

th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

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Shaping Transitions with Evidence



Socio-economic impact evaluation of Cultural Investment

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

FUND COVERED

- ▶ ERDF

PROGRAMMING PERIODS

- ▶ 2007-2013; 2014-2020

PROGRAMMES COVERED

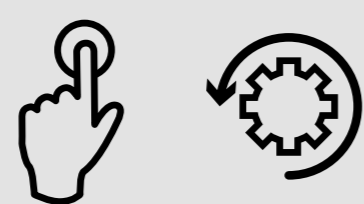
- ▶ OP "Infrastructure and Services" (2007-2013); OP "Growth and Employment" (2014-2020)

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ IP 3.4. Ensuring of qualitative environment for life and economic activity (2007 – 2013); IP 5.6. Actions to improve urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures (2014 – 2020)

TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ Impact and process/ implementation evaluation



YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2019

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To obtain evidence on efficiency, effectiveness and impact of EU funded investment in the development of cultural environment.

Main questions:

- ▶ What is the socio-economic impact?
- ▶ What is the overall effectiveness? What are the obstacles and barriers?
- ▶ Is there any and what kind of regional and local level impact?
- ▶ Is there any and what degree of sustainability?

METHODOLOGY USED

Quantitative and qualitative data analysis, socio-economic analysis determining benefits and costs to society. Public-benefit calculation of the cultural heritage expressed in monetary terms.

DATA SOURCES

MIS, Statistics, Project level data, Local municipalities.

MAIN FINDINGS

- ▶ Total ERDF investment to restore cultural heritage sites amounts to 22.03 million euro, resulting in a **short-term impact of 17.11 million euro and long-term impact of 0.81 million euro**
- ▶ **3 state of the art regional multifunctional culture, events and education centres were built with ERDF support thus bringing culture and international events closer to the citizens.** Total investment amounts to 53.43 million euro, resulting in a **short-term impact of 11.50 million euro and long-term impact of 45.4 million euro**
- ▶ Cities and regions where investments were made have had different developments in socioeconomic indicators, indicating **that ERDF investment alongside other factors is fostering growth and socioeconomic development of cities and regions.** This is observed in cases ERDF investment supplementing other sources is made in accordance to local or regional development priorities.
- ▶ ERDF investments have been made in culture infrastructure (museums, sites, etc. – 25 projects altogether) with high socio-economic potential, which will increase the number of visitors, employment, entrepreneurship and local cultural environment. **The investment to be productive, a strong long-time plan for the functioning of the site should be in place.**

- ▶ **ERDF support has significantly improved the technical condition of cultural monuments supported.** At the same time, the contribution to the technical condition of cultural monuments was limited due to the relatively small amount of the investment.
- ▶ **ERDF investments in the reconstruction of the churches (18 projects) lays path to re-shaping usage of those buildings from solely religious sites to sites for religion, tourism, and culture** which in return allows increasing their socio-economic potential so that the overall socio-economic benefits outweigh the investments.

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ **Development of culture infrastructure objects should be part of the integrated planning approach under the umbrella of investment aimed at territorial development.** This allows the full integration of the culture infrastructure objects in the development patterns of cities and regions.
- ▶ **Investment in cultural heritage and development of cultural socio-economic potential should include combine hard and soft as well as investment in people and development of skills.** Priorities in the cultural sector should focus on developing creativity and innovation.



Investment in the cultural environment
Implemented projects 2007-2013

