



European
Commission

COHESION POLICY: STRATEGIC REPORT 2013

Factsheet: Urban and territorial development



Strategic Report 2013 – Programme implementation 2007-2013

Factsheet: Urban and territorial development

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

1. Overview

Investments in Territorial development can be looked at from different perspectives.

Firstly, we can distinguish under the priority themes dimension of the categorisation system between investment activities targeting urban and rural development (including actions in Outermost Region (ORs)) and those to enhance culture, heritage and tourism. Under the territorial dimension of the categorisation system we can also to some extent examine investments according to the territorial context of the intervention; this includes considering actions with an urban or a rural territorial dimension.

Secondly there are a group of programmes carried out under the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Objective, ESF transnational approaches and activities under Macro Regional Strategies.

The factsheet is organised according to these two systematisations.

Section 2 looks at 8 priority investment themes and the “territorial dimension” as follows:

- 2.1 4 priority theme codes covering urban/outermost regions,
- 2.2 4 priority theme codes covering tourism, heritage and culture, and
- 2.3 data reported under the "Territorial Dimension" codes

These sections presents project examples, analysis of the codes considered and comments on outputs and results on the basis of some core indicators.

Section 3 looks at ETC, Macro Regional Strategies and ESF transnationality.

In the national reports, the territorial dimension features in different ways. Many programmes take explicit account of the territorial dimension when assessing their thematic priorities under the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment (RCE) Objectives and give examples of projects with an integrated territorial approach. Other Member States stress certain aspects of the territorial dimension like cross-border cooperation under ETC instead.

2. Specific investment themes targeting territorial development

2.1. Urban and Rural development (including Outermost Regions)

Investment categories:

- Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration
- Compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation (ORs)
- Specific actions addressed to compensate additional costs due to size market factors (ORs)
- Support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties (ORs)

2.1.1. Project examples

Unless otherwise stated these examples have been taken from the relevant National Strategic reports.

ES	Operational Programme Andalucía	Fund: ERDF	EU: € 10m
Title: Malaga Iniciativa Urbana ‘Arrabales-Carreterías’			
The comprehensive regeneration of the historic centre of Málaga aims to strengthen its identity, its multiple functions and the quality of its public space. Its sustainable city model combines a high quality of life for its population and the participation of its citizens with the economic and cultural development of the central area to cope with the increasing numbers of visitors and tourists.			

HU	Operational Programme North Hungary	Fund: ERDF	EU: €1.2m
Title: Kazincbarcika Regeneration of Herbolya Old-settlement			
The project targets a deprived, segregated area of the city with a high rate of unemployed, underprivileged families, among them Roma. The project has an integrated nature by combining hard and social infrastructure developments and establishing multi-sectoral services in the target area in order to tackle the complex problem of the local community. Building up a wide partnership and actively involving the local residents are the main conditions to the success of the project.			

MT	Operational Programme 'Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life'	Fund: ERDF	EU: € 7.9m
Title: Stronger Cottonera Communities			
This project is regenerating the urban core within the Inner Harbour Region of Cottonera near Valetta. Its primary objective is to integrate the mobility, social and housing concerns of the area by the restoration and rehabilitation of the waterfront area, the upgrading of common spaces in housing quarters and the creation of recreational space to enhance living conditions. The regeneration development is modelled on an integrated strategy specifically to cater for an efficient mixture of land use around a high quality transport service.			

UK	OP: London	Fund: ERDF	EU:€50 m
Title: The London Green Fund (Jessica)			
<p>The London Green Fund is a JESSICA instrument investing in infrastructure delivering carbon reduction through energy efficiency and waste / recycling projects with the potential to create jobs. In 2012 the first waste investment was made in a plastics recycling plant and the energy efficiency fund also closed its first deal with a €25m loan to a leading London gallery. The current forecast is that the fund, with €120 million, will leverage private investment to generate at least €360 million investment into London's green economy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: DG REGIO Policy learning database</i></p>			

Assessment of Implementation

Tracking EU financial input

- Financing is mostly allocated under the convergence objective (EUR 8.7 billion), with EUR 2.2 billion allocated under the RCE objective.
- The share of Structural Fund support for territorial development actions compared with the overall financial allocation per MS, varies between 0.1 % in FI and 7% in BE, with an EU average of 3%.
- The rate of project selection is distributed rather evenly, with an average value of 70%. There are some outliers in terms of both over-selection of projects (i.e. CY 260%; SE 167%; NL 108%) and extremely low rate of selection (i.e. LU 26%; EE 8%). In RO data on project selection is not available for 2011.

The special financial allocations for the outermost regions also fall under this heading. These allocations allow ERDF to co-finance operational costs to offset the costs these regions face due to their handicaps defined in the Treaty¹. The implementation of this new allocation obliged the national or regional authorities to put in place new procedures and to notify specific state aid schemes. The progress in project selection is as a result very variable with overall a delay in relation to the EU average. Only 52% of the allocation was allocated to schemes by end 2011.

Outputs and Results

The relevant core indicator for analysis is "***number of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities***".

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.

¹ Articles 349 and 355.1 of the TFEU

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.

- More than 7,000 projects for improving the attractiveness of towns and cities were reported to be supported in 21 MS by the end of 2011, 60% of them in the EU15. PT (1,535) and DE (1,565) reported 44% of the total number of projects supported.
- CY, HU and IE, despite allocating a relatively large amount to this investment theme did not use the relevant core indicator, although it must be noted that the use of core indicators was not obligatory.
- 19 MS set target values for the period, out of the 21 MS that used this indicator. EE and RO did not set a target and in DE the majority of OPs for which the indicator is used did not set a target.
- The average achievement ratio for the indicator is 57%. National achievement ratio ranges from the highest 266% in LV to the lowest 0.8% in BG. Considering the huge variability of achievement ratio value and the presence of over-achievement values, it is likely that in some cases target values for this indicator have been set inappropriately.

**Table 2.1.1: 2007-2011 – Categories of Intervention Examined
(Urban and Rural including RUPs)**

Code	Category	Decided Ops - Million € (a)	% Decided OPs of Total Decided (b)	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 - million € (c)	% (d=c/a)
61	Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration	10,610.3	3.1%	7,582.5	71.5%
82	Compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation	479.2	0.1%	314.6	65.6%
83	Specific action addressed to compensate additional costs due to size market factors	122.8	0.0%	13.0	10.6%
84	Support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties	43.7	0.0%	11.8	27.1%
	Total urban and territorial dimension	11,256.0	3.2%	7,921.9	70.4%
	Total all themes	346,717.2		246,983.9	71.2%

**Table 2.1.2: 2007-2011 – Project selection reported by MS
(Urban and Rural_including RUPs)**

Urban and territorial dimension				
Country	Decided OPs (a) - in M.€	% of National SF/CF	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 (b) - in M.€	% (c=b/a)
ES	1,396.3	4.03 %	939.1	67.3%
IT	1,063.6	3.80 %	681.7	64.1%
PL	1,005.8	1.50 %	879.2	87.4%
CZ	972.1	3.66 %	578.6	59.5%
DE	970.6	3.81 %	659.8	68.0%
PT	956.1	4.47 %	855.5	89.5%
RO	894.2	4.65 %		
FR	695.4	5.17 %	372.6	53.6%
HU	676.4	2.71 %	633.9	93.7%
GR	513.9	2.54 %	471.0	91.6%
UK	436.8	4.42 %	328.3	75.2%
SK	353.3	3.07 %	323.1	91.4%
LV	263.0	5.81 %	245.8	93.4%
LT	252.1	3.72 %	224.6	89.1%
BG	153.3	2.30 %	131.2	85.6%
BE	147.9	7.17 %	121.5	82.1%
NL	110.5	6.66 %	119.2	107.9%
SI	57.4	1.40 %	27.3	47.6%
CY	41.6	6.80 %	108.1	259.6%
IE	22.4	2.98 %	22.1	98.8%
AT	21.6	1.79 %	12.6	58.6%
EE	15.2	0.45 %	1.3	8.4%
SE	14.0	0.86 %	23.5	167.5%
MT	6.4	0.76 %	6.4	100.9%
FI	2.3	0.15 %	2.3	98.1%
LU	0.8	1.50 %	0.2	26.4%
ETC	213.0	2.69 %	153.0	71.8%
EU	11,256.0		7,921.9	70.4%

Graph 1: Rate of Project selection

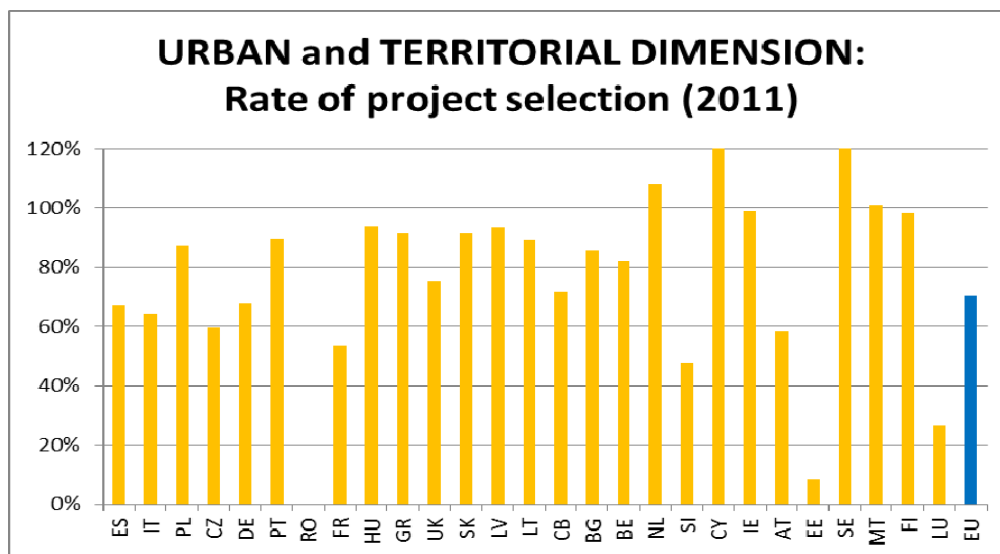


Table 2.1.3: Total achievements reported by MS

MS	Number of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities
AT	32
BE	73
BG	18
CZ	1362
DE	1565
EE	200
ES	54
FR	223
GR	410
IT	295
LT	200
LU	1
LV	72
MT	0
NL	19
PL	131
PT	1535
RO	245
SE	21
SK	591
UK	51
EU	7098

Table 2.1.4: Number of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities – target set and achievements reported based on 2011 AIRs

MS	Target per MS	Achieved by MS (AIR 2011)	Achievement ratio
AT	41	32	78%
BE	157	73	47%
BG	130	1	0.8%
CZ	1644	1157	70%
DE	794	281	35%
ES	698	54	8%
FR	144	139	112%
GR	47	38	818%
IT	1257	295	23%
LT	300	200	67%
LU	4	1	25%
LV	27	72	2676%
MT	3	1	33%
NL	45	19	42%
PL	506	100	20%
PT	1624	1535	95%
SE	27	21	78%
SK	574	591	103%
UK	30	22	73%
EU	8052	4632	58%

2.2. Culture, heritage and tourism

Investment categories

- Other assistance to improve tourist services
- Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
- Development of cultural infrastructure
- Other assistance to improve cultural services

2.2.1. Project examples

These examples have been taken from the relevant National Strategic reports.

AT	Regionalen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Salzburg 2007-2013	Fund: ERDF	EU: € 11.6 m
Hohe Tauern Health - RegioStar Finalist 2012			
The project concerns tourism and health in Oberpinzgau/Salzburg. Medical know-how and university-research results have been put to the service of enterprises and tourism, allowing targeted groups of tourists to spend holidays with sustainable local employment effects.			

IE	Operational programme “Southern and Eastern”	Fund: ERDF	EU: € 2.76 m
Title: House of Waterford Crystal			
The project consists of two separate but related projects. The first and largest project consists of the restoration and conversion of a collection of adjoining buildings (including a protected structure) in the city centre in Council ownership into a crystal manufacturing and visitor centre. The second project is located nearby and consists of extending and upgrading a car park to provide a dedicated tourist coach parking area, which was lacking in the city centre.			

PL	Operational Programme “Podlaskie”	Fund: ERDF	EU: €30 m
Title: Bialystok Opera – the European Art Centre			
This project under construction will provide a new Podlaskie Opera and Philharmonic Hall in a modern and multifunctional concert hall in the Central Park. Apart from 182 jobs in the development stage, a further 50 will be created over the longer term. By end 2013, the annual number of spectators is expected to reach 117 000, with tourist numbers to Bialystok and Podlaskie Voivodeship also up, contributing to the local economy. Also as a direct result of this project other investments are taking place giving a new profile to the area as an attractive place to live and work.			

2.2.2. Assessment of Implementation

Tracking EU financial input

- Financing is mainly allocated within the convergence objective (EUR 7.6 billion), with EUR 1.2 billion allocated under the competitiveness objective.

- The share of EU financing for culture, heritage and tourism actions compared with the overall financial allocation per MS, varies between 0.1 % in IE and 11.28 % in MT with the average at 2.8% (including cross-border).
- The rate of project selection is distributed rather unevenly, with an average value of 82 %. There are some outliers in terms of both "over" selection of projects (i.e. BE, SE, NL) and extremely low rate of selection (i.e. CY; LV).

Outputs and results

In the case of culture, heritage and tourism the relevant core indicator for analysis is: "number of jobs created in tourism".

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.

- Around 5,800 jobs were reported to be created in tourism by 12 MS up to the end of 2011, half in the EU12. The projects supporting tourism vary greatly in terms of average size, ranging from over EUR 2.5 million in Lithuania to EUR 120,000 in Spain, making it difficult to assess their significance.
- 9 MS set target values (DE, RO and SE did not). The average achievement ratio is 27%, ranging from 6.6% in FR to 74% in the UK, although in the latter case the target value for the indicator was set at a very low figure (i.e. 50).

**Table 2.2.1: 2007-2011 – Categories of Intervention Examined
(Culture, heritage and tourism)**

Code	Category	Decided Ops - Million € (a)	% Decided OPs of Total Decided (b)	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 - million € (c)	% (d=c/a)
57	Other assistance to improve tourist services	3,715.8	1.1%	3,481.2	93.7%
58	Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage	3,069.5	0.9%	2,622.5	85.4%
59	Development of cultural infrastructure	2,259.0	0.7%	1,773.7	78.5%
60	Other assistance to improve cultural services	661.6	0.2%	277.8	42.0%
	Total culture, heritage and tourism	9,706.0	2.8%	8,155.2	84.0%
	Total all themes	346,717.2		246,983.9	71.2%

**Table 2.2.2: 2007-2011 – Project selection reported by MS
(Culture, heritage and tourism)**

Culture, heritage and tourism				
Country	Decided OPs (a) - in M.€	% of National SF/CF	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 (b) - in M.€	% (c=b/a)
PL	1,995.7	2.97 %	1,591.8	79.8%
CZ	1,228.1	4.63 %	851.6	69.3%
IT	1,170.2	4.19 %	681.3	58.2%
CB	889.5	11.25 %	926.6	104.2%
HU	717.7	2.88 %	709.7	98.9%
ES	653.3	1.89 %	514.2	78.7%
GR	631.4	3.12 %	605.7	95.9%
DE	520.9	2.04 %	388.5	74.6%
RO	464.1	2.42 %	402.2	86.7%
PT	426.9	1.99 %	440.8	103.2%
SK	338.4	2.94 %	220.5	65.2%
FR	270.4	2.01 %	196.7	72.7%
LT	184.9	2.73 %	157.1	85.0%
EE	149.1	4.38 %	139.3	93.5%
SI	113.8	2.78 %	163.1	143.3%
BG	104.2	1.56 %	106.7	102.3%
MT	99.6	11.86 %	64.4	64.7%
LV	84.7	1.87 %	34.2	40.3%
UK	72.0	0.73 %	59.7	82.9%
FI	66.6	4.17 %	71.6	107.6%
NL	41.2	2.48 %	62.0	150.4%
BE	38.6	1.87 %	77.1	199.9%
CY	31.5	5.14 %	11.7	37.2%
SE	31.0	1.91 %	46.8	151.1%
AT	23.0	1.91 %	10.0	43.7%
DK	12.3	2.40 %	7.8	63.8%
IE	0.5	0.07 %	0.7	149.5%
EU	10,359.6		8,541.9	82.5%

Graph 2: Rate of Project selection

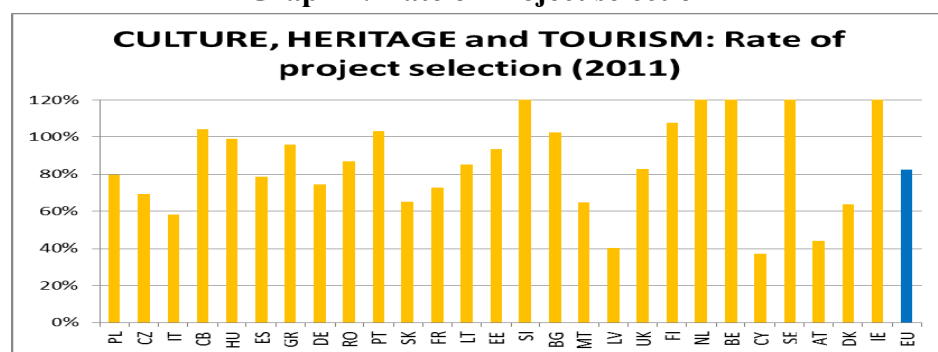


Table 2.2.3: Total achievements reported by MS

MS	Number of jobs created in tourism
CZ	775
DE	928
FR	17
IT	676
LT	86
PL	993
PT	713
RO	268
SE	385
SI	611
SK	340
UK	55
EU	5847

Table 2.2.4: Number of jobs created in tourism - target set and achievements reported based on 2011 AIRs

MS	Target per MS	Achieved by MS (AIR 2011)	Achievement ratio
CZ	1628	755	46%
FR	212	17	7%
IT	1767	676	38%
LT	500	86	17%
PL	4414	993	22%
PT	2410	713	30%
SI	1000	611	61%
SK	3600	340	9%
UK	50	37	74%
EU	15581	4228	27%

2.3. Reporting of the Territorial Dimension codes

2.3.1. Assessment of Implementation

Tracking EU financial input

Another way to look at the territorial dimension is to analyse in what kind of territory the funds are spent – **Table 2.3.1.**

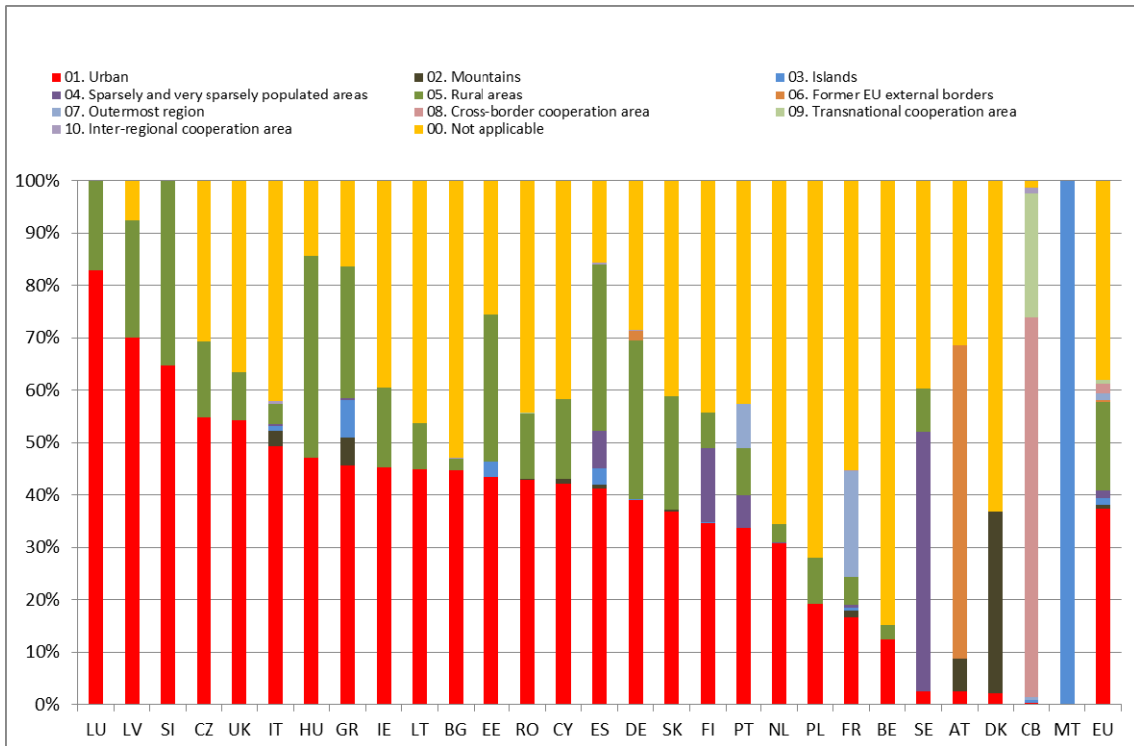
- 37% of all investments - EUR 92.2 billion - across all themes and funds are reported as taking place in an urban context. The equivalent percentage for rural based projects is 17% or EUR 41.7 billion.
- Unfortunately 37.8% of the projects selected – EUR 92.9 billion - have not been associated with a specific territorial context.
- There is an important differentiation in the way MS have used these territorial codes: LU and SI have territorially labelled 100% of their investment. BE, BG, DK, FR, NL, PL have very low rates of assigning specific territorial codes (high rates of "Not applicable").
- There are important differences in the financial allocations reported for urban areas: ranging from 2% in SE, AT and DK up to 83% in LU.
- Financial allocations for rural areas range from 2% in BG to 39% in HU.
- Some MS have indicated high percentages of investments in a very specific type of territory: SE has allocated 50% of its investments in sparsely populated areas, AT 60% in former EU external borders; MT has allocated 100% to islands and FR 20% to outermost regions.

This territorial dimension gives an interesting additional insight into the urban / rural context of the bulk of projects selected. For example, we can compare the low allocation to "Integrated projects for urban / rural regeneration" in Finland – EUR 2.3 m, or 0.15% of all funds - with the 56% - EUR 673 million of selected projects - associated to the urban, rural and sparsely populated territorial dimension.

Table 2.3.1: Overview of financial allocation in relation with territorial codes

	01. Urban	02. Mountains	03. Islands	04. Sparsely and very sparsely populated areas	05. Rural areas	06. Former EU external borders	07. Outermost region	08. Cross-border cooperation area	09. Transnational cooperation area	10. Inter-regional cooperation area	00. Not applicable
LU	83%				17%						0%
LV	70%				23%						7%
SI	65%				35%						0%
CZ	55%				15%						31%
UK	54%				9%					0%	37%
IT	49%	3%	1%	0%	4%		0%			1%	42%
HU	47%	0%	0%	0%	39%	0%					14%
GR	46%	5%	7%	0%	25%						16%
IE	45%				15%						40%
LT	45%				9%						46%
BG	45%				2%					0%	53%
EE	43%		3%		28%						26%
RO	43%	0%		0%	12%				0%		44%
CY	42%	1%			15%						42%
ES	41%	1%	3%	7%	32%					0%	16%
DE	39%		0%	0%	30%	2%		0%		0%	29%
SK	37%	0%			22%						41%
FI	35%		0%	14%	7%						44%
PT	34%			6%	9%		9%				42%
NL	31%		0%	0%	4%						66%
PL	19%	0%			9%				0%		72%
FR	17%	1%	1%	0%	5%		20%	0%		0%	55%
BE	12%				3%					0%	85%
SE	2%			50%	8%						40%
AT	2%	6%				60%					31%
DK	2%	35%									63%
CB	0%		1%				1%	73%	24%	1%	1%
MT			100%								0%
EU	37%	1%	1%	1%	17%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	38%

Graph 3: Breakdown of financial allocation by territorial codes



3. ETC and Macro Regional Strategies

3.1. European territorial cooperation (ETC)

The European Territorial Cooperation objective funded by the ERDF is dedicated to promoting cooperation across territories, both transnational, cross border and inter-regional (EUR 7.9 billion including allocation for Member States to participate in EU external borders cooperation programmes supported by IPA and ENPI- 2.3% of total EU budget).

In their national reports, most Member States consider the territorial cooperation objective as an added value to their regional development policies as it contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the NSRF. It also contributes to deepening the economic and social cohesion of the regions concerned through cooperation. It represents an important tool to improve living standards in border regions, many of which suffered from underdevelopment of different types of infrastructure in the past. On the other hand, the difficulty to involve SMEs, the complexity of state aid in case of several countries participating and the increase of administration and control issues are considered to limit the impact on economic development.

Some Member States (UK – data for England only, SE, NL, LU) consider that results achieved are not as efficient as they might potentially be; measures aimed at transport and cross-border labour market were not satisfactory and finally that ETC programmes should align to mainstream, creating a stronger focus on a limited set of thematic objectives. The strengths of ETC programmes are related to the fact that they constitute a link between regional policy and the strategic and long-term approach on EU level (BE).

3.1.1. Project examples

These examples have been taken from the relevant National Strategic reports.

ETC	Grensregio Vlaanderen-Nederland	Fund: ERDF	EU: €3 m
Title: Waterstofregio Vlaanderen – Zuid-Nederland			
This project works to make the Dutch-Flemish border region a frontrunner in the use, development and exploitation of hydrogen technology. The objectives are job creation, providing sustainable energy, lowering emissions and fostering innovation. The project clusters hydrogen initiatives to deliver demonstration projects in urban transport, building a hydrogen infrastructure network and a high level educational programme on hydrogen technology.			

ETC	Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland Programme	Fund: ERDF	EU:€ 1.1 m
Title: The Irish Scottish links on Energy Study (ISLES)			
The Irish Scottish links on Energy Study (ISLES) involving cooperation between the Scottish, Northern Ireland and Irish Ministries dealing with energy policy was completed in 2011. It examined the feasibility of the construction of an offshore electricity transmission network and linking potential offshore sites for the generation of renewable energy in the coastal waters of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. http://www.islesproject.eu/			

ETC	European Territorial Cooperation Austria-Slovak Republic 2007-2013'	Fund: ERDF	EU: € 1.1 m
Title: Hands across the Danube – making a cross-border jobs market work			
The Vienna-Bratislava Interregional Initiative for Employment is a cross-border cooperation project to support the development of more flexible labour markets to reflect the new situation in the cross-border metropolitan region since the creation of the Schengen zone. It addresses the challenges resulting from the transformation towards a knowledge-based economy in the unique and dynamic bipolar metropolitan region around the twin cities of Vienna and Bratislava as representatives of dynamic “old” and transitional “new” EU capital cities. The core element of its success was the creation of a hierarchical three-level system. ÜBI-NIZ is a model project showing how to build cooperation structures across different levels of governmental, and involve the whole range of stakeholders in the project activities, without lowering the project management efficiency or performance.			

3.1.2. Progress in implementation

Within the ETC programmes projects selection is running at 77%. This compares favourably with the average of 71 % across all objectives. Across the major themes the relative importance and rate of project selection are set out below. More detailed information on the thematic progress in ETC programmes is also provided in the specific thematic fiche.

Table 3.1.1: 2007-2011 – Project selection reported by MS (ETC)

	Decided OPs Million € (a)	% share of total SF per obj.	% of total SF/CF	Allocated to selected projects AIR 2011 Million € (b)	% (c=b/a)
Objective: European Territorial Cooperation	7,905.1		2.3%	6,081.3	76.9%
Innovation & RTD	1,262.7	16.0%	0.4%	906.1	71.8%
IT services and infrastructure	525.8	6.7%	0.2%	310.9	59.1%
Other SME and Business support	240.3	3.0%	0.1%	141.3	58.8%
Energy	335.7	4.2%	0.1%	285.8	85.1%
Environment	1,567.0	19.8%	0.5%	1,270.6	81.1%
Culture, heritage and tourism	889.5	11.3%	0.3%	926.6	104.2%
Urban and territorial dimension	213.0	2.7%	0.1%	153.0	71.8%
Rail	80.0	1.0%	0.0%	66.9	83.6%
Road	308.4	3.9%	0.1%	374.6	121.5%
Other transport	561.1	7.1%	0.2%	296.6	52.9%
Labour market	200.0	2.5%	0.1%	104.3	52.1%
Social Inclusion	75.8	1.0%	0.0%	36.7	48.5%
Social infrastructure	454.7	5.8%	0.1%	354.9	78.1%
Human capital	222.0	2.8%	0.1%	153.0	68.9%
Capacity Building	969.4	12.3%	0.3%	700.2	72.2%

3.2. Macro Regional Strategies

Macro-regional and sea basin strategies are a relatively recent phenomenon of cooperation with implications beyond EU funded programmes. The concept of macro-regional strategy was first introduced in 2009 with the adoption of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea, followed by the EU Strategy for the Danube region. Along with macro-regional strategies, MARE has been working on sea basin strategies. In November 2011, the Commission adopted the Atlantic strategy and in November 2012, the Adriatic-Ionian strategy.

The aim of a macro-regional strategy is to organize cooperation between countries or territories mobilising the local, regional and national actors with a view to align the existing policies and financing resources. With current public budget constraints, innovative approaches that can make best use of the policy and funds available are crucial. It is also necessary to cooperate further with financial institutions e.g. to set up innovative financial instruments as well as to attract private capital (e.g. through the blending of grants and loans). The macro-regional approach provides an integrated framework for challenges which have a clearly identifiable regional character, i.e. are too broad for the national level but too specific for the EU-27.

Since the Member States were not explicitly invited to comment on the EU Strategies, material is limited in the national reports to certain MS (SI, RO, LV, and EE). Nevertheless,

Member States are deeply involved in the implementation of the two on-going strategies. There are several reports connected to the EU Strategies, the review of the Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Region, and the Report on Implementation for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The Council has invited the Commission to submit a report on the broader concept of macro-regional strategies by June 2013.

ESF Transnationality

Transnational and inter-regional cooperation under the ESF 2007-2013 takes different forms:

- A dedicated priority (BG, DE [national and 2 Länder], ES [13 out of the 3 national and 19 regional Operational Programmes], IT [2 national and 21 Italian regional OPs] and FI);
- A separate, dedicated priority axis and also eligible expenditure/horizontal priority in other priority axes (BEnl, 3 DE Länder, and CZ);
- Horizontal principles/priorities across all axes (11 DE Länder, EE, FR, LT, LU, AT, PO, RO, UK-NI, UK-Scotland);
- Supported by an activity or measure in the OP (LV and RO).

In terms of the **transnational projects** which are supported, there are examples of collaboration between ESF authorities such as Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority and members of the Monitoring Committee; several individual projects such as the transnational arrangements under EQUAL; yet Networks focusing on specific issues and topics. However, DE and IT are also promoting personal mobility to improve the skills and enhance the employability of participants through a period of work experience and/or training abroad.

Almost all of the Member States report an involvement in at least one of the **Learning Networks led by the ESF managing authorities**. Belgium-Flanders is involved in 11 different networks and is closely followed by Spain, which also leads a self-financed network on Roma. Many other Member States lead or participate actively in the Learning Networks and DE now provides the coordinator from either the Federal or Länder level for 4 different networks. Three German Länder (Baden-Wuerttemberg, Berlin and Bremen) indicate that they are in membership of Learning Networks.

No specific **evaluations of transnational cooperation** are available and this element is monitored together with other aspects of the on-going evaluations. However, SE has indicated that its Monitoring Committee will ensure that follow-up and evaluation of transnational cooperation is carried out at programme level. Also, within the Technical Assistance Programme in ES there is an intention to carry out evaluation studies focused on the assessment of the quality and impact of the transnational actions. FR monitors the ESF-funded projects closely through a system of management and follow-up, based on quantitative and qualitative data collection. The Database Management System, called PRESAGE, gives information on every project and also a comprehensive view on the national scale. The system can respond to requests by thematic issue, transversal priorities, targeted groups or territorial scale. In the CZ, in addition to the annual evaluation of projects, a tender for specific

monitoring activities through focus groups has been published. Starting from the beginning of 2011, a number of focus groups were established to deal with specific aspects of evaluation and some of these groups focus on transnational cooperation. The aim of these focus groups will be to reflect on results achieved so far and to prepare new calls for proposals in transnational cooperation.