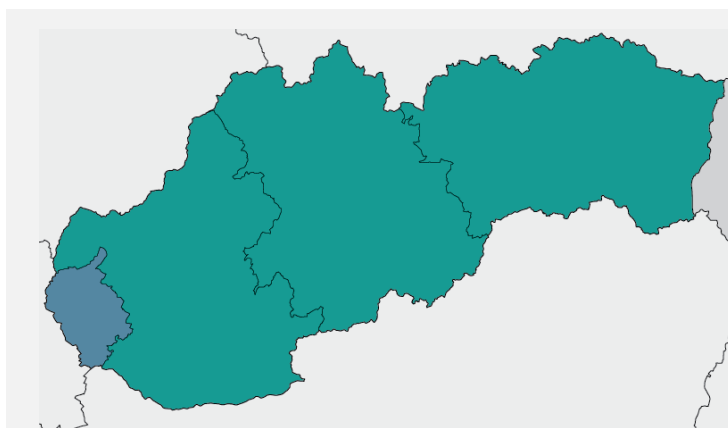


EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS¹



SLOVAKIA

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)**. Slovakia, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**.



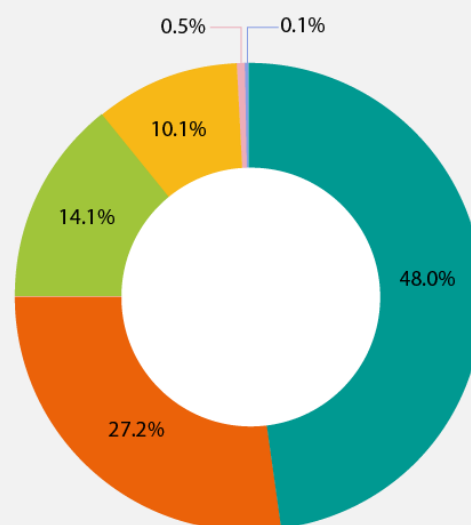
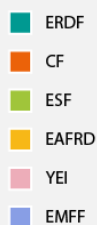
Categories of regions for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD 2014-2020

- Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75% of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90% of EU-27 average)

Through nine national and regional programmes, Slovakia has been allocated **EUR 15.32 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 4.72 billion**, Slovakia has a total budget of **EUR 20 billion** to be invested in various areas, from creating **jobs and growth** to supporting **sustainable transport** as well as protecting **the environment** and investing in **research and innovation**.

ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR SLOVAKIA (2014-2020)

- **EUR 7.36 billion** through the **ERDF**
- **EUR 4.17 billion** through the **CF**
- **EUR 2.17 billion** through the **ESF**
- **EUR 1.55 billion** through the **EAFRD**
- **EUR 16 million** through the **EMFF**
- **EUR 72 million** through the **YEI**



¹ 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).

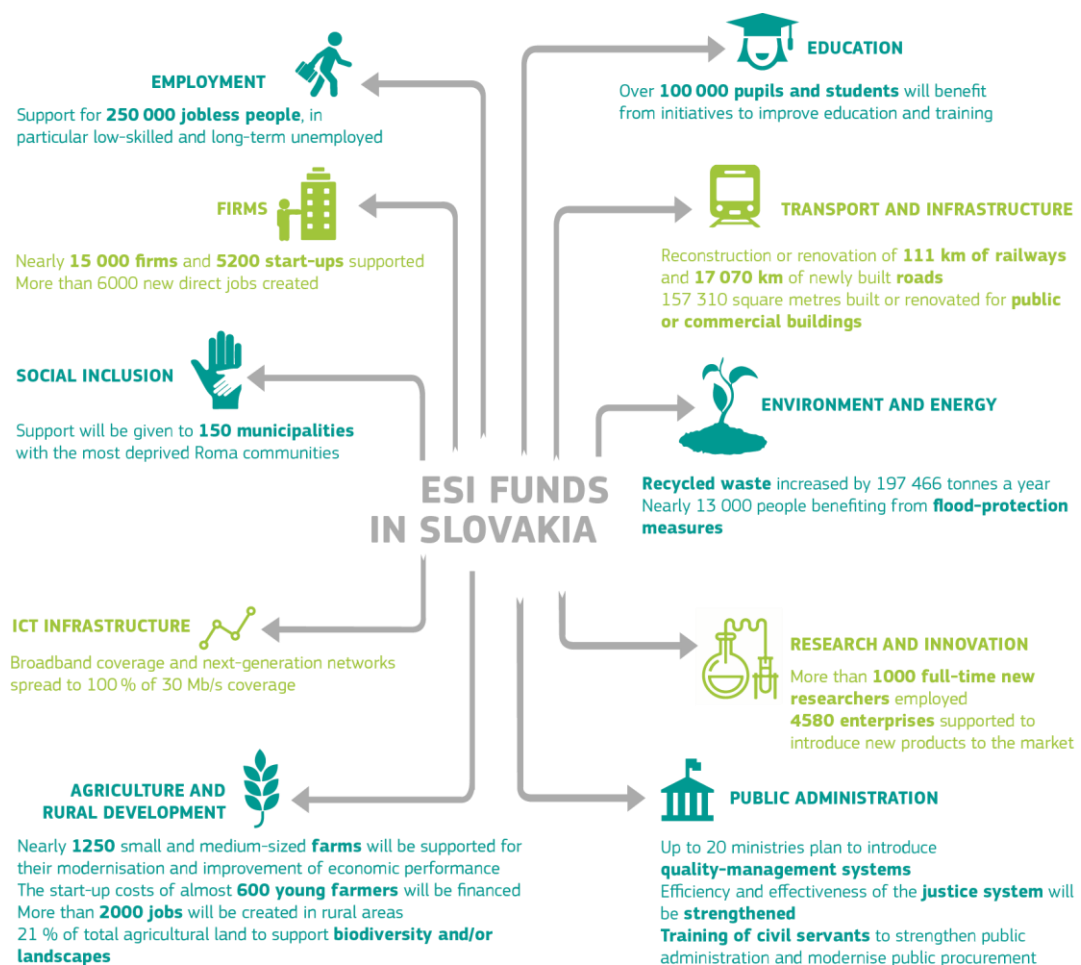
MAIN PRIORITIES

ESI FUNDS IN SLOVAKIA WILL:

- Enhance the **innovation** and **competitiveness of enterprises**, improve the performance of the R&I system and promote cooperation between research organisations, higher education and the business sector.
- Support **SMEs** and **agricultural** and **fishery holdings** thereby increasing productivity and added value in the business sector.
- Make the **fisheries** and **aquaculture** sector more sustainable.
- Finance initiatives to improve **education** and **training systems** at all levels and ensure that pupils acquire the right skills.
- Support **employment** and **social inclusion** by providing people in difficulty and those from disadvantaged groups with opportunities to find or keep jobs and integrate into society. Support will be also given to municipalities with the most deprived Roma communities.
- Invest in the **effectiveness** of **public administration** and its **judicial system** in order to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens and promote high standards of transparency and integrity.
- Invest in the **low-carbon economy**, increasing energy efficiency in public and residential buildings and enterprises and promoting more efficient district heating.
- Invest in **ICT** in order to accelerate the spread of broadband coverage and next-generation networks.
- Contribute to completing TEN-T transport networks, increase **transport accessibility**, modernise public transport and improve conditions for inland water navigation, including the modernisation of the port in Bratislava.
- Help to build **environmental infrastructure**, protect the environment and promote resource efficiency.

TARGETS

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



HOW WILL SLOVAKIA ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Slovakia 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, 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

A significant proportion of the investment will be delivered through financial instruments. The main areas of intervention are: support to SMEs, energy efficiency, and environmental and transport infrastructure.

Specific programmes will ensure a genuine uptake of territorial instruments. Regional integrated territorial investments will mainly improve access to effective high-quality public services and safe and environment-friendly regional transport. Other investments will be made in sustainable urban development, enhancing local partnerships by community-led local development. Support to SMEs in rural areas under local development strategies will contribute to job creation and growth in the rural sector.

SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Slovakia intends to simplify reporting on project expenditure, ensure a single network of entities providing advisory and information services, and update information systems in line with e-cohesion principles so as to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries.

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

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SUPPORT

This is a two-pronged project involving the building of a centre for technology transfer to increase R&D activities, and the promotion of interaction between the scientific and research community with businesses and industry across Slovakia. The project has seen the creation of eight new jobs to work on the Intellectual Property (IP) process. In 2014, the IP experts worked with nine scientific institutions on the protection and commercialisation of 218 projects.

Total budget: **EUR 8 234 571**

EU budget contribution to the project from ERDF and ESF: **EUR 6 999 385**

More information: <http://europa.eu/jp44uj>

ENERGETICS TESTS NEW MATERIALS FOR STORING AND USING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

This project has tested selected materials and technologies in order to develop new ways of storing and using alternative energy. This has led to the creation of technology for nanostructured superconductors for energy storage, bio-batteries using renewable biological products, energy-efficient preparation of grain-based transformer steel, and a transformer using magnetic fluid for cooling and insulation.

Total budget: **EUR 3 218 062**

EU budget contribution to the project from ERDF: **EUR 3 218 062**

More information: <http://europa.eu/vc93Dp>

MAKING THE MOVE FROM BENEFITS TO PAID WORK

Long-term unemployed people in the Slovakian city of Banská Bystrica have been given a taste of working life through a project which provided job placements and support for personal development. The overall goal of the project From Benefits to Paid Work was to improve the employability of those taking part. The 40 participants – who were all depending on social benefits – received coaching to help them acquire basic work skills. While carrying out their work placements, they were paid a wage from the project budget. The work experience is provided by the city's public enterprises and is available through a variety of activities, including gardening and waste recycling.

Total budget: **EUR 313 119**

EU budget contribution to the project from **ESF**: **EUR 297 463**

More information: <http://europa.eu/lqd36Fd>

DIVERSIFICATION INTO PAPER AND TEXTILE FABRICS HANDLING

The main business activity of agricultural company „Radošinka“ Veľké Ripňany was the production of agricultural products for the purpose of processing and selling on. Thanks to the purchase of new multifunctional machinery, the company diversified its activities into the production of a wide range of paper- and textile-based products. As a result, new business opportunities and employment have been created.

Total budget: **EUR 987 600**

EU budget contribution to the project from **EAFRD**: **EUR 370 350**

More information: <http://europa.eu/Dv77CK>

ACQUISITION OF NEW MULTIFUNCTION EQUIPMENT FOR POND MAINTENANCE

This self-propelled "walking" excavator is used mainly for environmentally friendly pond maintenance but also for mowing of aquatic vegetation and cleaning of flowing channels and fish pits. Moreover, the excavator is used for renovation and reconstruction of dykes and careful handling of the fish during and after catching. This led to improved retention of ponds, breeding conditions as well as increased productivity and job creation.

Total budget: **EUR 211 203**

EU budget contribution to the project from **EFF**: **EUR 95 041**

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

More information: <http://bit.ly/1Tcm2Lg>

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN SLOVAKIA

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/SK>
- ERDF & CF: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/slovakia
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=397&langId=en>
- YEI: ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13478&langId=en
- EAFRD: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm
- EMFF: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-slovakia-fact-sheet_en.pdf
- The EU Representation in Slovakia: http://ec.europa.eu/slovakia/index_sk.htm
- EU project examples: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/slovakia/
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