

## Cohesion Policy and Spain

In 2014-2020, Spain will manage **22 operational programmes** with funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) — one for each of the nineteen regions plus 3 national programmes — and **23 operational programmes** with funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) — one for each of the nineteen regions plus 4 national programmes.



#### Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)</li>
- Transition regions (GDP/head between >= 75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90 % of EU-27 average)

### How much will the EU invest in Spain from 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Spain has been allocated around €28.6 billion (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- €2 billion for less developed regions (Extremadura)
- €13.4 billion for transition regions (Andalucía, Canarias, Castilla-La Mancha, Melilla and Murcia)
- €11 billion for more developed regions (Aragón, Asturias, Baleares, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Cataluña, Ceuta, Comunidad Valenciana, Galicia, La Rioja, Madrid, Navarra, País Vasco)
- € 643 million for European Territorial Cooperation
- €484.1 million special allocation for the outermost regions
- €943.5 million for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, the ESF in Spain will account for €7.6 billion, which represents 28.1% of the total Cohesion Policy (ERDF+ESF) allocation.

# COHESION POLICY AND SPAIN

#### What are the main investment priorities for Spain?

Priorities for Spain are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities include:

- Increasing labour market participation and labour productivity, as well as improving education, training and social inclusion policies, with specific attention to youth and vulnerable groups.
- Supporting the adaptation of the productive system to higher added-value activities by enhancing the competiveness of SMFs
- Promoting an innovation-friendly business environment and strengthening the R&D and innovation system.
- Making a more efficient use of natural resources.

#### What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 35 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, the ERDF has helped Spain to:

- create around 58 000 jobs (most of these in SMEs);
- support over 43 000 small businesses;
- co-finance almost 30 000 RTD projects;
- extend access to broadband to 1.3 million more people;
- serve 1.7 million people by water projects and over 2.2 million from improved waste water management systems.

By the end of 2013, 6.6 million unemployed people took part in ESF-promoted activities designed to improve their employability. In addition, 3.6 million young people aged between 15-24 years participated in education or training courses dedicated to early school prevention and skills upgrade. More than 800 000 older people between 55 and 64 were involved in active aging projects.

#### Cohesion Policy success stories

#### **ERDF** projects

#### • ANDALUCÍA: Light Environment Control (LEC)

The company <u>Light Environment Control</u> (LEC) has developed in Barbate, Andalucía – one of the poorest areas in Spain, with a 40 % unemployment rate in 2012. Since LEC installed its new production centre for the design, research and manufacture of LED systems, it has boosted the local economy and created 100 direct jobs (most of them highly skilled) and around 150 indirect jobs. It has also helped retain local highly-skilled professionals offering them opportunities at home.

Total cost: € 1.6 million (ERDF contribution: € 1.3 million)

#### • Science and Technology Park of Extremadura (PCTEx)

The new Science and Technology Park of Extremadura is providing the region with a springboard to diversify its economy and create jobs. The PCTEx, has been constructed on the campuses of Cáceres and Badajoz of the University of Extremadura. The project encourages business-industry linkages in research, development and innovation, thus contributing to the sustainable competitiveness of the region. The sectors that have taken advantage of the park's facilities include renewable energy, bio-medicine, information and communication technology (ICT) and food. It is expected that the project will help 50 companies to establish themselves, and create around 600 jobs, when the park is at full capacity, thereby boosting the business innovation and competitiveness of the region.

Total cost: €18.1 million (ERDF contribution: €10.1 million)

#### • MURCIA: Revitalisation of the neighbourhood of Espíritu Santo

Taking an integrated approach to urban development, the <u>Iniciativa Urbana Espíritu Santo project</u> in Murcia aims to provide cultural, social and educational facilities, at making the physical environment more attractive, and at making citizens feel they are part of the community. As part of the project, a new cultural and artistic centre is being built, gardens are being improved and adequate lighting installed, as well as other measures to save energy and maintain a clean and attractive environment.

Total cost: €10.7 million (ERDF contribution: €7.5 million)

#### ESF projects

#### • Supporting access to employment for Roma

Involving 13 Spanish regions and more than 40 city councils, <u>Acceder</u> targets mainly unemployed and unskilled young Roma, increasing their civic participation and employability. The project promotes a better understanding of the complexity of the needs of Roma. Between 2007 and 2009, 12 290 employment contracts were obtained by a total of 6,680 persons through Acceder (4746 were Roma and 2459 were Roma women). 10 966 persons were trained or in professional training.

Total cost: €41.3 million (ESF contribution: €30.9 million)

#### • Green Jobs programme

The <u>EmpleaVerde</u>, or 'Green Jobs' programme, which is spearheaded by the Fundacion Biodiversidad of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, is an initiative to promote employment and preserve the environment. The programme is running more than 80 projects in Spain. It aims to support more than 28 000 people and create 1 000 new green SMEs and jobs in the future.

Total cost: €17.1 million (ESF contribution: €12.7 million)

#### • Giving youth a chance — PCPI

The PCPI project (Programas de Cualificación Profesional Inicial), based in La Rioja provides young people with the chance to return to education so that they can obtain qualifications that will eventually help them get work. PCPI caters for 16 to 21 year-olds, contributing to the personal development, up-skilling and qualifications. It also offers practical work-related training.

Total cost: €1.7 million (ESF contribution: €0.8 million)

#### Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Spain

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- <u>European Commission Regional Policy website</u>
- European Social Fund website