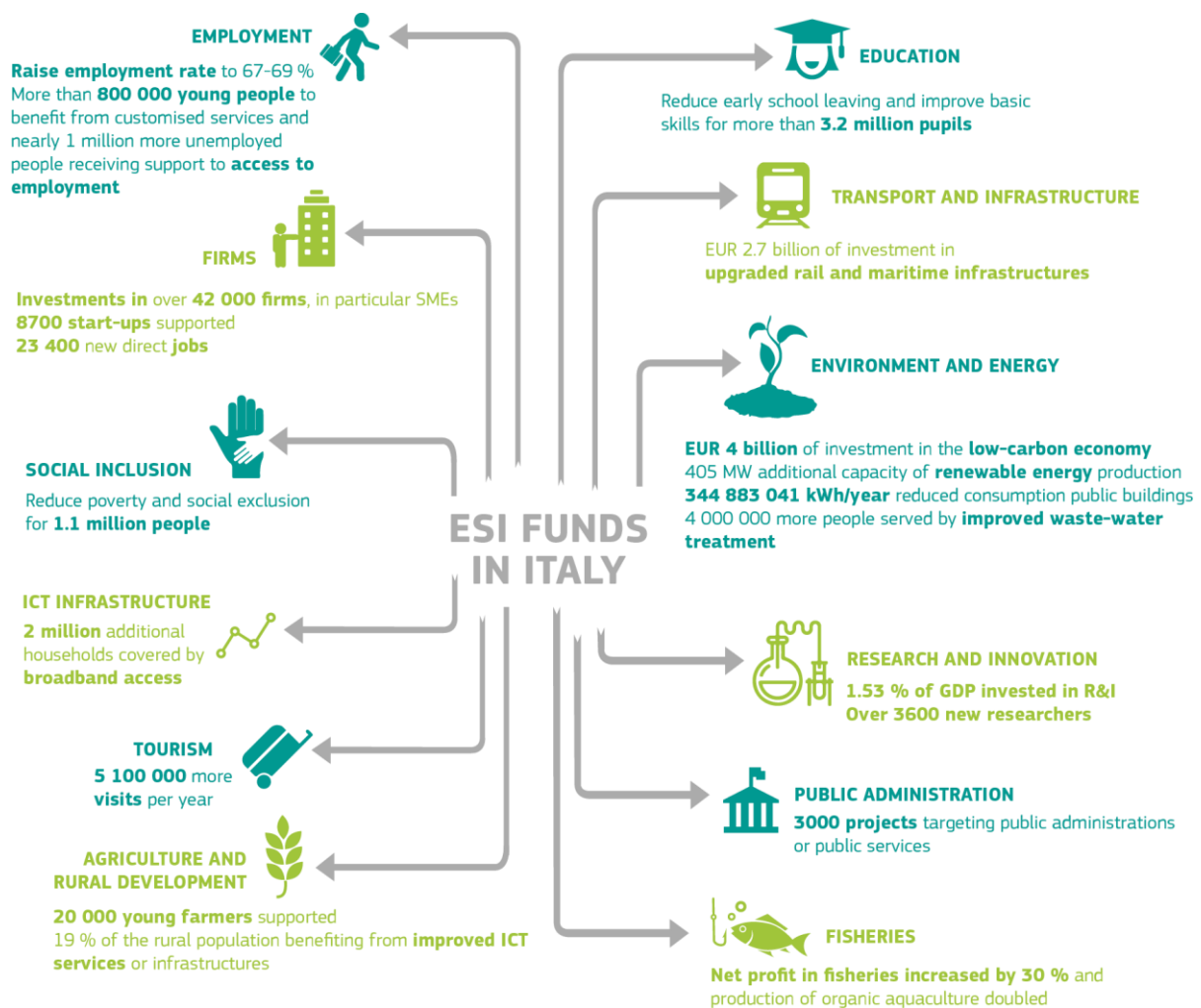
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN ITALY WILL:

- Develop an **innovation-friendly business environment** to boost companies' innovation and competitiveness, in particular SMEs.
- Put in place **efficient infrastructures** and **management of natural resources**, supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy.
- Increase **labour market participation** and tackle youth unemployment, through investments in education, training and interventions in the labour market.
- Promote **social inclusion**, reduce poverty, and improve and adapt **education** to labour market needs.
- Improve **administrative capacity**, the justice system and the management of programmes.

### TARGETS

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



## HOW WILL ITALY ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Italy will work towards the efficient spending of the EU Funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

### FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

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

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

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

### ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Around EUR 2.18 billion will be delivered through financial instruments, in particular for SMEs and innovation and, to a lesser degree, for energy efficiency and measures for active employment and access to the labour market.

The urban development strategy includes a specific programme for the 14 new metropolitan areas, and a targeted territorial strategy will focus on sparsely populated rural areas ('inner areas').

### SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Managing authorities for ESI Funds are developing ways of reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries and public administration. These include greater use of simplified costs and improving the dedicated information system.

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

### TECHNOPOLES AS HUBS OF INNOVATION

The project comprises a network of 10 research sites for technological transfer in the Emilia-Romagna region. Incorporating six universities and four research institutes with 34 industrial research laboratories and 11 innovation centres, these 10 'technopoles' are hubs of industrial innovation and launch pads for high-tech enterprises. The project focuses on sectors and areas of business linked to the districts, using the production chains most typical of the region. The technopoles employ 1600 researchers, 560 of whom are newly employed young researchers. In total, they operate 132 research programmes and are making 520 solutions available for companies.

Total budget: **EUR 241 000 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from **ERDF: EUR 94 000 000**

More information: <http://europa.eu/UQ88WN>

## PRESTITO D'ONORE (LOAN OF HONOUR)

The Marche region backs ideas, using microcredit and entrepreneurship as tools to combat unemployment by offering individuals without a job the resources and training necessary to set up a business. Unemployed people aged 18 and 60 or women aged over 35 who are in employment but wish to set up their own business are granted medium-term microcredit loans of between EUR 25 000 and EUR 50 000 and are provided with tailored guidance for the first year of business. Over the course of the three cycles, some 1300 new businesses have been established, half of them by people under the age of 35, and a third by women.

Total budget: **EUR 37 900 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from ESF: **EUR 7 900 000**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!Jw97fP>

## BIOGAS PLANT AT IASI AGRIZOO FARM

The project supported the establishment of a small biogas plant in the Basilicata region, producing heat and electricity from the fermentation of livestock manure. Processing manure is an opportunity for income diversification by producing renewable clean energy. The project financed a 130 KW plant comprising an electronically controlled anaerobic digester system that produces biogas to feed a heat/electric power generator. The heat is used on farm and excess electricity is sold to the local utility company.

Total budget: **EUR 602 512**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EAFRD: **EUR 199 953**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!uP48Yd>

## EQUIPMENT MODERNISATION OF FISH FARM ON SICILY ISLAND

The fish farm enterprise "Onda blu" obtained support under Axis II of the EFF to improve quality and hygienic sanitary conditions of its premises and employees' safety. Equipment renovation included cold stores, tanks, building work, installation of purification system as well as a small boat purchase with the purpose of managing enterprise's aquaculture facilities at sea. The enterprise achieved its modernisation objectives and in a time of strong economic constraints managed to increase employment by 2 units, one of which female.

Total budget: **EUR 666 523 EUR**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EFF: **EUR 379.918**

(During the 2007-2013 period, the EMFF was known as European Fisheries Fund or EFF)

More information: <http://www.buonepratichefep.it/>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN ITALY

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/IT>
- ERDF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/italy](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/italy)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=386&langId=en>
- YEI: [ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13472&langId=en](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13472&langId=en)
- EAFRD: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm)
- EMFF: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-italy-summary\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-italy-summary_en.pdf)
- The EU Representation in Italy: [http://ec.europa.eu/italy/index\\_it.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/italy/index_it.htm)
- EU project examples: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects_en)
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