Since the beginning of the 2014-2020 funding period, the European Structural and Investment Funds have delivered a critical mass of investments through shared management between the European Commission and the Member States. Geared towards achieving socio-economic convergence, resilience and territorial cohesion, the Funds help address both current and emerging challenges, laying the foundation for the European Union’s sustainable future.

**EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)**
Projects supported under the ERDF have contributed to further boosting areas such as research and innovation, information and communication technologies, and SME competitiveness. As a result, 300,000 jobs are being created, 20,000 researchers supported, and over 8 million households will be offered access to improved broadband.

**COHESION FUND (CF)**
Cohesion Fund projects have helped the Member States with the biggest development needs in environment and transport to meet EU standards. For example, over 1300 km of reconstructed railway lines and 275 km of new or improved metro and tram lines are in the pipeline so far, and the equivalent of over 12.5 million people will be served by improved wastewater treatment.

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)**
The ESF has continued to play an essential role in supporting employment, education and training, and in further reducing poverty and inequalities. Some of the outcomes include over 23 million people receiving help to improve their employment opportunities, 3.4 million gaining a qualification, and 2.7 million young people supported under the Youth Employment Initiative.

**EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)**
The EAFRD has been a catalyst for promoting sustainable and innovative agriculture and forestry, and for making rural areas more vibrant. For instance, the equivalent of 75% of the EU’s total area under organic farming has been supported through conversion or maintenance projects, and 130,000 farms are being helped to gain more competitiveness.

**EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF)**
EMFF projects have provided strategic leverage to support fishermen in their transition towards sustainable fishing, supporting sustainable aquaculture, and helping coastal communities thrive. So far, nearly 34,000 projects have been financed across the EU.
OVERALL FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Budget by Fund

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Spent</th>
<th>Decided</th>
<th>Planned</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>CF</td>
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<td>EAFRD</td>
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<td>YEI*</td>
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(* Youth Employment Initiative)

The implementation progress (total investment) of all ESI funds
Implementation by Fund for EU Overview (total cost % of planned)

Examples of Successfully Implemented Projects

**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or Cohesion Fund**

Better drinking water for Dâmbovița County (Romania) Cohesion Fund

This project provided over 143,000 residents with reliable access to quality drinking water, resulting in a decrease of pollution levels and an overall better quality of life. It forms part of the “Large Infrastructure” Operational Programme which supports a portfolio of similar projects that will lead to improved water supply and wastewater treatment for over 5 million people. Total investment for this project amounts to €9.7 million, including a €6.3 million Cohesion Fund contribution www.catd.ro

**European Social Fund (ESF)**

Spurring apprenticeship nationwide as a route to excellence (Greece)

The new ‘Post-Lyceum Year - Apprenticeship Class in Greece’ programme became a reality in 2017, introducing the ‘apprenticeship class’ as a fourth optional year of study for vocational senior high school graduates. The programme has developed successfully with steady increases in the number of apprentices (+230%), areas of specialisation and number of schools, providing young people in Greece with more employment prospects. ESF support amounts to €40 million.

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

Fighting for the reign of the bees in our countryside (Latvia)

The project ‘BeeKing – Digital solutions for apiary management’ developed an online platform and an app that allows beekeepers to maintain their intervention records more efficiently, exchange know-how and promote a more sustainable use of natural resources linked to beekeeping. So far, close to 140 beekeepers from all over Latvia applied to participate in the project’s trial period and gave feedback by the end of 2018. The total budget for this project amounts to €33,915, including €21,000 from the EAFRD. https://beeking.eu

**European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

Sustainable and modern aquaculture thanks to renewable energies (Spain)

With the support of the EMFF, Punta Moreiras, a land-based turbot fish farm located in Galicia, has made a great contribution to sustainable aquaculture, the low-carbon economy and innovative practices in coastal communities altogether: it generates electricity via a solar energy source of 150 kilowatts to pump seawater into the cultivation tanks. Total investment for this project amounted to €160,000, including €60,000 from the EMFF. www.barlovento.net