

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



## CROATIA

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

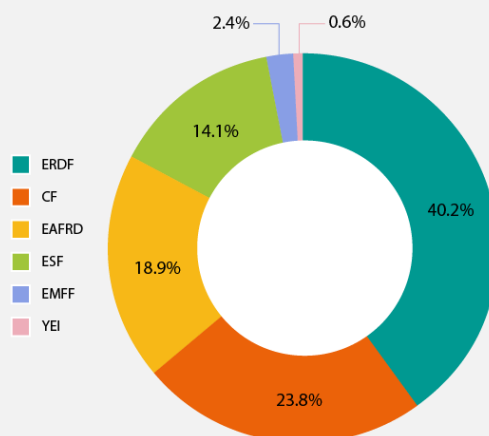


Categories of regions for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD 2014-2020  
 ■ Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75% of EU-27 average)

Through four national programmes, Croatia has been allocated **EUR 10.74 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 1.9 billion**, Croatia has a total budget of **EUR 12.67 billion** to be invested in various areas, from **research and innovation** to **employment, education and training, social inclusion, public administration and civil society** as well as **infrastructure and environmental protection**.

## ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR CROATIA (2014-2020)

- **EUR 4.32 billion** through the ERDF
- **EUR 2.56 billion** through the CF
- **EUR 2.03 billion** through the EAFRD
- **EUR 1.52 billion** through the ESF
- **EUR 253 million** through the EMFF
- **EUR 66 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).

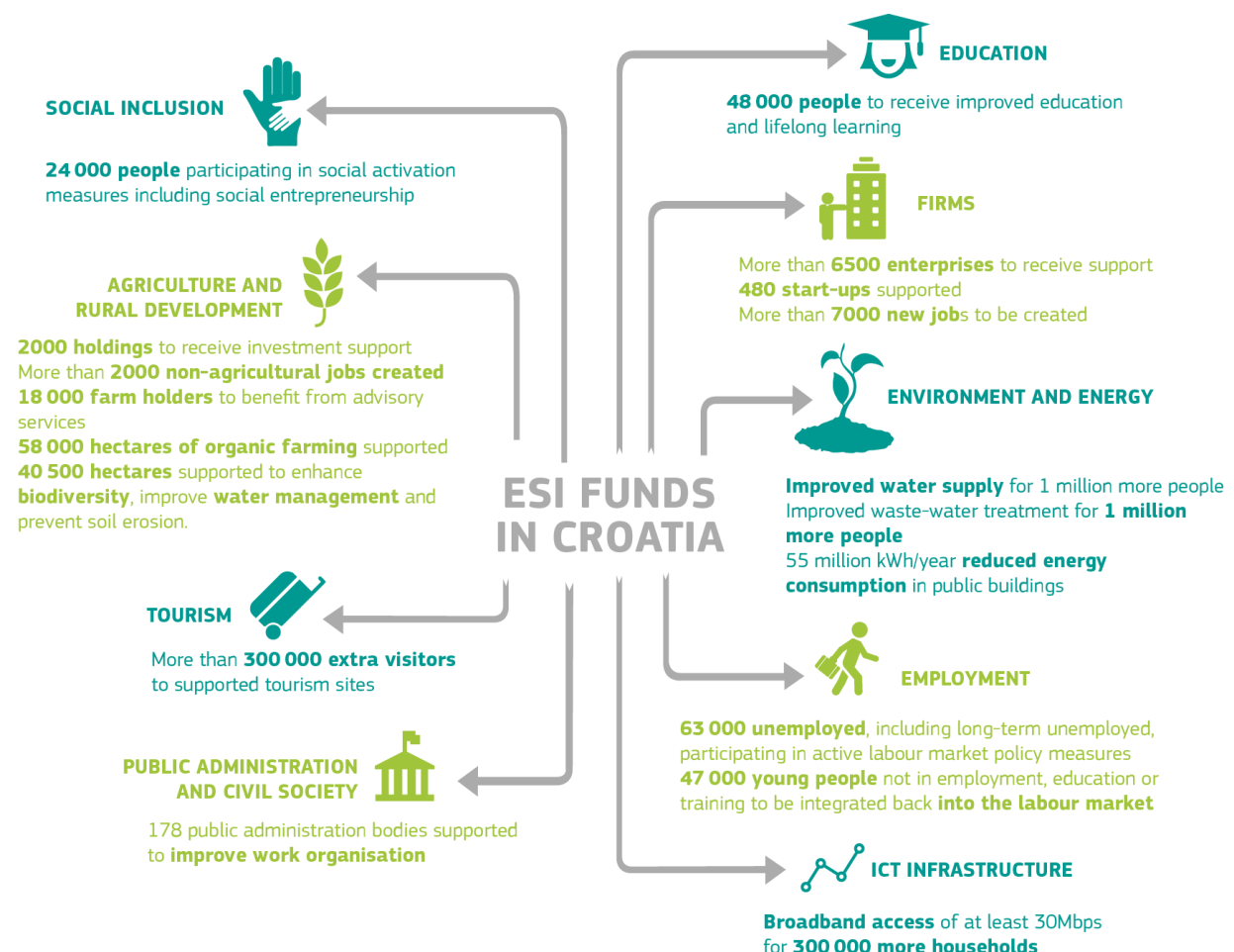
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN CROATIA WILL:

- Stimulate **research, development and innovation**, making Croatia's economy more innovative and competitive.
- Increase **labour market participation** of young people, the low-skilled, older workers and women.
- Improve the quality and efficiency **education and training**
- Invest in infrastructure that can boost economic growth, including the development of **key networks (TEN-T)**, **sustainable urban transport** and making regions more accessible.
- Extend **broadband coverage** to more households.
- Improve **water supply and waste-water treatment services**, reducing the proportion of landfilled municipal waste. Funds will also be invested in **renewable energy production**.
- Promote **social inclusion, combat poverty** and any discrimination and enhance access to affordable and high-quality **healthcare and social services** (including support for the shift from institutional to community-based services) and promote **social entrepreneurship**.
- Support the reform of **public administration** through better and sound management of public finances, cutting unnecessary procedures, developing e-administration and fighting corruption. In addition, **dialogue with social partners and civil society** will be further developed and the justice system will be made more efficient by speeding up legal procedures and ensuring impartiality.
- Make Croatia's **food production, aquaculture and fisheries sectors** more competitive and environmentally friendly by restructuring and modernising farms, aquaculture and ports infrastructure, as well as providing start-up aid to young farmers.

### TARGETS

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



## HOW WILL CROATIA ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

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

These *ex-ante* conditionalities cover most investment areas: improvements to regional research and innovation (R&I) strategies as well as strategic plans linked to environment protection, energy resources, transport, socio-economic inclusion, health services, vocational education, training and efficiency of public administration.

### ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

Croatia intends to use financial instruments to provide support for SMEs, R&D&I, energy efficiency, urban transport, self-employment and social entrepreneurship. Considering that it had no financial instruments in the previous programming period, this is an ambitious programme.

It may also look more closely at using financial instruments in ICT, urban development and transport infrastructure.

Croatia will put funding into integrated territorial investments to be used for sustainable urban development and into community-led local development projects in rural areas, fisheries and maritime areas.

### SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Different tools will be developed, including a website for beneficiaries, a coordinated mechanism to provide information on ESIFs, and the simplification of procedures for project application and selection. Croatia has also envisaged the use of a simplified costs option.

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

### B.HIVE: JOINED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Thirty-three civil society organisations (CSOs) that promote employment, growth and the development of human resources in Zadar, Croatia are receiving capacity-building support from an ESF-backed initiative. The project aims to promote the benefits of volunteering by disseminating information about its value to both individuals and CSOs. The project has established a body called the CSO Alliance, which provides its members with a variety of services including accounting, web design, public relations and project management. In addition, 60 CSO members are participating in the project.

Total budget: EUR 187 358

EU budget contribution to the project from ESF: EUR 175 968

More information: <http://europa.eu/!xC76tc>

## HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF CROATIA'S WORLD FAMOUS INDIGENOUS CHERRY

A research project explored new ways to process sour cherries. The Marasca cherry, a type of sour Morello cherry cultivated along Croatia's coast, is reputed to be the world's finest cherry. The project has introduced techniques that will pave the way for the future development of new food products containing Marasca cherry. This know-how is being transferred to SMEs with the aim of boosting the agri-food industry in the region.

Total budget: **EUR 496 800**

**EU budget contribution through the ERDF Instrument for Pre-Accession: EUR 360 000**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!QV88UW>

## MODERNISATION OF WARM-WATER AQUACULTURE FARM IN RIBNJACI

This project consisted of the modernisation of existing freshwater aquaculture farm (warm-water/cyprinid species), i.e. the construction and reconstruction of aquaculture ponds and related objects (water structures such as banks and channels, water supply system of ponds) and purchase of specialized vehicle/working machine for aquaculture farm. The support for traditional aquaculture activities is important for preserving and developing both the economic and social fabric and the environment (increase of carp production).

Total budget: **EUR 142 979**

**EU budget contribution to the project from EFF: EUR 64 340**

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

More information: <http://www.ribnjacarstvo-poljana.hr/>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN CROATIA

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/HR>
- ERDF & CF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/croatia](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/croatia)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=383&langId=en>
- YEI: [ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13465&langId=en](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13465&langId=en)
- EARD: [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/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/country-files/index_en.htm)
- The EU Representation in Croatia: [http://ec.europa.eu/represent\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.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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