



European  
Commission

# COHESION POLICY: STRATEGIC REPORT 2013

*Factsheet: Environment*



## Strategic Report 2013 – Programme implementation 2007-2013

### Factsheet: Environment

This factsheet has been produced in support of the Commission 2013 Strategic report on cohesion policy programme implementation (2007-2013). It should be read in conjunction with that report (COM(2013) 210) and the accompanying Staff Working Document (SEC(2013) 129) available on this website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/how/policy/strategic\\_report\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/how/policy/strategic_report_en.cfm)

#### 1. Overview

Investments in environment priorities cover multiple sustainable development objectives. The largest investments take place in convergence Member States and regions and are funded by the Cohesion Fund and ERDF. Twelve (12) headings are reported:

- Management of household and industrial waste
- Management and distribution of water (drinking water)
- Water treatment (waste water)
- Air quality
- Integrated prevention and pollution control
- Mitigation and adaption to climate change
- Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
- Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)
- Risk prevention
- Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks
- Promotion of natural assets
- Protection and development of natural heritage
- Cycle tracks

#### 2. Project examples

<b>ES</b>	<b>OP: Valencia</b>	<b>Fund: ERDF</b>	<b>EU: €22.3 m</b>
<b>Title:</b> Channelling water for a safer region			
By controlling water flows and undertaking strategic construction works, the region of Valencia has peace of mind during heavy rainfall, knowing that flood prevention measures were implemented. The project protects the local population and reduces the risk of flood damage. During the implementation phase, 50 direct jobs (of average duration of three years) were created with four permanent jobs during the operational phase as well as bringing long-term benefits to the region.			

<b>IT</b>	<b>OP: Campania</b>	<b>Fund: ERDF</b>	<b>EU: €12.5 m</b>
<b>Title: Treatment plant for organic waste - Salerno</b>			
Operational since end-2012, the project makes the city of Salerno autonomous in terms of urban waste treatment. It involved constructing a treatment plant for the organic share from the separated collection of waste. The system is able to generate electric energy from biogas as well as quality residues as required by regulation. The plant also generates 30% of the energy needed for its own functioning thanks to a photovoltaic system that produces 515 kW of electric power.			
<b>Source : REGIO project database</b>			

<b>LV</b>	<b>OP: 'Development of Living Environment'</b>	<b>Fund: ERDF</b>	<b>EU: €21 m</b>
<b>Title: Remediation of sulphuric acid tar lagoons at Inčukalns</b>			
Before 1986 the Inčukalns lagoons were used by the military and industry for dumping sulphuric acid tar and other waste. This project is cleaning up an area of 25 000 m <sup>2</sup> involving site preparation, excavation, water pumping, treatment, neutralisation and the covering of the sites. The project provides employment for some 20 people during the implementation phase. Once finished in 2015, the quality of the groundwater, surface water, soil and subsoil adjacent to the hazardous waste dump will be improved. The area in question should then be fit for forestry.			
<b>Source : REGIO project database</b>			

<b>PL</b>	<b>OP: Infrastructure and Environment</b>	<b>Fund: CF</b>	<b>EU: €51 m</b>
<b>Title: Modernisation of the solid waste management in Gdansk</b>			
The project has modernised the existing solid waste treatment plant in Gdansk Szadolki. The area serviced covers the City of Gdansk and surrounding communities covering in total 564,000 inhabitants. The project, completed in June 2011, is reducing the volume of waste to landfill, increasing recycling, adapting the plant to EU required standards and improving the leachate and waste water management in the area.			
<b>Source : REGIO project database</b>			

<b>RO</b>	<b>OP: Sectoral Operational Project for Environment</b>	<b>Fund: CF</b>	<b>EU: €82.9 m</b>
<b>Title: Modernisation of the water and wastewater supply systems in Vrancea county</b>			
The project is modernising and extending the drinking water system and the wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure for 6 urban centres agglomerations to benefit 160,000 inhabitants. The entire population in these centres will be connected to the modernised drinking water and sewerage system networks. The network extensions will serve 33,760 and 66,440 additional inhabitants respectively. Construction is well underway with completion expected by end 2014.			
<b>Source : REGIO project database</b>			

### 3 Assessment of Implementation

#### 3.1 Tracking EU financial input (project selection)

As reported by the Member States (at end-2011) the overall level of selection of investments in the environment at 74% is slightly above the average for all cohesion policy. This strong progress is observed both for the convergence and the competitiveness objectives. The ETC

programmes, with volume of selected projects at 81%, are showing an even higher uptake. It underlines the relevance of environmental projects for cross-border, transnational and interregional programmes.

Nevertheless, this good average hides a landscape of very diverse situations at national and sector level. Some Member States (CZ, BG, IT) with important allocations for the environment, still face significant delays to select projects. On the other hand some other Member States (LT, PL, PT, RO, SK) show a high rate of progress. However, even after selection, there are risks that implementing bodies may face difficulties in implementation (procurement delays, contract management, co-financing, etc.)

At sector level the investments in waste water treatment seem to be advancing well (100% allocated, except for CZ (39%) and BG (55%)) and those in "risk prevention" are now close to the average which underlines an increased focus of Member States in implementing measures to prevent natural disasters. Four areas are significantly lagging behind, in particular "integrated prevention and pollution control" (33% allocated), but also "rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land" (49% allocated - with severe delays in SK (12%) and PL (27%) - while HU (68%) and PT (95%) show high project selection), "management of household and industrial waste" (56%, with reported delays in BG (19%), CZ (33%) and IT (15%)) and "promotion of biodiversity and nature protection" (58%). In the latter some MS with important allocations to biodiversity (ES, FR and PL) manage to progress well.

This was the data reported by most Member States as of 31 December 2011 and has no doubt evolved positively in most cases during 2012 in line with on-going selection processes.

### **3.2 Outputs and results**

The relevant 7 core indicators for analysis are "Additional population served by water projects", "Number of waste projects", "Number of projects on improvement of air quality", "Area rehabilitated (km<sup>2</sup>)", "Number of risk prevention projects", "Number of people benefiting from flood prevention measures" and "Number of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures".

#### ***ERDF/Cohesion Fund core indicators:***

*For the ERDF/CF the Commission recommends the use of "core indicators" in addition to the programme specific indicators (that vary according to national and regional practice and the specific objectives of the programmes). Use of core indicators has the advantage of allowing the possibility of aggregation but is not obligatory in this period.*

*The global aggregate achievements presented below are based on 2011 annual reports or, where possible, on updated values for 2011 and 2012 from the Strategic reports.*

*Achievements against targets are also analysed. Where no targets were set, the achievements were excluded from the analysis reducing the data available in that analysis. From the available data it is clear that some targets were set too low or too high.*

### **Additional population served by water projects**

- In total more than 2.6 million people have been provided with an improved supply of drinking water in 9 MS.
- Most of the additional population served by water projects, nearly 1.3 million, lives in the EU15, especially in ES (around 1,675,488), FR (408,300), PT (202,700) and GR (160,800).
- For MS where programmes had set targets (DE did not) the average achievement ratio was only 9%. However, there is a time-lag to delivering achievements for this indicator as it cannot be reported against until the projects are completed and operational. FR (115%) and PT (48%) have the highest achievements, although there may be low target setting in FR. IT and SK has the lowest reported achievements at zero.

### **Additional population served by waste water projects**

- An additional 5.7 million people were connected to improved wastewater treatment in 14 MS, around 70% of them in EU15 Convergence regions.
- ES reported the highest number of people benefiting from waste water projects (2,575,026), followed by LV (1,247,826), IT (640,926) and ES (378,989).
- Overall the achievement ratio at the end of 2011 was 13% for those MS that set targets (FR did not).
- MS with the highest achievement ratios are DE (46%) and IE (271%) – which suggests low target setting in IE - while HU and SK report zero achievements.

### **Number of waste projects**

- In total 1,428 solid waste projects (waste prevention, recycling of communal or industrial waste, increasing landfill capacity, improving waste storage facilities and closing substandard landfill sites) were supported in 18 MS.
- The highest number of projects supported was reported by ES (318), followed by SK (218), IT (191) and CZ (170).
- In SI, 6 regional waste disposal centres were built. In SK, the 58 waste collection units established increased the amount of waste recovered by 744 tons a year; while in RO 84 landfills in rural areas were closed.
- From these MS, where programmes had set targets (EE did not) the average achievement ratio was 38%.
- The following MS have the highest achievement ratios: FR (115%) and PT (48%) while IT and SK report zero achievements.

### **Number of projects on improvement of air quality**

- Overall 438 projects on improved air quality were supported in 10 MS.
- The highest number of projects supported was reported by PL (163) followed by SK (105) and ES (100).
- For MS where programmes had set targets (DE, EE and LT did not) the average achievement ratio was 22%. The highest achievement ratios are in PT (54%), RO (60%) and SK (90%), while the lowest are in CZ (0%) and IT (9%).

### **Area rehabilitated (km<sup>2</sup>)**

- In total, 11 MS have reported the rehabilitation of 1,138 km<sup>2</sup>, 50% (576 km<sup>2</sup>) in FR and 25% (294 km<sup>2</sup>) in CZ.
- Where targets were set, the overall achievement ratio only reaches 2%, with LU (67%) and NL (50%) reporting the highest achievement ratios. The lowest ratios were reported by DE (3%), HU (3%) and LV (0%).

### **Number of risk prevention projects**

- Up until end 2011 2,046 risk prevention projects were reported to be supported in 15 MS. The majority of the projects are undertaken in the EU15. PT reported the highest number of risk prevention projects (464) followed by FR (438).
- For these MS, where programmes had set targets (LT, SE and UK did not) the average achievement ratio was 58%. The highest achievement ratios were in FR (156%), PT (122%), RO (120%) and SK (111%). It must be noted that in RO the target and the achievement was much lower, in absolute terms, than in FR, PT and SK. MS with the lowest reported achievement ratios are: BG (9%), CZ (5%) and DE (13%).

### **Number of people benefiting from flood prevention measures**

- In sum nearly 3 million people are reported to have benefited from flood protection measures in 6 MS. In FR (1.5 million) and PT (1.2 million) alone, 2.7 million people benefited.
- The overall achievement ratio for this indicator is 32%, FR (119%) and UK (82%) with the highest and the lowest in AT, HU, RO, SI and SK with no achievements reported by end 2011.

### **Number of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures**

- Although only 4 countries reported against this indicator 12.6 million people already benefit from forest fire protection and other protection measures. About 10 million people in PL and 2.5 million in PT benefit.

- Overall the average achievement ratio where targets were set was 40%, with IT (41%) and PL (86%) reporting the highest while neither FR or GR had reporting any achievements.

Of those countries which allocated funding to these categories BE, DK, FI did not report achievements against core indicators (the amounts allocated were small). BG, CY and MT are of more concern: they have allocated resources to projects but did not report against the relevant core indicators. HU and RO reported only small achievements in 3 of the relevant core indicators while having allocated funding worth 4.6 and €4.8 billion respectively.

**Table 1.1: 2007-2011 – Project selection overview**

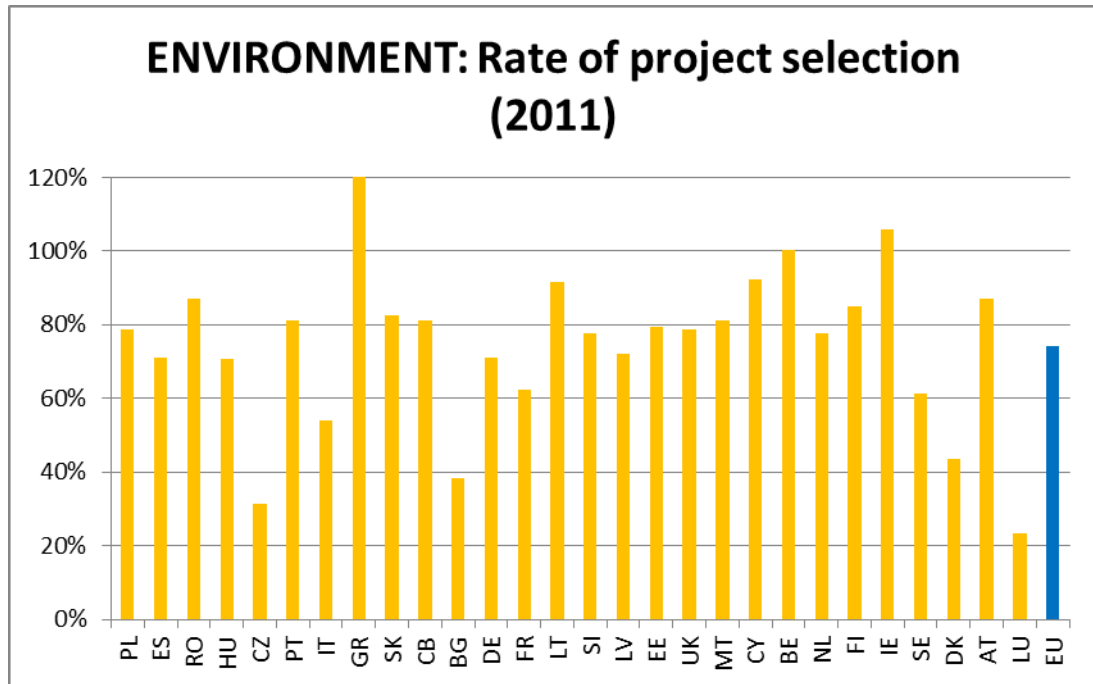
Code	Category	Decided Ops - Million € (a)	% Decided OPs of Total Decided (b)	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 - million €	% (d=c/a)
44	Management of household and industrial waste	6,216.6	1.8%	3,499.2	56.3%
45	Management and distribution of water (drink water)	7,463.6	2.2%	4,515.4	60.5%
46	Water treatment (waste water)	14,506.7	4.2%	14,755.5	101.7%
47	Air quality	857.9	0.2%	538.9	62.8%
48	Integrated prevention and pollution control	731.3	0.2%	238.2	32.6%
49	Mitigation and adaption to climate change	370.5	0.1%	362.8	97.9%
50	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	2,749.5	0.8%	1,341.8	48.8%
51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)	2,779.9	0.8%	1,627.0	58.5%
53	Risk prevention (...)	5,532.8	1.6%	4,030.7	72.9%
54	Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks	1,684.4	0.5%	1,299.3	77.1%
55	Promotion of natural assets	972.1	0.3%	643.2	66.2%
56	Protection and development of natural heritage	1,258.2	0.4%	597.9	47.5%
24	Cycle tracks	653.6	0.2%	386.7	59.2%
	<b>Total Environment</b>	<b>45,777.0</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>33,836.6</b>	<b>73.9%</b>
	<b>Total all themes</b>	<b>346,717.2</b>		<b>246,983.9</b>	<b>71.2%</b>

**Table 1.2: 2007-2011 – Project selection reported by MS – 2007- 2011**

<b>Environment</b>				
<b>Country</b>	<b>Decided OPs (a) M.€</b>	<b>% of National SF/CF</b>	<b>Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 (b) - in M.€</b>	<b>% (c=b/a)</b>
PL	6,770.7	10.08 %	5,326.7	78.7%
ES	6,006.1	17.33 %	4,265.0	71.0%
RO	4,759.8	24.77 %	4,145.1	87.1%
HU	4,567.6	18.33 %	3,237.1	70.9%
CZ	4,049.3	15.26 %	1,263.6	31.2%
PT	2,422.5	11.31 %	1,962.6	81.0%
IT	2,418.9	8.65 %	1,306.6	54.0%
GR	2,417.6	11.96 %	3,376.9	139.7%
SK	1,852.8	16.11 %	1,532.5	82.7%
CB	1,567.0	19.82 %	1,270.6	81.1%
BG	1,441.0	21.59 %	553.6	38.4%
DE	1,393.8	5.47 %	988.8	70.9%
FR	1,137.7	8.46 %	709.2	62.3%
LT	953.5	14.07 %	874.7	91.7%
SI	800.6	19.52 %	621.5	77.6%
LV	792.7	17.50 %	571.0	72.0%
EE	767.7	22.56 %	609.5	79.4%
UK	410.7	4.15 %	323.6	78.8%
MT	178.6	21.26 %	144.7	81.0%
CY	150.1	24.52 %	138.8	92.5%
BE	93.6	4.54 %	93.8	100.2%
NL	61.6	3.71 %	47.9	77.8%
FI	45.3	2.84 %	38.4	84.9%
IE	20.5	2.73 %	21.7	105.8%
SE	15.9	0.98 %	9.7	61.3%
DK	12.3	2.40 %	5.3	43.5%
AT	11.7	0.98 %	10.2	87.2%
LU	3.8	7.50 %	0.9	23.5%
<b>EU</b>	<b>45,123.4</b>		<b>33,449.9</b>	<b>74.1%</b>



Graph 1.2: 2007-2011 – Project selection reported by MS (2007-2011)



**Table 2: 2007-2011 – Total achievements reported by MS**

Country	Achievements reported			
	Additional population served by water projects	Additional population served by waste water projects	Number of waste projects	Number of projects on improved air quality
AT	0	0	0	0
BE	0	0	1	0
BG	0	194,970	1	0
CY	0	0	0	0
CZ	3,072	47,406	170	0
DE	1,358	50,748	3	2
DK	0	0	0	0
EE	0	0	18	15
ES	1,675,488	2,575,026	318	100
FI	0	0	0	0
FR	408,255	362,100	116	12
GR	160,817	208,581	149	0
HU	0	0	14	0
IE	0	19,000	0	0
IT	0	640,926	191	17
LT	0	13,584	28	1
LU	0	0	0	0
LV	104,796	1,247,826	31	0
MT	0	0	0	0
NL	0	0	0	0
PL	37,663	135,891	62	163
PT	202,676	222,339	70	15
RO	0	0	20	8
SE	0	0	0	0
SI	70,282	30,219	6	0
SK	0	487	218	105
UK	0	0	12	0
<b>EU</b>	<b>2,664,407</b>	<b>5,749,173</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>438</b>

Country	Achievements reported			
	Area rehabilitated (km2)	Number of risk prevention projects	Number of people benefiting from flood protection measures	Number of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures
AT	0	9	0	18,289
BE	6	0	0	0
BG	0	18	0	0
CY	0	0	0	0
CZ	294	14	0	0
DE	47	72	52,966	0
DK	0	0	0	0
EE	0	0	0	0
ES	97	232	0	0
FI	0	0	0	0
FR	576	438	1,504,487	0
GR	0	58	0	0
HU	10	19	0	0
IE	0	0	0	0
IT	68	307	68,807	9,024
LT	0	21	0	0
LU	1	0	0	0
LV	0	0	0	0
MT	0	0	0	0
NL	1	0	0	0
PL	33	154	187,229	10,062,006
PT	4	464	1,178,815	2,525,042
RO	0	14	0	0
SE	0	1	0	0
SI	0	1	0	0
SK	0	216	0	0
UK	0	8	2,207	0
<b>EU</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>2,046</b>	<b>2,994,511</b>	<b>12,614,361</b>

**Table 3: 2007-2011 – Targets set and reported against by MS****Table 3.1: Additional population served by water projects**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
CZ <sup>1</sup>	10	3,072	n.a.
ES	10,975,476	1,172,912	11
FR	350,000	403,255	115
GR	1,023,310	160,817	16
IT	1,002,386	0	0
LV	1,810,000	104,796	6
PL	247,830	37,663	15
PT	418,600	202,676	48
SI	370,000	70,282	19
SK	9,500	0	0
<b>EU</b>	<b>16,207,102</b>	<b>1,467,010</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 3.2: Additional population served by waste water projects**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
BG	1,845,000	116,557	6
CZ	740,000	47,406	6
DE	20,000	9,195	46
ES	10,535,807	1,635,294	16
GR	1,666,592	208,581	13
HU	1,300,000	0	0
IE	7,000	19,000	271
IT	3,566,689	640,926	18
LT	270,000	13,584	5
PL	1,260,550	135,960	11
PT	2,057,100	222,339	11
SI	210,000	30,219	14
SK	321,000	487	0
<b>EU</b>	<b>23,799,738</b>	<b>3,079,549</b>	<b>13</b>

<sup>1</sup> CZ updated figures for 2012 in strategic report at national level. This figure cannot be matched with the AIR data on targets which is submitted by OP. Hence the achievement ratio cannot be calculated.

**Table 3.3: Number of waste projects**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
BG	27	1	4
CZ	250	172	69
DE	250	0	0
ES	933	244	26
FR	70	3	4
GR	74	149	201
HU	60	14	23
IT	936	191	20
PL	284	124	44
PT	68	70	103
RO	30	18	60
SI	6	6	100
SK	235	218	93
<b>EU</b>	<b>3,223</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>38</b>

**Table 3.4: Number of projects on improvement of air quality**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
CZ	607	0	0
ES	230	58	25
FR	115	12	10
IT	184	17	9
PL	474	180	38
PT	28	15	54
RO	13	8	62
SK	117	105	90
<b>EU</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>22</b>

**Table 3.5: Area rehabilitated**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
BE	753	6	1
CZ	1,330	294	22
DE	13	0.4	3
ES	339	97	29
FR	0.2	0.06	40
HU	302	10	3
IT	316	68	22
LU	2	1	67
LV	1	0	0
NL	2	1	50
PL	204	33	16
PT	14	4	31
SI	6	0	3
SK	1	0	12
UK	5	0	2
<b>EU</b>	<b>3,288</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>16</b>

**Table 3.6: Number of risk prevention projects**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
AT	32	9	28
BG	70	6	9
CZ	260	14	5
DE	203	26	13
ES	741	189	26
FR	276	426	154
GR	129	58	45
HU	40	19	48
IT	710	307	43
MT	1	1	100
PL	259	173	67
PT	380	464	122
RO	10	12	120
SI	3	1	33
SK	194	216	111
<b>EU</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>58</b>

**Table 3.7: Number of people benefiting from flood protection measures**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
AT	300	0	0
DE	252,500	11,819	5
FR	998,750	1,191,330	119
HU	1,630,000	0	0
IT	592,240	68,807	12
PL	391,887	187,229	48
PT	2,150,000	1,178,815	55
RO	1,500,000	0	0
SI	660,000	0	0
SK	42,100	0	0
UK	2,700	2,207	82
<b>EU</b>	<b>8,220,477</b>	<b>2,640,207</b>	<b>32</b>

**Table 3.8: Number of people benefiting from forest fire protection and other protection measures**

Country	Targets	Achievements reported against targets	Achievement ratio (%)
AT	80,000	18,289	23
FR	1,000	0	0
GR	6,417,265	0	0
IT	22,200	9,024	41
PL	7,720,000	6,642,580	86
PT	8,743,067	2,525,042	29
<b>U</b>	<b>22,983,532</b>	<b>9,194,935</b>	<b>40</b>