

Cohesion Policy and the Netherlands

⋈ In 2014-2020, the Netherlands will manage **five operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, four will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and one from the European Social Fund (ESF).



How much EU funding will be invested in the Netherlands (2014-2020)?

For 2014-2020, the Netherlands has been allocated around **€1.4 billion** in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€1 billion** for more developed regions (all)
- **€389.7 million** for European Territorial Cooperation

Of this, the ESF in the Netherlands represents **€507 million**.

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)

What are the main investment priorities for the Netherlands?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 are set out in the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission.

- Promotion of an innovation-friendly business environment by supporting actions leading to an increase in the private sector research & innovation investments and to better cooperation between SME's and science and research bodies;
- Increasing labour market participation and fostering social inclusion by helping vulnerable groups enter into employment through adequate labour market measures and by promoting and supporting active and healthy ageing;
- Promoting a resource-efficient economy by investing in innovative technologies enhancing energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 1.9 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, the four regional ERDF programmes have helped to:

- create more than 12 000 jobs;
- support some 500 start-ups;
- invest in over 16 000 SMEs;
- enable 422 R&D projects and 363 cooperation projects between enterprises and research institutions.

ESF projects are mainly focussed on promoting social inclusion for people at a distance from the labour market, helping unemployed people to find a job and improving the labour market position of working people by providing vocational training and education. For companies, ESF funding was available to promote social innovation. In the Netherlands, the ESF has helped more than 65 000 people to find a sustainable job. An even larger amount of people have been able to improve their labour market position with the help of ESF through receiving vocational education and training.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

- **Bioprocess Pilot Facility (BPF)**

[The Bioprocess Pilot Facility](#) aims to contribute towards the development of a low carbon economy, through the use of renewable resources instead of fossil fuels. Scaling production processes from laboratory experiments to the industrial level can represent a major bottleneck. This ERDF-funded project has developed a unique multi-purpose facility where companies, universities and knowledge institutions can experiment and learn how sustainable production processes respond to larger scales and how they can be scaled up. The facility has a modular setup. Users themselves select the process to be investigated from the available modules, ranging from various methods of biomass pretreatment, fermentation, recycling and purification to third-generation bioprocesses.

Total cost: €41.5 million (ERDF contribution: €4.6 million)

- **Sensors and Water (SAWA)**

The [Sensors and Water](#) (SAWA) project aims to improve the quality of drinking water through advanced sensor technology. The project brought together specialised sensor developers, water companies, knowledge institutes and a university. It helped to develop thirteen different sensors, five of which have now been commercialised.

Total cost: € 8 million (ERDF contribution: € 807 572)

ESF projects

- **ESF funding for pupils receiving special education**

Approximately 135 000 pupils in the special education sector in the Netherlands have been [trained and helped to find a job with the help of ESF](#). Projects for this sector focus on preparing these pupils for a position on the regular labour market in order to prevent them from having to depend on benefit schemes for young persons with a labour disability (Wajong) after leaving school. Activities funded by the ESF comprise vocational training, job-coaching and mentoring and improving networks between schools, municipalities and local business life. Until 2012 already over 14 000 pupils found a sustainable job after leaving the school.

Total cost: € 272.4 million (ESF contribution: € 136.2 million)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in the Netherlands

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](#)
- [Agentschap SZW website](#)
- [Europe round the corner](#)