

Cohesion Policy and Italy

⚡ In 2014-2020, Italy will manage **around 50 operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. The Partnership Agreement has been adopted end October 2014 while the operational programmes, at national and regional level, are still in negotiation and should be adopted end 2014 and in 2015.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between \geq 75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head \geq 90 % of EU-27 average)

How much will the EU invest in Italy from 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Italy has been allocated around **€32.2 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€22.2 billion** for less developed regions (Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria and Sicilia)
- **€1.3 billion** for transition regions (Sardegna, Abruzzo and Molise)
- **€7.6 billion** for more developed regions (Valle d'Aosta, Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria, Veneto, Provincia di Bolzano, Provincia di Trento, Friuli Venezia-Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Toscana, Marche, Umbria, and Lazio)
- **€1.1 billion** for European Territorial Cooperation
- **€567.5 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative

Of this, the ESF in Italy will represent a minimum of **€10.5 billion** in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for Italy?

Priorities for Italy are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. These priorities include:

- Developing an innovation-friendly business environment.
- Putting in place high-performance infrastructures and efficient management of natural resources.
- Increasing labour market participation, promoting social inclusion and improving the quality of human capital.
- Supporting the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the public administration.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 28.8 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, ERDF investments have helped Italy to:

- create more than 47 000 jobs;
- start-up more than 3 700 businesses;
- support more than 26 000 SMEs;
- extend broadband internet coverage to more than 940 000 additional people;
- serve more than 1 million additional people by waste water projects;
- construct or reconstruct more than 1 500 km of railroad.

During the same period, the ESF co-funded more than 500 000 projects, involving more than 6.6 million participants, of which more than 2 million between 15 and 24 years of age and nearly 0.5 million above 55 years. Interventions covered a wide range of areas, e.g. preventing early-school leaving to employment paths for people entering the labour market, including for disadvantaged people, from training for workers to support higher education and improvement of administrative capacity.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● **Technopoles in Emilia-Romagna**

The [Technopoles project](#) brings together a network of ten research sites for technological transfer in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. Incorporating six universities and four research institutes with 34 industrial research laboratories and 11 innovation centres, the 10 technopoles complete and reinforce the region's already consolidated high-tech network. Between these centres, the technopoles are expected to employ 1 600 researchers, 560 of whom will be newly employed young researchers. In total, the project will operate 132 research programmes and make 520 solutions available for companies. The Technopoles project is collaborating with research institutions in other Italian regions, at the national level and with international partners in Germany and France.

Total cost: € 241 million (ERDF contribution: € 94 million)

● **La Venaria Reale Project in Piedmont**

The [La Venaria Reale Project](#) was the largest restoration project in Europe concerning a cultural asset. The project has revived the baroque splendour of the Reggia di Venaria, the royal residence commissioned by Duke Carlo Emanuele II of Savoy in the mid-17th century. Despite receiving UNESCO World Heritage status, the palace had fallen into disrepair after centuries of neglect. The restoration of the Reggia and the Gardens was completed over a period of several years, and La Venaria Reale has now become one of Italy's five most visited cultural sites.

Total cost: € 73.5 million (ERDF contribution: € 36.7 million)

ESF projects

- **'School mechanism' in Convergence regions**

Thanks to [the 'school mechanism' project](#), by the end of 2013, more than 400 000 students had an opportunity to participate in school work experiences (such as traineeships), periods of study abroad (in particular to improve language skills) or integrated plans for key skills development. More than 200 initiatives to prevent early school leaving were approved, involving 52 000 students.

Total cost: € 576.5 million (ESF contribution: € 419.6 million)

- **'Giovanisi' in Tuscany region**

The challenges addressed by [the Giovanisi project](#) include the lack of job opportunities, scarcity of quality training programmes and internships, and the difficulty of finding accommodation. Giovanisi offers assistance with employment, training, education, entrepreneurship and housing. Since 2011, the project has provided opportunities to more than 40 000 young people.

Total cost: € 427 million (ESF contribution: € 72 million)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Italy

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](#)
- <http://www.opencoesione.gov.it/>
- [European Social Fund website](#)