

What are the main investment priorities in Germany?

In Germany, Cohesion Policy is for the most part implemented at the level of the federal states as part of regional operational programmes. For this reason, the individual programmes address different goals, in order to meet the requirements of the different regional conditions. With an eye on the limited means that are available in Germany for the coming period, the Commission suggested that the investments should be concentrated on the main needs and the areas with the most potential in each state.

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

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- Increasing the competitiveness of SMEs;
- Supporting the reduction of CO₂ emissions in all sectors of the economy;
- Utilising labour market potential, increasing social inclusion and improving educational outcomes.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was €26.3 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, EU Cohesion Policy investments have helped Germany to:

- create 88 000 jobs;
- support 6 500 start-ups and new companies;
- support 5 900 projects in the field of renewable energy.

In addition to this, the European Social Fund provides the financial means for a wide range of measures, which are, for example:

- targeted at increasing the employment readiness;
- qualifications of young employees and long-term unemployed people, which contribute to tackling poverty in Germany and which encourage gender equality.

In total, more than 4.3 million people have taken part in ESF measures.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

- **Energy Bunker becomes a local power station in Wilhelmsburg, Hamburg**

The [Energy Bunker in Wilhelmsburg](#) represents a concept without parallel anywhere in the world. After it proved impossible to demolish it at a reasonable cost, the city energy supplier Hamburg Energie converted the bunker to a local power station for generating renewable energy. The power generation is provided by solar energy, biogas, wood chips and the waste heat from a nearby industrial plant.

In its final form, the Energy Bunker will generate around 22 500 megawatt hours of heat and 3 000 megawatt hours of electricity. This will meet the heating needs of 3 000 households and the electricity needs of 1 000 households. In total the Energy Bunker will lead to a CO₂ saving of 95 % when compared to conventional heat generation.

Total cost: € 9.8 million (ERDF contribution: € 3.1 million)

- **Infra-red 3D scanner made by AiMESS Services GmbH from Burg (Saxony-Anhalt) revolutionises industrial measuring technology**

The structured light scanning technique has become established as the norm for gathering 3D surface data in industrial measuring technology. This technique, however, is stretched to its limits when it comes to scanning reflective or transparent surfaces. In these instances, the object to be measured can only be digitalised through pre-treatment of the surface, e.g. through spraying. The 3D scanner developed by [AiMESS analyses](#) not the reflection but the energy absorbed by the object being measured, which is converted into heat. The system measures this using an infra-red detector. The infra-red scanner therefore makes it possible to produce an accurate scan of transparent, dark or reflective surfaces.

These measuring services are in demand from major industrial firms all over the world in the fields of automotive engineering, aviation, renewable energy, ship-building and steel and plant construction.

Total cost: € 2.1 million (ERDF contribution: € 1.16 million)

- **:metabolon – the Leppe central landfill site in North Rhine-Westphalia is being turned into a model project for sustainable resource efficiency, environmental technologies and material conversion**

As part of this project a teaching and research centre of the Cologne University of Applied Sciences was built at the [Leppe central landfill site](#). Its work focuses on material conversion, sustainable resource efficiency and the development of location-based environmental technologies and techniques.

The former landfill site has also provided space for the Bergisch Energy Competence Centre, which enables networking between stakeholders from the fields of energy, energy efficiency and climate protection. In addition, a sustainable industrial park has been developed, which is to remain reserved for the offices of companies from the fields of waste management, material conversion and environmental technology. The project is rounded off with a learning and experience landscape for schoolchildren that is centred on the themes of recycling and energy generation from renewable sources, as well as a diverse range of sport and recreational facilities.

Total cost: € 14.6 million (ERDF contribution: € 7.3 million)

- **Neighbourhood Management creates a new sense of community in Berlin's districts**

Berlin's [Neighbourhood Management programme](#) is part of the Berlin Senate's comprehensive Socially Integrative City strategy. Berlin's Neighbourhood Management programme is focused on improving the life chances of citizens in the fields of education, employment, social and ethnic integration. Neighbourhood councils, made up of representatives from the public sector, police, schools, churches or residents, are encouraged to take responsibility for the improvement of living conditions in their quarter. The project won the RegioStars Award in the CityStar category in 2013.

Total cost (cumulatively since 2000): € 260 million (ERDF contribution: € 93 million)

- **Science meets business – Science Park Potsdam-Golm (Brandenburg)**

Renowned scientific organisations and university institutes are moving in:

- Innovation centre GO:IN for start-ups;
- Incubator GO:INcubator for start-up proposals from the research organisations.

Since the mid-1990s the [Science Park Potsdam Golm](#) has grown continually. There are now two faculties of the University of Potsdam here, with over 9 000 students and 800 staff. Later high-tech businesses and start-ups that focus on collaboration with the scientific community joined. More than 2 500 scientists and employees work at two Fraunhofer Institutes, three Max Planck Institutes and in the companies of the innovation centre GO:IN. An on-campus kindergarten, student halls of residence and accommodation facilities make Potsdam Golm an innovative research site and an attractive workplace. The Science Park is now one of twelve innovation and expertise centres established across Germany, and is nationally and internationally recognised. In order to enable start-ups to move in, the innovation centre GO:IN, with its 4 000 m² of office and storage space, laboratories and conference rooms, was established. In addition to this the GO:INcubator guides the implementation of start-up plans as an expert partner.

Total cost: € 150 million (ERDF contribution: € 75 million)

- **Mannheim (Baden-Württemberg) further enhances musical expertise with the Pop Academy and Music Park**

After more than 50 years of pop culture, for the first time in Germany the opportunity has been created in Mannheim to provide academically demanding education in the fields of popular music and music business studies. With the recent addition of new floors to the building of the [Pop Academy](#), office, seminar and production rooms with a net surface area of more than 1 600 m² have been created for the Masters courses 'Popular Music' and 'Music & Creative Industries'. As a centre of expertise, networking facilitator and ideas generator, the Pop Academy is the only institution of its kind in

Europe. Together with the nearby [Music Park](#), it forms the core of the music business cluster in Mannheim, with great significance to the region. In the Music Park entrepreneurs from the music business receive advice and mentoring.

Pop Academy - Total cost (cumulatively since 2000): € 12.9 million (ERDF contribution: € 5.45 million)

Music Park - Total cost (cumulatively since 2000): € 6.2 million (ERDF contribution: € 2.95 million)

ESF projects

● **IdA Integration programme via transnational mobility and exchange projects: MYK4international**

The aim of the project is to increase the educational and employment opportunities for young unemployed people through structured eight-week learning and working stays in hotel and catering businesses in France. In addition to the acquisition of career-specific skills the project supports development and enhancement of language, inter-cultural and social skills.

The Gastronomic Education Centre of the IHK (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) Koblenz is responsible for the qualifying examination, the skills check between the two stays abroad and the vocational final examination. In parallel with the project, a transnational exchange of skills and experience takes place on an expert level between German and French project staff, trainees and stakeholders from local/regional labour market policy.

Total cost: € 2.5 million (ESF contribution: € 1.5 million)

Partners:

Gastronomic Education Centre Koblenz, Institute for Social Education Research (Institut für Sozialpädagogische Forschung) Mainz

St. Nikolaus Stifftshospital GmbH Andernach, Jobcenter Landkreis Mayen-Koblenz

Jobcenter Landkreis Neuwied, Jobcenter Landkreis Ahrweiler

Transnational partners:

INFA, Institut National de Formation et d'Application, Gradignan (FR)

● **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research programme "Perspectives on professional qualifications", funding initiative "Qualification-oriented modular return-to-learn training"**

An example from Hessen – [ZAUG GmbH](#), Giessen:

- Development of a network in the region of Giessen/Lahn-Dill for establishing qualification-oriented modular return-to-learn training for semi-skilled and unskilled workers;
- Development and implementation of work-based return-to-learn qualifications in cooperation with prestigious companies;
- Provision of long-term services for semi-skilled and unskilled workers and for businesses.

Total cost: €596 956 (ESF contribution: €298 478)

● **ESF federal programme "Education, Business, Work in the Neighbourhood (Bildung, Wirtschaft Arbeit im Quartier, or BIWAQ)**

Two examples: Sprung-Chance, Hammer Westen, 02/2009-10/2012

- Objective: Improving the education, training and employment rate for pupils at two secondary modern schools (Hauptschulen) in the western district of the city of Hamm;
- Activities: skills analysis, career information, work experience, training courses in applications, mobility and social skills; implementation in close cooperation with schools, parents, businesses, the Jobcenter and Federal Employment Agency;
- Outcomes: 131 participating school pupils, placement of 39 young people in dual education, 14 in school-based education, 11 in their first job, 36 moving on to new schools, 8 successful retakes of school final exams, 2 voluntary social year programmes; contribution to conceptual embedding of career-focused measures in the schools involved.

Total cost: €400 053 (ESF contribution: €199 462)

- **Café WellRitz, Wiesbaden,**

Objectives: qualification and employment of long-term unemployed women and men from the district; family education for migrant women, single parents and mothers; contribution to enhancement of the neighbourhood through new social and cultural offers

- Activities: foundation of catering business with focus on families with children, participants qualifying in careers in catering and service, social educational mentoring, courses for qualification in family education (incl. focus on care).
- Outcomes: 226 participants, placement of 41 participants in first jobs, 36 in training, 20 in supported employment, continuation of WellRitz and offers of family education following end of project.

Total cost: €862 000 (ESF contribution: €431 000)

- **ESF project example from the model programme "Empowering Youth: Active in the Region" in Baden-Württemberg**

Provision of work experience and training placements, Ulm:

- School pupils with low educational achievement at secondary modern or vocational schools are mentored individually in the search for work experience and training placements;
- Businesses providing training are supported, especially in difficult situations, by educational mentoring of the young people during the work experience placement;
- The objective of the project is to create career opportunities appropriate to the wishes and abilities of the young people.

Total cost: €85 000 (ESF contribution: €85 000)

More information on projects of the EU Cohesion Policy

For more examples of projects and links to all beneficiaries of the EU Cohesion Policy, see:

- [European Regional Development Fund](#)
- [European Social Fund](#)