European
Commission

Cohesion Policy
and Slovakia

In 2014-2020, Slovakia will manage **seven operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, five programmes will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund, one programme from both the European Social Fund (ESF) and ERDF, and one from ESF including the Youth Employment Initiative.

Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- ■ Less developed regions
  (GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)

- ■ Transition regions
  (GDP/head between >= 75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)

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

How much will be invested in Slovakia in 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Slovakia has been allocated around **€ 14 billion** in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€ 9.2 billion** for the less developed regions (all except Bratislava)

- **€ 328.7 million** for more developed regions (Bratislava)

- **€ 4.2 billion** under the Cohesion Fund

- **€ 223.4 million** for European Territorial Cooperation

- **€ 72.2 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative

Of this, the ESF represents almost **€ 2.2 billion** and reflects the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

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Cohesion
Policy

What are the main investment priorities for Slovakia?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 will be set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities are expected to include:

- Promoting an innovation-friendly business environment by enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, improving innovation and research performance and developing an e-economy.
- Developing infrastructure for economic growth and employment in particular key transport networks and sustainable urban transport;
- Developing human capital and improved labour market participation by reinforcing all levels of education, increasing access to employment of the most vulnerable groups in society (in particular the young and long-term unemployed), and promoting social inclusion of Roma communities;
- Encouraging the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources through promotion of energy efficiency and a low carbon economy, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change;
- Building modern and professional public administration by means of a thorough reform aimed at improving governance, tackling corruption and ensuring the efficiency and impartiality of the judiciary. Special attention should be given to ensure the stability and professionalism of bodies responsible for the ESI funds.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 11.6 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, EU Cohesion Policy investments have helped Slovakia to:

- create more than 2 671 jobs including almost 2 000 jobs created in SMEs;
- provide direct investment aid to almost 1 000 SMEs;
- support around 100 SME start-ups;
- serve 3 300 more people with waste water and water projects;
- improve public transport in the regions of Slovakia, through the purchase of new passenger trains, the reconstruction of the railway lines, etc.

Cohesion policy success stories 2007-2013

ERDF projects

- **Rolling stock renewal for smoother public passenger railway transport**

The Railway Company Slovakia purchased new rolling stock to increase the number of passengers in interregional and regional rail transport by 10 % by 2015 as compared to 2008. Expected benefits of the project include higher quality, more comfortable and safer rail transport across the regions in Slovakia. It should also result in a reduction of noise and air pollution caused by the outdated stock currently in use.

Total cost: € 232 million (ERDF contribution: € 88.5 million)

- **(Re)construction of a heat distribution system in the Town of Hnúšťa**

The heat distribution system in the whole town of Hnúšťa was replaced. The fuel base was changed into using biomass, solar energy (for example, 360 solar collectors at 27 residential buildings) and natural gas. The aim was to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. This project has made the municipal system in Hnúšťa unique not only in the territory of Slovakia but in Central Europe as a whole. The project was awarded by Commissioner Oettinger as the 'Best European Energy Service Project 2011'.

Total cost: € 7.2 million (ERDF contribution: € 2.6 million)

- **Research in the spread of undetected infectious pathogens**

Prompted by evidence that several viral infections remain undetected in healthy individuals, the project is helping to improve the quality of diagnoses of those infectious pathogens in order to prevent potentially serious complications. The research team filled two patent applications for diagnostic kits. The project is a successful cooperation between the private sector (SME BioScience Slovakia is the lead beneficiary) and research organisations.

Total cost: € 1.6 million (ERDF contribution: € 1.2 million)

ESF projects

- **From benefits to paid work**

The city of Banska Bystrica offered temporary subsidised employment in municipal and private undertakings to 40 very long-term unemployed (half of them Roma). The employees got training and counselling on personal development and handling existential and personal problems e.g. indebtedness. 11 persons or 27.5 % found a job in the open labour market afterwards.

Total cost: € 313 000 (ESF contribution: € 266 000)

- **Like School like Home**

To help pupils with learning difficulties and reduce the risk of weaker pupils dropping out of school, the elementary school in Markusovce in the Kosice Region offered all-day educational programme (after-school activities) and counselling on further vocational development. Around 390 pupils, mostly socially excluded Roma, benefited from the project with substantial increase in the continuation at the secondary level of education.

Total cost: € 278 000 (ESF contribution: € 235 900)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Slovakia

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- European Commission Regional Policy website
- European Social Fund website