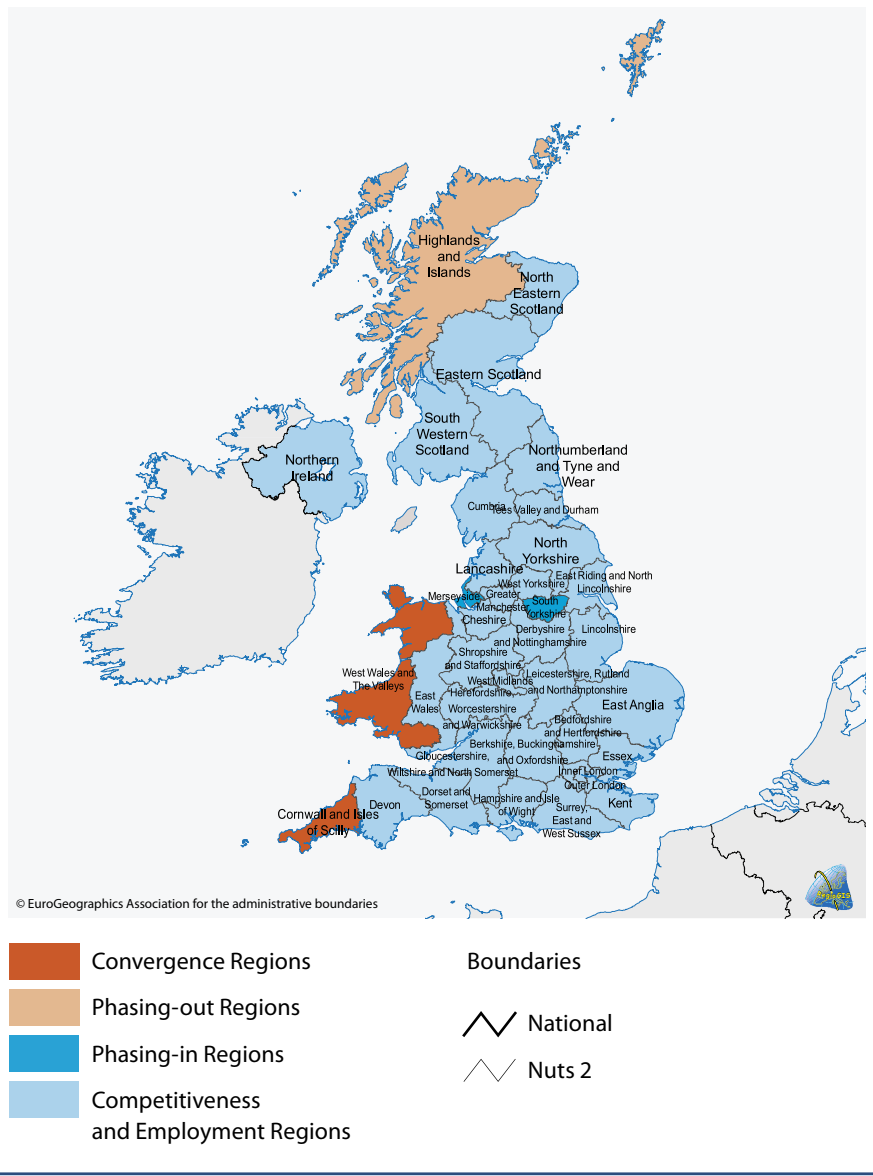


Cohesion Policy 2007-13

Convergence and Competitiveness Objectives 2007-13



The investment

For the 2007-13 period, the United Kingdom has been allocated €10.6 billion in total: €2.9 billion under the Convergence objective, €7 billion under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective, and €722 million under the European Territorial Cooperation objective.

To complement the EU investment under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), the United Kingdom contribution would amount to at least €5.2 billion at current prices.

Regions to receive investment

- Convergence objective: West Wales

and the Valleys, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

- Statistical Phasing-out: Highlands and Islands.
- Statistical Phasing-in: South Yorkshire and Merseyside.

Between 2007 and 2013, 2.4 million people (4.6% of the total) will be living in Convergence regions, with 3 million (5% of the total) living in Statistical Phasing-in and Phasing-out regions. 90.4% of the United Kingdom population will be living in Competitiveness regions.

Strategic objectives

The general objectives of the UK NSRF are to support the United Kingdom Government's aim to increase the rate of sustainable growth, improve prosperity and achieve a better quality of life, with economic and employment opportunities for all.

To address these objectives, the UK NSRF sets out three overarching themes and four high level principles to be applied to all UK Structural Fund programmes:

Themes

- **Enterprise and Innovation** – promoting research, knowledge transfer and commercialisation of new products and services, encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting a thriving small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector. For instance, in the south-west of England (under the Convergence objective), the authorities will build on the Combined Universities of Cornwall (CUC) project and the experience of the 'knowledge spa' centres which foster close ties between the academic and business sectors.

- **Skills and Employment** – building a skilled and adaptable workforce, tackling disadvantage in the workplace and supporting employment opportunities for all.

The UK has already exceeded the three Lisbon employment targets (70% overall employment, 50% older worker employment rate, 60% female employment rate). However, the Government's ambition is to reach an employment rate of 80% of the working-age population in the long term. To achieve this, a further 2.3 million people would require assistance in securing work.

- **Environmental and Community Sustainability** – encouraging innovation to support sustainability, ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption, and promoting social and economic cohesion in local economies, including in urban and rural areas.

Principles

- **Focusing on market failures** – transversal to the above themes, regional policy interventions will be made where free markets have genuinely failed.
- **Environmental sustainability and equality** – integrated strategies to be included for addressing environmental concerns and respecting the principles of sustainable development, to take account of

the principles of gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and to incorporate the needs of local communities.

- **A working partnership** – to ensure that effective partnership arrangements are built into the new programmes, including with local authorities, higher and further education sectors, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector.
- **Structural Funds and the Lisbon Agenda** – to ensure that 60% of all expenditure under the Convergence objective and 75% of the expenditure under the Competitiveness and Employment objective support the Lisbon Agenda.

The expected impact of the new Cohesion Policy

The United Kingdom authorities are focused on improving four main sectors:

- Skills.
- Research and Development (R&D) – especially in the private sector.
- Innovation.
- Entrepreneurship.

An investment for growth and jobs

The UK NSRF increases the share of investment earmarked for the Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth

(73% under Convergence and 83.4% under Regional Competitiveness and Employment).

Operational programmes

The UK's strategic planning for the 2007-13 period endeavours to translate the broad priorities contained in the NSRF into **22 operational programmes**. These include three Convergence and two Phasing-out programmes, together with 16 Regional Competitiveness and Employment programmes and one programme under both the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment objectives. The initial indicative breakdown among the funds of the total Community assistance available will be €5.4 billion from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and €4.5 billion from the European Social Fund (ESF).

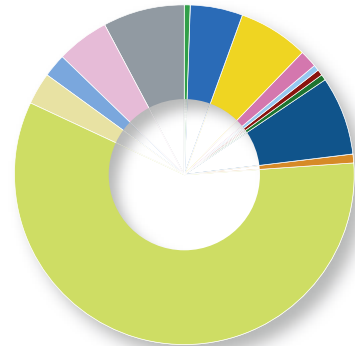
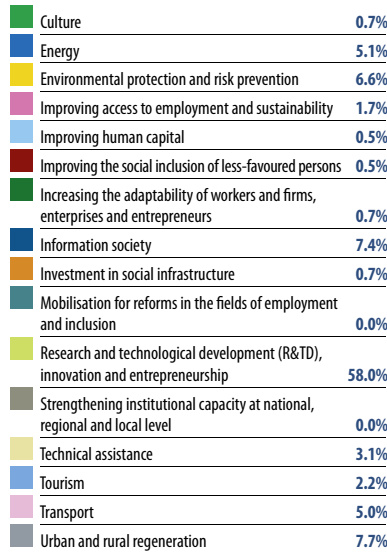
Operational programmes covering more than one of the three objectives are not permitted except where otherwise agreed by the Commission and the Member State. Such is the case with the 'England and Gibraltar ESF Convergence, Competitiveness and Employment Programme', which covers two of the objectives.

NSRF Financial Table

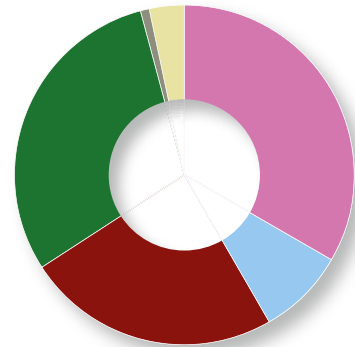
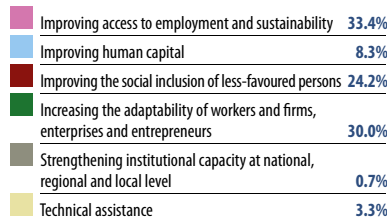
Breakdown by theme as proposed by the United Kingdom in its draft operational programmes

Operational Programme	Fund	Total
Convergence Objective		
Community Contribution		
Highlands and Islands of Scotland	ESF	52 150 195
West Wales and the Valleys	ESF	833 585 460
England and Gibraltar	ESF	196 433 940
Highlands and Islands of Scotland	ERDF	121 862 392
West Wales and the Valleys	ERDF	1 250 378 189
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	ERDF	458 056 615
Total	ERDF	1 830 297 196
Total	ESF	1 082 169 595
Total NSRF 2007-13	All Funds	2 912 466 791
Competitiveness and Employment Objective		
East Wales	ESF	63 597 452
Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland	ESF	269 920 942
Northern Ireland	ESF	165 777 300
England and Gibraltar	ESF	2 893 452 439
Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland	ERDF	375 957 844
South East England	ERDF	23 706 375
Northern Ireland	ERDF	306 833 439
East England	ERDF	110 994 719
North East England	ERDF	375 698 920
London England	ERDF	181 889 213
West Midlands England	ERDF	399 899 930
North West England	ERDF	755 754 611
Yorkshire and Humberside England	ERDF	583 580 959
East Midlands England	ERDF	268 495 983
South West England	ERDF	124 658 086
East Wales	ERDF	72 451 721
Gibraltar	ERDF	5 800 739
Total	ERDF	3 585 722 539
Total	ESF	3 392 748 133
Total NSRF 2007-13	All Funds	6 978 470 672

European Regional Development Fund 2007-13



European Social Fund 2007-13



NB: The tables do not include the figures for the European Territorial Cooperation objective.

Contact point in the United Kingdom

UK authority with overall responsibility for Cohesion policy 2007-13:

BERR, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
 1 Victoria Street
 London SW1H 0ET
 United Kingdom
 Tel. +44 207 215 5000
 Fax +44 207 215 0105
 > www.berr.gov.uk

The full text of the NSRF is available at:
 > www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page28796.html



