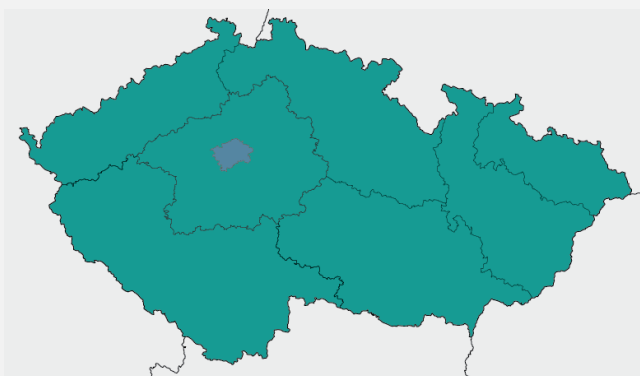


# EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS<sup>1</sup>



## CZECH REPUBLIC

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). The Czech Republic, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).



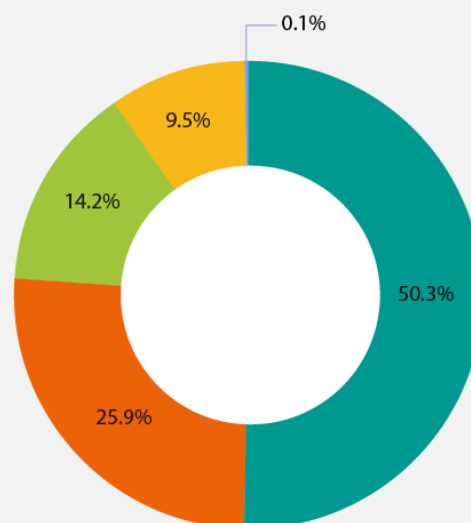
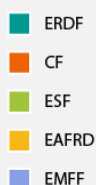
Categories of regions for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD 2014-2020

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

Through 11 programmes, the Czech Republic has been allocated **EUR 24.2 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 7.88 billion**, the Czech Republic has a total budget of **EUR 32.08 billion** to be invested in various areas, from creating jobs and growth to investing in research and innovation, protecting the environment, supporting sustainable transport, promoting employment and labour mobility, and enhancing social inclusion.

### ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC (2014-2020)

- EUR 12.16 billion through the ERDF
- EUR 6.26 billion through the CF
- EUR 3.43 billion through the ESF
- EUR 2.3 billion through the EAFRD
- EUR 31 million through the EMFF
- EUR 13.6 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).

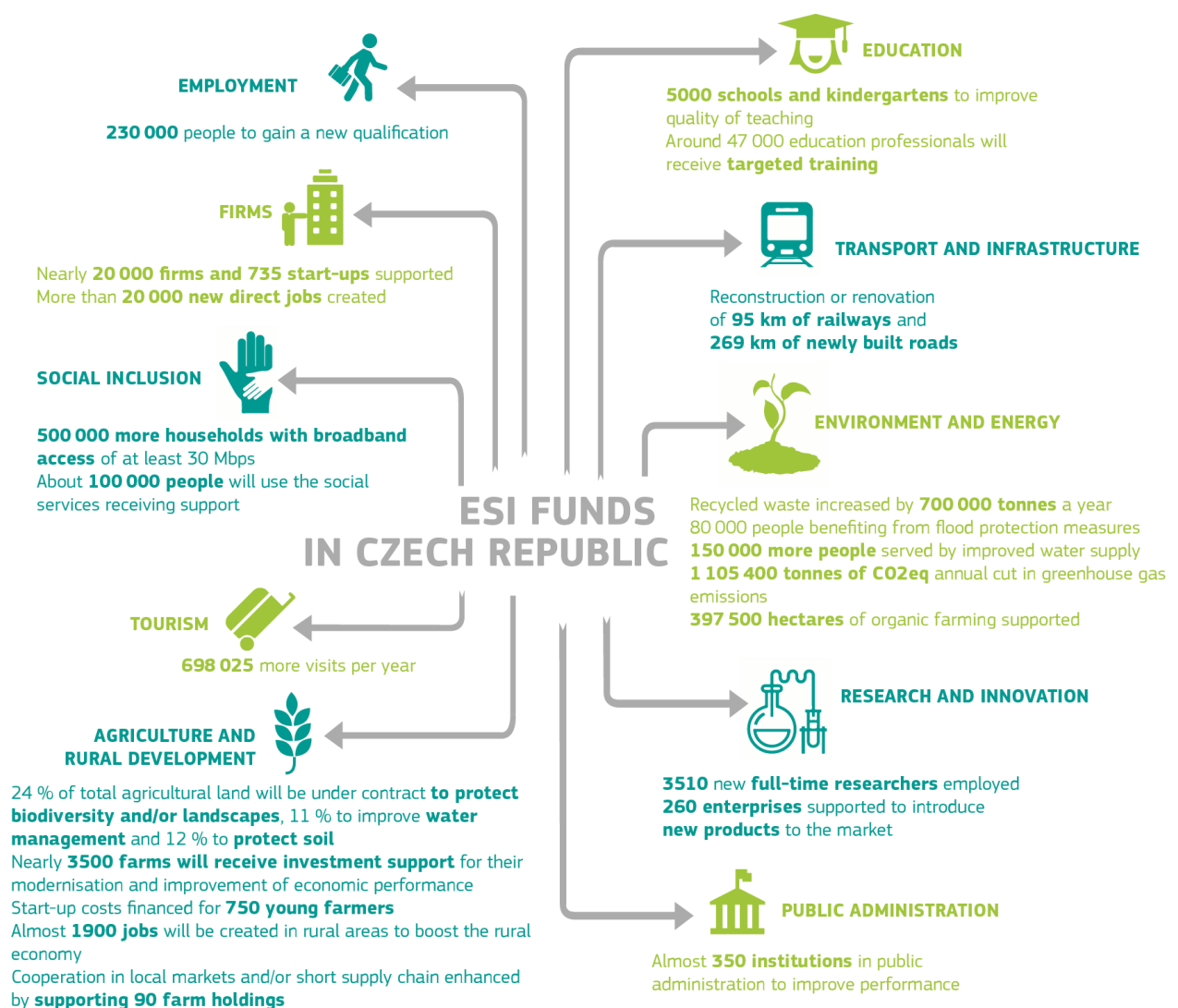
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC WILL:

- Support **sustainable transport** and help to remove bottlenecks in key network infrastructures. This will also help to close gaps in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and improve the interoperability of the rail network. The improvement of infrastructure will make the country's regions more accessible and result in more people using public transport in cities.
- Support the shift to a **low-carbon economy** by increasing the production of energy from renewable resources and reducing the level of greenhouse gases.
- Invest in **research**, technological development and **innovation**, boosting research and innovation (R&I) structures and capacity and improving cooperation between the research sector, businesses and tertiary education.
- Contribute to **environmental protection** and the efficient use of resources, improving water quality, waste management, air quality, and improving biodiversity.
- Make the **fisheries and aquaculture** sector more sustainable.
- Promote sustainable and quality **employment** and **support labour mobility**, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups such as the low-skilled, older and young people.
- Support **social inclusion** by improving the quality of social and health services.
- Support universities by improving their human resources management and facilitating access to **tertiary education**.
- Make **public administration** and the **justice system** more effective and transparent, reducing administrative burdens, improving the skills of staff in public administration and making human resources management more efficient.

### TARGETS

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



## HOW WILL THE CZECH REPUBLIC ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

The Czech Republic 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 implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

These *ex-ante* conditionalities will lead to improvements in most investment areas: transport, next-generation broadband networks, environmental protection, health services, regional research and innovation, education and socio-economic inclusion.

### 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 for SMEs, transport infrastructure, investment in energy efficiency and resource efficiency.

### SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

The Czech Republic intends to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries and public administration by reducing the number of programmes and intermediate bodies; creating a new monitoring system for the entire implementation structure; establishing a single methodological environment for all programmes; and using advance payments and simplified cost options.

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

### A SAFER AND CLOSER CONNECTION BETWEEN OSTRAVA-OPAVAA

A better and safer road transport system has been created around the Ostrava-Opava conglomeration. The project improves safety, air quality and transport connections for more than 160 000 inhabitants. The new infrastructure will be surrounded by more than 57 000 m<sup>2</sup> of landscaped areas making the towns more attractive to visitors and investors.

Total budget: EUR 184 825 391

EU budget contribution to the project from ERDF: EUR 157 101 582

More information: <http://europa.eu/!MR37MD>

### TOOLS TO CREATE CHILDCARE JOBS AND IMPROVE EMPLOYERS' PRO-FAMILY POLICIES

A project in the Liberec and South Moravian regions aimed to improve employers' pro-family policies and provide services to young parents attempting to return to the labour market. Two motivational courses were organised in each region and some 80 women were able to gain experience in existing kindergartens. A total of 60 people were then offered places on childcare training courses. Two-thirds of the participants subsequently found work as carers for young children.

Total budget: EUR 283 069

EU budget contribution to the project from ESF: EUR 240 609

More information: <http://europa.eu/!Ju69Gm>

## THE BAKERY IN PŘÍLEPY

The main aim of the project was to open a traditional bakery in the village of Přílepy and to promote local recipes and products. EAFRD support helped to renovate an old coffee shop and equip it with a work area, a storage area, a restroom and offices. Technical equipment was purchased. A number of local recipes were selected and local farmers were contacted to supply the raw materials used in the bakery. After its first year of activity, the bakery received the 'Hanna - Regional - Product' award. New jobs were created in the area, and more may be created in the future since the business is continuing to expand.

Total budget: **EUR 323 406**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EAFRD: **EUR 123 435**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!hr33WK>

## NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR FARMING COMMON CARP WITH INCREASED OMEGA-3 FATTY ACID CONTENT

The aim of the pilot project conducted at the ponds of Blatenská ryba, s.r.o., a company headquartered in Blatná (South Bohemia), was to carry out the practical verification and introduction into fishery practice of a newly developed technology for farming common carp with an increased content of omega-3 fatty acids. The project demonstrated, under practical conditions, a significant increase in omega-3 fatty acids in the total fatty acid composition in carp muscle. The results confirmed that carp has the potential to be an attractive food in the human diet and that it has the same ability to transform and store fatty acids as other much-heralded species of fish on the Czech market (rainbow trout, salt-water species, etc.).

Total budget: **EUR 254 554**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EFF: **EUR 30 972**

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

More information: [http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/449370/Uspesne\\_projekty.pdf](http://eagri.cz/public/web/file/449370/Uspesne_projekty.pdf)

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/CZ>
- ERDF & CF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/czech-republic](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/czech-republic)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=374&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-czech-republic-fact-sheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-czech-republic-fact-sheet_en.pdf)
- YEI: [ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13467&langId=en](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13467&langId=en)
- The EU Representation in Czech Republic: [http://ec.europa.eu/ceskarepublika/index\\_cs.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ceskarepublika/index_cs.htm)
- EU project examples: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en)
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