

Cohesion Policy and Slovenia

⌘ In 2014-2020, Slovenia will manage **one operational programme** under EU Cohesion Policy which includes the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund (ESF).



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between $\geq 75\%$ and $< 90\%$ of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head $\geq 90\%$ of EU-27 average)

How much cohesion funding will be invested in Slovenia?

For 2014-2020 Slovenia has been allocated around **€3.07 billion** (current prices) in Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€1.26 billion** for the less developed region of eastern Slovenia
- **€847.3 million** the more developed region of western Slovenia
- **€895.4 million** under the Cohesion Fund
- **€64 million** for European Territorial Cooperation
- **€9.2 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative in eastern Slovenia

Of this, ESF in Slovenia will represent **€716.9 million**. This share of 34% of the structural funds was set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for Slovenia?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 have been set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. There is a clear shift from infrastructure-based support in Slovenia to more innovation and entrepreneurship investments that will underpin growth and jobs in the country.

The following two priorities will help support and implement the Europe 2020 targets and objectives:

- Investing in research, development and innovation, competitiveness, in the framework of a Smart Specialisation Strategy defining the priority sectors of the Slovene economy to receive support as well as employment and training;
- Supporting a resource efficient economy with better environmental preservation, sustainable energy use and sustainable mobility.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion fund for the 2007 – 2013 period was € 4.2 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 period, EU Cohesion Policy funding has helped Slovenia, among other achievements, to:

- Create 33 700 new jobs;
- Support 585 research projects;
- Connect 65 000 more people to broadband internet access;
- Build 56 km of trans-European network;
- Rehabilitate 65 km of railways;
- Connect 80 000 more people to drinking water and 39 000 more to wastewater treatment.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● Energy efficient make-over for Brežice general hospital

The [General Hospital in Brežice](#), a city in eastern Slovenia, dates back to 1872 and is today one of the oldest in the country. With support from the European Regional Development Fund, the hospital has undergone a cost-cutting programme focused on energy efficiency. The renovations have resulted in a 41% reduction in total consumption of energy compared to 2005. Total energy costs have decreased by 14% and now represent just 1.44% of the hospital's total operating cost. In addition, the hospital has reduced CO₂ emissions by 27% and water consumption has fallen by 11%.

Total cost: €2 million (Cohesion Fund contribution: €1.2 million)

● Multidisciplinary research facility supports space exploration

Slovenia's [Centre for Space Sciences and Technologies](#) SPACE-SI is one of eight Centres of Excellence created using funding from the ERDF. The Centre carries out specialised research and develops technologies for advanced space craft manoeuvring during formation flying, as well as for high precision remote sensing in Earth observation and photometry in astrophysics.

Total cost: €10 million (ERDF contribution: €8.5 million)

ESF projects

- **Jobs for the disadvantaged through recycling**

[Work Factory – Textiles](#) collects and sorts second-hand clothes and prepares them for resale either directly or after mending and restyling. Ten members of staff and 20-30 volunteers, all of whom come from disadvantaged groups (young people who have left education with no formal qualification, the long-term unemployed or people in personal distress) contribute to the objective of the enterprise, which has benefited from ESF support.

Total cost: € 294 000 (ESF contribution: € 250 000)

- **Developing skills for the glass industry**

[Glassworks Hrastnik](#) and nine other glass manufacturing companies have joined forces to provide specific skills that cannot be obtained through the school system or other professional training schemes. The long-term aim of the partnership, which receives funding from the ESF, is to ensure that the Slovenian glass industry maintains its competitiveness.

Total cost: € 208 000 (ESF contribution: € 177 000)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Slovenia

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

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)