ESF
2007-2013

Results of Ex-Post Evaluation

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24 Clusters of interventions

Preparatory study

Thematic studies

Human capital

Access to employment

Social inclusion

Synthesis study

Synthesis including:
Update 2014 data +
28 country reports +
SIC and PP

Open Public Consultation

Commission Staff Working Document
Key messages:

The 2007-2013 ESF was implemented in challenging times

The programmes have been effective in helping people and supporting systems

The ESF has been instrumental in supporting EU strategic objectives and national policies
ESF 2007-2013
77 billion EUR of EU budget

Support MS Policies on the basis of the Employment guidelines and Country Specific Recommendations

- Increasing Adaptability of workers
- Enhancing Human Capital
- Social Inclusion of disadvantaged
- Enhancing Access to Employment
- Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Promoting Partnerships
Where and how ESF 2007-2013 was spent

- **69% of EU allocation for Convergence regions**

- **45% of total ESF invested in Human Capital priorities (including adaptability), 34% to Access to employment and 14% to Social Inclusion:**

  ✓ Proportion expenditure on human capital higher in Convergence regions (51%)

  ✓ Proportion of expenditure on access to employment and social inclusion higher in RCE areas (58%)
Key achievements of ESF

• **98.7 million participations by end 2014**
• **At least 31.8 million positive results**
  ✓ 9.4 million into employment
  ✓ 8.7 million gained a qualification
  ✓ 13.7 million obtained other positive results
• **Over 276,000** entities were supported
• **Over 109,000** products /systems/tools developed
Key findings

- **Strong alignment** of ESF to EU and national challenges and priorities and **matching of OP and CSR**

- **Implementation has progressed adequately** in terms of absorption and reaching mostly targets set by MS

- **ESF has reached most relevant target groups** of participants (low skilled, inactive, youth)

- **Balanced participation of women** (51.4 %), with most programmes applying gender equality as a horizontal principle and few specific actions
Key findings

- **ESF interventions generally effective** in all policy fields, though comparatively more in individual than in system results (longer time to bear fruit):
  - 63% result targets achieved or exceeded by 2014
  - 30m results/68.9m related participants: 44% results ratio by 2014

- Average cost per participant is below **900 € but it hides a wide variety of costs**

- Public consultation points to management and control systems, reporting, and audit as the more **burdensome areas**, WP 12 of REGIO also flags high burden in project selection and implementation
ESF 2007-2013 EU value added

- **Volume:** additional resources to support EU and national employment policies
  - Help weather the effects of the crisis
- **Scope:** Extension of support to new target groups and offering of more tailored services
  - Disabled; Young; Unemployed with low qualifications
- **Role:** test and implement innovative activities and reforms to employment and social services, education and training systems
- **Process:** support administrative capacity building
  - PES (Public Employment Services)
  - Educational institutions and Healthcare
# Lessons learned

| Policy choices: | ➢ Continue **aligning** ESF with EU/national priorities  
➢ **Flexibility** to adjust to emerging needs |
| Programming: | ➢ Robust definition of objectives, targets and **results**  
➢ Apply more evidence-based programming |
| Target groups: | ➢ Ensure coverage of **disadvantaged** groups  
➢ Continue focus on **young and old** and balanced representation by gender |
| Programme Implementation: | ➢ Promote **customisation** to the needs of specific target groups  
➢ Improve **capacity building**  
➢ Further **simplify** procedures and continue reducing administrative burden |
| Monitoring systems: | ➢ Higher standardisation of programme **indicators**  
➢ Improve use of **longitudinal and micro-data**  
➢ Capture effects other than employment and qualifications |
| Evaluation: | ➢ More robust **impact evaluations**  
➢ Reintroduce final evaluations/**timing** of evaluations |
New performance orientation in the 2014-20 regulations

- Programmes have to set **specific objectives** translated into clear indicators of **results** with **targets** and **benchmarks**;
- **Project selection criteria** must take account of the **results** set at the level of the programme;
- Regular **reporting** of **results and outputs** and a **performance framework** linked to a **performance reserve**;
- **Impact evaluation** for each of the specific objectives.
Thank you!

For more information on ERDF and CF:


For more information on ESF:

http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=701&langId=en