



Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 : Business Support

Supporting the creation and growth of businesses, in particular small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), are key ways by which cohesion policy helps to boost regional economies.

Supporting entrepreneurs, attracting investors and enhancing the productive capacity of regions is vital to improving their economic performances and helping those that are lagging behind to catch up. Around 1.2 million enterprises are created in the EU every year - some 10% of the total number of businesses. Yet only half of them survive the first five years. And there are big differences across the EU - for example, in Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, new enterprises are created twice as often compared to the EU average.

SMEs are the real giants of the European economy, accounting for 99% of businesses and up to two-thirds of all private sector jobs in the European Union. However, SMEs often have difficulty in accessing capital and knowledge and frequently lack experience. EU cohesion policy is aimed at tackling these difficulties through a combination of 'hard' measures, such as direct support to investment, and 'soft' ones, notably the provision of business support services, training, an innovative environment, financial engineering and technology transfer, as well as the support of networks and clusters.

Between 2007 and 2013, cohesion policy programmes will support:

The creation and growth of SMEs, in particular linked to entrepreneurship, access to finance, research and innovation, technology transfer, access to information and communication technologies or environmentally friendly production. About €28 billion (8.0% of the total allocation) are allocated to such support dedicated specifically to SMEs.

Other support to both large and small businesses, including productive investment and the provision of business support services in the abovementioned areas, are planned to receive another €28 billion (8.1% of the total allocation). A large share of these funds will directly or indirectly benefit SMEs

The ESF also support actions aimed at anticipating and managing economic and structural changes to ensure more and better jobs for Europe. A main aim is to anticipate "corporate restructuring" and the surrounding circumstances in ways that allow for fluid and smooth change that supports jobs. These priorities are supported with € 14 billion (4.2% of the total allocation).

See data below

| Business support | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Objective | Community Amount (€) | Business support amount (€) | Business support | of which: | | |
| | | | | Direct SME Support | Other support to both large and small business | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers |
| Convergence | 281,316,597,521 | 49,735,003,802 | 17.7% | 6.7% | 8.0% | 3.0% |
| Regional Competitiveness and Employment | 55,173,775,952 | 18,619,279,539 | 33.7% | 13.8% | 9.5% | 10.4% |
| European Territorial Cooperation | 7,831,459,588 | 1,379,415,538 | 17.6% | 12.7% | 3.1% | 1.8% |
| TOTAL | 344,321,833,061 | 69,733,698,879 | 20.3% | 8.0% | 8.1% | 4.2% |

| Country | Community Amount (€) | Business support amount (€) | Business support | of which: | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| | | | | Direct SME Support | Other support to both large and small business | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers |
| Bulgarija | 6,673,628,244 | 868,904,506 | 13.0% | 4.8% | 5.2% | 3.0% |
| Belgique-België | 2,063,500,766 | 757,121,869 | 36.7% | 8.3% | 16.0% | 12.4% |
| Ceska Republika | 26,302,604,484 | 3,470,398,230 | 13.2% | 5.6% | 3.7% | 3.8% |
| Danmark | 509,577,239 | 295,200,591 | 57.9% | 23.6% | 6.2% | 28.1% |
| Deutschland | 25,488,616,290 | 9,078,737,850 | 35.6% | 14.5% | 14.0% | 7.2% |
| Eesti | 3,403,459,881 | 417,229,814 | 12.3% | 5.7% | 4.7% | 1.9% |
| Ellada | 20,210,261,445 | 2,781,897,293 | 13.8% | 6.4% | 4.4% | 2.9% |
| España | 34,657,733,981 | 7,976,003,723 | 23.0% | 9.7% | 8.4% | 5.0% |
| France | 13,449,221,051 | 3,308,764,271 | 24.6% | 10.1% | 7.3% | 7.2% |
| Ireland | 750,724,742 | 66,000,000 | 8.8% | 2.1% | 5.3% | 1.3% |
| Italia | 27,965,315,403 | 5,916,113,155 | 21.2% | 9.7% | 7.7% | 3.8% |
| Kypros | 612,434,992 | 105,350,000 | 17.2% | 5.5% | 9.9% | 1.8% |
| Latvija | 4,530,447,634 | 550,034,332 | 12.1% | 6.2% | 4.9% | 1.1% |
| Lietuva | 6,775,492,823 | 1,113,969,749 | 16.4% | 8.6% | 4.7% | 3.2% |
| Luxembourg (Grand-Duche) | 50,487,332 | 4,038,987 | 8.0% | 6.5% | 1.5% | 0.0% |
| Magyarország | 24,921,148,600 | 4,244,897,790 | 17.0% | 4.5% | 10.6% | 2.0% |
| Malta | 840,123,051 | 64,500,000 | 7.7% | 2.8% | 2.6% | 2.3% |
| Nederland | 1,660,002,737 | 725,269,732 | 43.7% | 12.9% | 5.9% | 24.9% |
| Österreich | 1,204,478,581 | 624,969,609 | 51.9% | 15.5% | 23.8% | 12.5% |
| Polska | 65,221,852,992 | 11,053,964,262 | 16.9% | 5.5% | 9.1% | 2.4% |
| Portugal | 21,411,560,512 | 4,675,681,165 | 21.8% | 7.2% | 12.3% | 2.4% |
| România | 19,213,036,712 | 2,676,477,698 | 13.9% | 3.0% | 6.1% | 4.9% |
| Slovenija | 4,101,048,636 | 974,566,274 | 23.8% | 17.6% | 4.3% | 1.9% |
| Slovenska Republika | 11,360,619,950 | 777,781,152 | 6.8% | 3.9% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Suomi/Finland | 1,595,966,044 | 740,051,831 | 46.4% | 21.5% | 14.3% | 10.6% |
| Sverige | 1,626,091,888 | 727,033,589 | 44.7% | 19.2% | 14.7% | 10.8% |
| United Kingdom | 9,890,937,463 | 4,359,325,869 | 44.1% | 17.8% | 12.3% | 14.0% |
| EU cross-border cooperation | 7,831,459,588 | 1,379,415,538 | 17.6% | 12.7% | 3.1% | 1.8% |
| TOTAL | 344,321,833,061 | 69,733,698,879 | 20.3% | 8.0% | 8.1% | 4.2% |
| EU 12 | 173,955,897,999 | 26,318,073,807 | 15.1% | 5.4% | 7.0% | 2.8% |
| EU 15 | 162,534,475,474 | 42,036,209,534 | 25.9% | 10.5% | 9.6% | 5.8% |
| EU 27 | 336,490,373,473 | 68,354,283,341 | 20.3% | 7.8% | 8.3% | 4.2% |

| Business support | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| Objective | Description | Amount (€) | |
| Convergence | Direct SME Support | 18,760,896,870 | 37.7% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 22,530,831,239 | 45.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 8,443,275,693 | 17.0% |
| Convergence | | 49,735,003,802 | 100% |
| Regional Competitiveness and Employment | Direct SME Support | 7,636,313,787 | 41.0% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 5,236,356,602 | 28.1% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 5,746,609,150 | 30.9% |
| Regional Competitiveness and Employment | | 18,619,279,539 | 100% |
| European Territorial Cooperation | Direct SME Support | 998,476,647 | 72.4% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 240,555,186 | 17.4% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 140,383,705 | 10.2% |
| European Territorial Cooperation | | 1,379,415,538 | 100% |

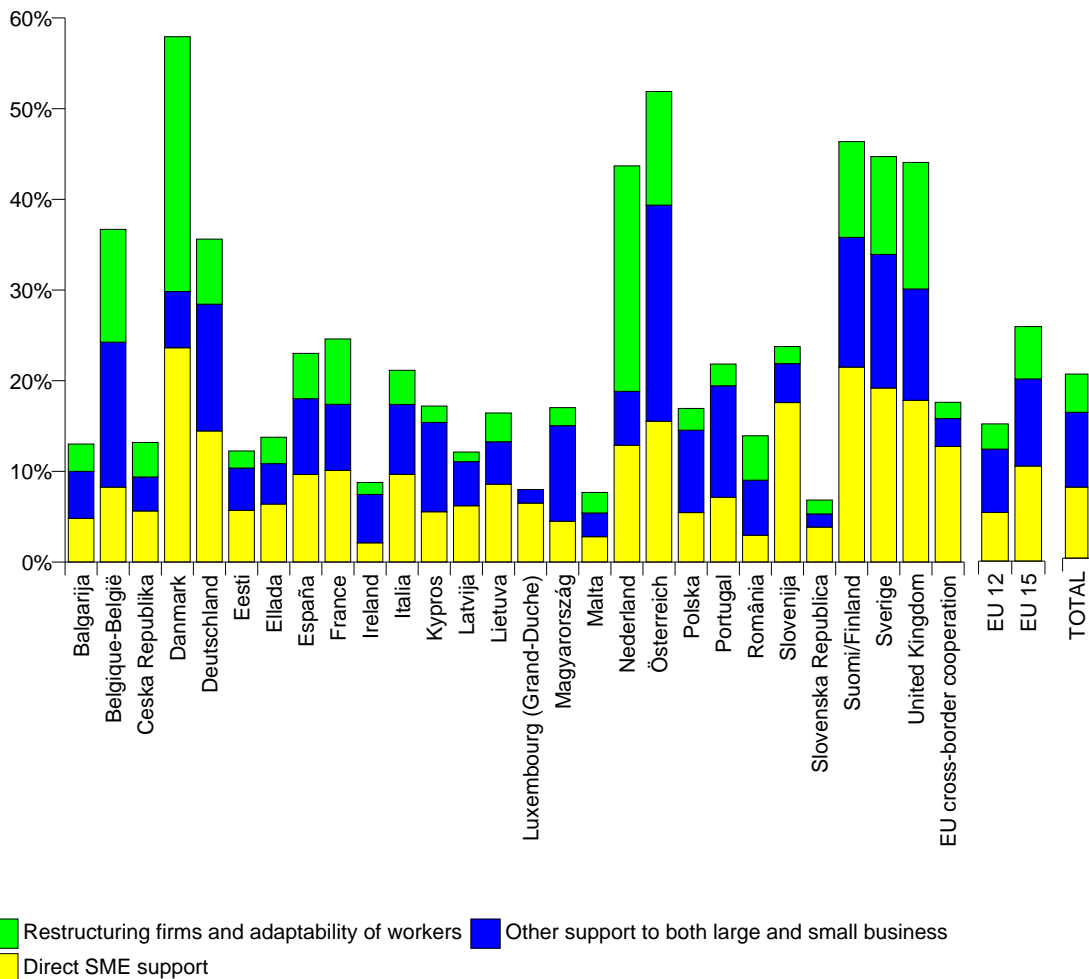
| Business support | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Country | Description | Amount (€) | |
| Balgarija | Direct SME Support | 322,484,279 | 37.1% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 344,800,227 | 39.7% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 201,620,000 | 23.2% |
| Balgarija | | 868,904,506 | 100% |
| Belgique-België | Direct SME Support | 170,510,247 | 22.5% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 329,878,581 | 43.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 256,733,041 | 33.9% |
| Belgique-België | | 757,121,869 | 100% |
| Ceska Republika | Direct SME Support | 1,483,747,221 | 42.8% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 985,509,803 | 28.4% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,001,141,206 | 28.8% |
| Ceska Republika | | 3,470,398,230 | 100% |
| Danmark | Direct SME Support | 120,465,958 | 40.8% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 31,605,377 | 10.7% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 143,129,256 | 48.5% |
| Danmark | | 295,200,591 | 100% |
| Deutschland | Direct SME Support | 3,685,344,614 | 40.6% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 3,564,240,265 | 39.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,829,152,971 | 20.1% |
| Deutschland | | 9,078,737,850 | 100% |
| Eesti | Direct SME Support | 194,536,258 | 46.6% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 158,377,986 | 38.0% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 64,315,570 | 15.4% |
| Eesti | | 417,229,814 | 100% |
| Ellada | Direct SME Support | 1,295,462,860 | 46.6% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 899,152,000 | 32.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 587,282,433 | 21.1% |
| Ellada | | 2,781,897,293 | 100% |

| Business support | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Country | Description | Amount (€) | |
| España | Direct SME Support | 3,348,081,954 | 42.0% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 2,894,673,718 | 36.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,733,248,051 | 21.7% |
| España | | 7,976,003,723 | 100% |
| France | Direct SME Support | 1,360,184,141 | 41.1% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 979,920,367 | 29.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 968,659,763 | 29.3% |
| France | | 3,308,764,271 | 100% |
| Ireland | Direct SME Support | 16,000,000 | 24.2% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 40,000,000 | 60.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 10,000,000 | 15.2% |
| Ireland | | 66,000,000 | 100% |
| Italia | Direct SME Support | 2,707,723,655 | 45.8% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 2,155,933,751 | 36.4% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,052,455,749 | 17.8% |
| Italia | | 5,916,113,155 | 100% |
| Kypros | Direct SME Support | 33,950,000 | 32.2% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 60,350,000 | 57.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 11,050,000 | 10.5% |
| Kypros | | 105,350,000 | 100% |
| Latvija | Direct SME Support | 281,475,931 | 51.2% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 220,110,000 | 40.0% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 48,448,401 | 8.8% |
| Latvija | | 550,034,332 | 100% |
| Lietuva | Direct SME Support | 581,798,620 | 52.2% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 317,560,782 | 28.5% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 214,610,347 | 19.3% |
| Lietuva | | 1,113,969,749 | 100% |
| Luxembourg (Grand-Duche) | Direct SME Support | 3,281,677 | 81.3% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 757,310 | 18.7% |
| Luxembourg (Grand-Duche) | | 4,038,987 | 100% |
| Magyarország | Direct SME Support | 1,121,847,210 | 26.4% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 2,630,041,582 | 62.0% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 493,008,998 | 11.6% |
| Magyarország | | 4,244,897,790 | 100% |
| Malta | Direct SME Support | 23,504,800 | 36.4% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 22,000,000 | 34.1% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 18,995,200 | 29.4% |
| Malta | | 64,500,000 | 100% |
| Nederland | Direct SME Support | 213,985,000 | 29.5% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 98,487,000 | 13.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 412,797,732 | 56.9% |
| Nederland | | 725,269,732 | 100% |
| Österreich | Direct SME Support | 187,143,966 | 29.9% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 286,935,368 | 45.9% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 150,890,275 | 24.1% |
| Österreich | | 624,969,609 | 100% |

| Business support | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| Country | Description | Amount (€) | |
| Polska | Direct SME Support | 3,565,375,586 | 32.3% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 5,922,960,614 | 53.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,565,628,062 | 14.2% |
| Polska | | 11,053,964,262 | 100% |
| Portugal | Direct SME Support | 1,531,330,577 | 32.8% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 2,633,128,688 | 56.3% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 511,221,900 | 10.9% |
| Portugal | | 4,675,681,165 | 100% |
| România | Direct SME Support | 569,505,197 | 21.3% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 1,166,703,772 | 43.6% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 940,268,729 | 35.1% |
| România | | 2,676,477,698 | 100% |
| Slovenija | Direct SME Support | 721,599,195 | 74.0% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 175,676,768 | 18.0% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 77,290,311 | 7.9% |
| Slovenija | | 974,566,274 | 100% |
| Slovenska Republica | Direct SME Support | 438,255,346 | 56.3% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 166,267,159 | 21.4% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 173,258,647 | 22.3% |
| Slovenska Republica | | 777,781,152 | 100% |
| Suomi/Finland | Direct SME Support | 343,158,555 | 46.4% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 228,361,425 | 30.9% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 168,531,851 | 22.8% |
| Suomi/Finland | | 740,051,831 | 100% |
| Sverige | Direct SME Support | 312,065,531 | 42.9% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 239,536,221 | 32.9% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 175,431,837 | 24.1% |
| Sverige | | 727,033,589 | 100% |
| United Kingdom | Direct SME Support | 1,764,392,279 | 40.5% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 1,214,219,077 | 27.9% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 1,380,714,513 | 31.7% |
| United Kingdom | | 4,359,325,869 | 100% |
| EU cross-border cooperation | Direct SME Support | 998,476,647 | 72.4% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 240,555,186 | 17.4% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 140,383,705 | 10.2% |
| EU cross-border cooperation | | 1,379,415,538 | 100% |

| | Description | Amount (€) | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL | Direct SME Support | 27,395,687,304 | 39.3% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 28,007,743,027 | 40.2% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 14,330,268,548 | 20.5% |
| TOTAL | | 69,733,698,879 | 100% |
| EU 12 | Direct SME Support | 9,338,079,643 | 35.5% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 12,170,358,693 | 46.2% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 4,809,635,471 | 18.3% |
| EU 12 | | 26,318,073,807 | 100% |
| EU 15 | Direct SME Support | 17,059,131,014 | 40.6% |
| | Other support to both large and small business | 15,596,829,148 | 37.1% |
| | Restructuring firms and adaptability of workers | 9,380,249,372 | 22.3% |
| EU 15 | | 42,036,209,534 | 100% |

Business support



| Categorisation Codes : Business support | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|--|---|
| Category Cd | Category | Direct SME Support | Other support to both large and small business | restructuring firms and adaptability of workers |
| 03 | Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks ... | Y | | |
| 04 | Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres) | Y | | |
| 05 | Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms | | Y | |
| 06 | Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (...) | Y | | |
| 07 | Investment in firms directly linked to research and innovation (...) | | Y | |
| 08 | Other investment in firms | | Y | |
| 09 | Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs | Y | | |
| 14 | Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.) | Y | | |
| 15 | Other measures for improving access to and efficient use of ICT by SMEs | Y | | |
| 62 | Development of life-long learning systems and strategies in firms; training and services for employees ... | | | Y |
| 63 | Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive ways of organising work | | | Y |
| 64 | Development of special services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors ... | | | Y |
| 68 | Support for self-employment and business start-up | Y | | |

Reference: Commission regulations implementing the Structural Funds No 1828/2006 (Annex II A)
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reglem_en.htm

NB: The EU's Cohesion Policy is funded from three EU sources - the European Regional Development Fund or ERDF, the European Social Fund or ESF and the Cohesion Fund. Each fund is governed by a regulation outlining its main priorities. The priority themes used in this reports form part of the common categorisation system used for data collection and exchange between the Commission and the managing authorities. While investment in some priority themes are funded exclusively by one fund others can be financed by more than one fund given the range of activities that are involved.