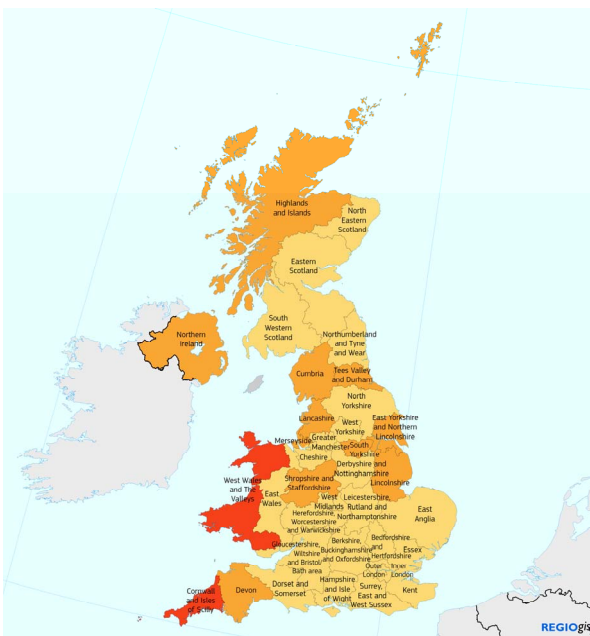


Cohesion Policy and the United Kingdom

In 2014-2020, the UK will manage **seventeen operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, six will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (one for Northern Ireland, two for Wales, one for Scotland, one for Gibraltar and one for England) and six will receive funding from the European Social Fund (one each for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, two for Wales).



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 will the EU invest in the UK from 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, the UK has been allocated around **€ 11.8 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€ 2.6 billion** for less developed regions (Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, West Wales and the Valleys).
- **€ 2.5 billion** for transition regions (Northern Ireland, the Highlands and Islands, Cumbria, Tees Valley and Durham, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, and Devon).
- **€ 5.6 billion** for more developed regions (Northumbria and Tyne and Wear; Cheshire; Greater Manchester; North Yorkshire; West Yorkshire; Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire; Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire; Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire; West Midlands; East Anglia; Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire; Essex; Inner London; Outer London; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; Surrey, East and West Sussex; Hampshire and Isle of Wight; Kent; Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bristol/Bath area; Dorset and Somerset; Eastern Scotland; South Western Scotland; North Eastern Scotland; East Wales).
- **€ 866 million** for European Territorial Cooperation.
- **€ 206 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, the ESF will account for a minimum of **€ 4.9 billion**. The final share for ESF is fixed in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for the UK?

The investment priorities for the UK are set out in the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities include:

- improving labour market and education policies;
- reducing the risk of social exclusion;
- promoting research investment and the competitiveness of the business sector;
- promoting an environmentally friendly and resource-efficient economy.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 10.6 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, ERDF investments have helped the UK:

- create more than 87 000 jobs;
- assist the start-up of more than 29 000 businesses;
- support more than 1 770 research and technical development projects.

The ERDF provides investment for a wide variety of projects in order to stimulate and strengthen innovation in regions. This is achieved by increasing technology transfer from universities, institutes and businesses to improve products and processes, and boost commercialisation of innovations. It also promotes a shift towards knowledge-intensive growth clusters, supports businesses in their start-up phase, and encourages adoption of environmental best practice.

ESF projects aim to enhance the employability and up-skilling of young people, particularly the ones not in employment, education or training (NEETs), the long-term unemployed and disadvantaged, to combat poverty, and to increase the participation of women in the labour market. In the current ESF programme in England there have been over 4 million participants (1.56 million unemployed, 554 000 inactive, 663 000 with basic skills needs, 17% disabled, 19% aged 50 and over, 36% women and 19% from ethnic minorities) of which 360 000 were in work after leaving, 150 000 gained basic skills and over 430 000 gained full qualifications at level 2 and over.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● Centre for Nano-Health (Wales)

The [Centre for Nano-Health \(CNH\) at Swansea University](#) offers a fully integrated nanotechnology and biomedical R&D environment to over 50 academic staff from the Colleges of Medicine, Engineering and Science, Health Board (NHS) clinicians, and industry. This purpose built open access facility provides a technology and innovation base for SMEs in Wales and beyond, to help stimulate new businesses and increase competitiveness. CNH has initiated many collaborative projects with industry and other Higher Education Institutions attracting more than £15 million further investment.

Total Cost: £ 21.6 million (ERDF contribution: £ 10.1 million)

● European Marine Energy Centre (Scotland)

Benefitting from the sea conditions around the Orkney Islands, the [European Marine Energy Centre \(EMEC\)](#) is the world's first and only accredited, grid-connected test centre for full-scale wave and tidal energy devices. Attracting developers from around the globe, EMEC has tested more devices than any other single site in the world, and is making a significant contribution to developing a renewable source of energy that can boost the local and national economy.

Total cost: £15 million (ERDF contribution: £ 7.3 million)

- **'Giant's Causeway Visitors' Experience' (Northern Ireland)**

Awarded 'best new sustainable building' in the Sustainable Ireland awards, with its innovative carbon-free heating and cooling system and zero waste of stone, the new [Giant's Causeway Visitor Experience](#) is not only a model of energy efficient building, but also helps to bring customers to the local economy. In its first 6 months it attracted over 320,000 visitors from over 160 countries to Northern Ireland.

Total cost: £18.5 million (ERDF contribution: £6.1 million)

- **Cornwall Next Generation Broadband (England)**

The aim of the [Cornwall Next Generation Broadband](#) project is to transform Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (CIoS) economically and socially into a more knowledge based, high value added and lower carbon economy. The project has attracted high-value businesses (including start-ups), and inward investors, providing them with fibre connectivity with up to 100Mb/s capability. About 10,000 of Cornwall's 25,000 businesses are expected to be connected by end 2015, with up to 2,400 high-value businesses.

Total cost: £114 million (ERDF contribution: £49 million)

ESF projects

- **Re-engaging teenagers who are NEET**

In North London, an innovative project called [Inspire](#) has proven highly successful in reaching out to 16-19 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Based on a personalised needs assessment and action plan, the programme focusses on developing employability skills. The participants are supported into sustained education, employment or training. Overall, 332 young people have taken part so far, over half of which were women. 133 participants have already moved into education, employment or training. The target is to have engaged with 413 young people by December 2014.

Total budget: £730 200 (ESF contribution: £730 200)

- **'Place, train and maintain': Getting people with learning disabilities into work**

People suffering from a learning disability face many hurdles in finding their way into the job market. In Northern Ireland, the non-profit making agency [Triangle](#) helps them overcome these challenges by providing tailor-made support services, including training and job placements. This involves a subsidised trial period that can evolve towards paid employment. The project is helping 368 job seekers acquire the skills they need to find and stay in work.

Total budget: £2.2 million (ESF contribution: £906 768)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in the UK

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](#)
- [European Commission Representation in the UK](#)