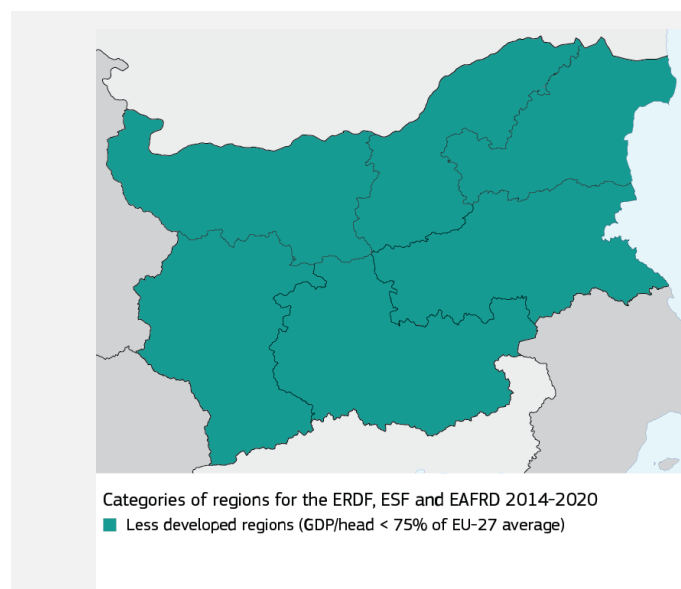


# EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS<sup>1</sup>



## BULGARIA

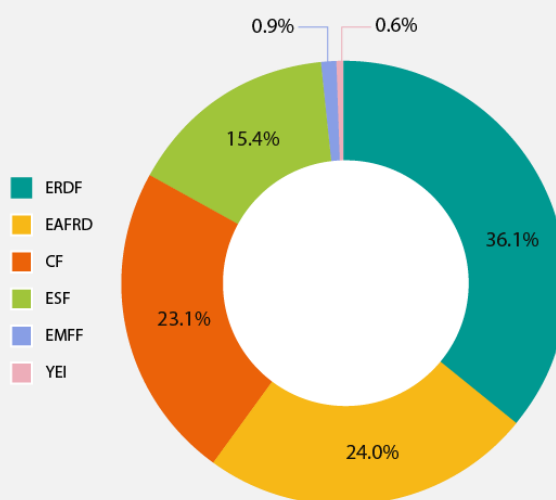
With a budget of **EUR 454 billion** for 2014-2020, the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine five Funds: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**; **European Social Fund (ESF)**; **Cohesion Fund (CF)**; **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**; and the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**. Bulgaria, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**.



Through 10 national programmes, Bulgaria has been allocated **EUR 9.88 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 1.86 billion**, Bulgaria has a total budget of **EUR 11.73 billion** to be invested in various areas, from creating **jobs and growth** to providing an **innovation-friendly business** environment as well as advancing **social inclusion** and protecting the **environment**.

## ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR BULGARIA (2014-2020)

- **EUR 3.57 billion** through the **ERDF**
- **EUR 2.28 billion** through the **CF**
- **EUR 2.37 billion** through the **EAFRD**
- **EUR 1.52 billion** through the **ESF**
- **EUR 88 million** through the **EMFF**
- **EUR 55 million** through the **YEI**



<sup>1</sup> Data included in this factsheet have been extracted from the ESIF Open Data platform which is accessible online at <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>. Data on target achievements are based on officially agreed common indicators or, for the ESF, programme specific indicators (reference date for data: November 2015).

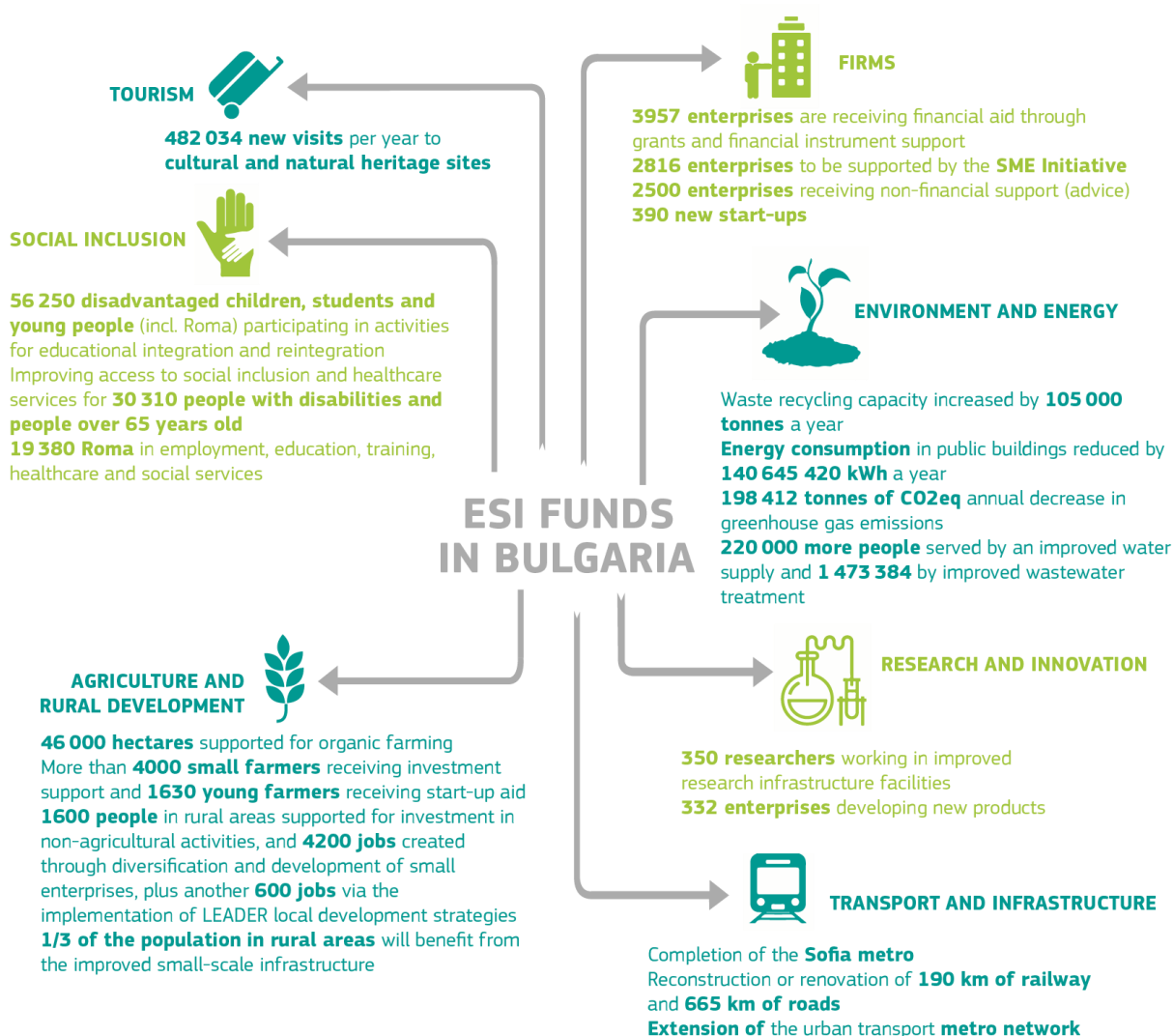
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN BULGARIA WILL:

- Increase **energy efficiency** in households, industry, services and transport.
- Upgrade Bulgaria's **transport infrastructure**, improve connectivity between regions and with neighbouring countries, and stimulate trade and tourism.
- Strengthen **SMEs' knowledge-based competitiveness** by supporting **innovation** in companies, the creation of innovative start-ups and improved infrastructure for innovation and research.
- Contribute to increasing **employment rate** with a special emphasis on the young, the elderly and disadvantaged population groups such as the Roma.
- Advance **social inclusion** of the underprivileged and those more vulnerable among its population.
- Improve the **access to healthcare** for several thousand children, including those with disabilities.
- Boost the qualifications of job seekers, young people and university students as well as thousands of secondary and high school students who will receive **career guidance and training** in real work environments.

### TARGETS

All funds are designed to support Bulgaria's **socio-economic development**. The expected results (**targets**) give an overall view of where Bulgaria should be on key parameters by 2020.



## HOW WILL BULGARIA ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Bulgaria will work towards the efficient spending of the EU Funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

### FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

To ensure that ESI Funds are used efficiently and focus on results, the Commission has set some preconditions when allocating ESI funds to the Member States.

The main purpose of these conditions, also called 'ex-ante conditionalities', is to help all Member States and their regions to tackle issues that past experience has shown to be particularly relevant to the efficient implementation of the Funds. These principles could be linked, for example, to the implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

These ex-ante conditionalities cover most investment areas: improvements to regional research and innovation (R&I) strategies as well as strategic plans linked to environmental protection, energy resources, transport, socio-economic inclusion, health services, education and training.

### ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

- Financial instruments will be available for Bulgaria to support energy efficiency, the waste and water sectors, urban development and tourism.
- Bulgaria has also joined the SME Initiative which will boost SMEs growth and job creation.

### SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries will benefit from a reduced administrative burden, digitalised communication with the managing authorities, standardised application and reporting forms, simplified reporting of costs, and coordinated auditing by the different auditing and inspection bodies.

## SUCCESS STORIES: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS USING ESI FUNDS (2007-2013)

### SOFIA TECH PARK

Sofia Tech Park is creating a unique environment for innovation. The park's main focus areas are information and communication technologies, life sciences and green energy. It aims to foster knowledge exchange between academia and business while supporting start-ups and innovative ideas, thereby providing a catalyst for the commercialisation of research and making Bulgarian science and entrepreneurship more competitive. This complements Sofia Tech Park's overall goals of creating and managing a unique environment for innovation and supporting the marketing of new technologies, products and services.

Total budget: EUR 42 688 354

EU budget contribution to the project from ERDF: EUR 36 285 101

More information: <http://europa.eu/!dp49uB>

### SOFIA METRO EXTENSION

Construction of the metro in Sofia was initiated to solve the city's traffic problems. The first line, which was constructed in 1998-2003, was 10 km long and included eight metro stations. The ERDF funded the 'Sofia metro extension project' under the Transport Operational Programme (OP) for 2007-2013. The result is a metro network 39 km long with 34 stations, as of end 2015. Serves 50 000 people every hour, over half a million people use it every day in Bulgaria's capital city. The project was completed before the deadline and with high budget efficiency. The ERDF will continue to finance the work during 2014-2020 as part of 'Transport and Transport Infrastructure' OP in order to reach the planned final total of 56 km and 53 stations by 2020.

Total budget: EUR 239 755 041

EU budget contribution to the project from the ERDF: EUR 116 087 083

More information: <http://europa.eu/!mr94qk>

## MAKING SCHOOL MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The project aims to reduce the number of early school leavers by improving employment opportunities and helping social integration among the young. The local high school in the town of Ihtiman is among 1880 Bulgarian schools participating in the project. It is encouraging participation in extra-curricular activities designed to develop the students' personal, intellectual and physical abilities – building team-working capacities, improving self-expression and teaching presentation skills.

Total budget: EUR 67 127 769

EU budget contribution to the project from the ESF: EUR 57 058 604

More information: <http://europa.eu/lvn64QY>

## RECONSTRUCTION AND MODERNISATION OF SARAFOVO FISHING PORT

The main purpose behind the construction of a modern fishing port in the municipality of Burgas is to significantly increase the control over illegal fishing activities. The establishment of a market for the first sale of fish at Sarafovo port gives fishermen the opportunity to sell their catches directly. At the same time, this serves as a regulator of fish sales as the consumer buys fish without any involvement from resellers. Burgas municipality, in its capacity of a port operator, exercises control over the fish market in view of sales transparency and balance. As a result of its modernisation, the port now provides electricity, water and internet to each fishing vessel, which in turn will facilitate the installation and utilisation of modern marine equipment. The port also provides the necessary conditions for storing on-board catches.

Total budget: EUR 4 678 508

EU budget contribution to the project from the EFF: EUR 3 508 881

(During the 2007-2013 period, the EMFF was known as European Fisheries Fund or EFF)

More information: <http://europa.eu/!Hx99mQ>

## BUILDING A STREET LIGHT SYSTEM USING SOLAR ENERGY

The project enabled a system for energy-efficient street lighting to be installed in nine villages in the municipality of Kainardja in order to achieve savings on electricity expenditure and the costly maintenance of the current lighting system. The municipality of Kainardja, in the Silistra region, has the lowest development rate in the region and is considered a backward rural area. To improve public services, the municipality decided to apply for funding under measure 322 of the Rural Development Programme 2007-13. As a result, 486 solar-powered lighting fixtures were installed. The new solar lighting system enhances the quality of life for residents and will also generate savings on future electricity expenditure and on maintenance of the lighting system.

Total budget: EUR 994 391

EU budget contribution to the project from the EAFRD: EUR 795 513

More information: <http://europa.eu/!TV67Rm>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN BULGARIA

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/BG>
- ERDF & CF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/bulgaria](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/bulgaria)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=372&langId=en>
- YEI: <http://europa.eu/!dX33jH>
- EAFRD: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm)
- EMFF: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-bulgaria-fact-sheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-bulgaria-fact-sheet_en.pdf)
- The EU Representation in Bulgaria: <http://ec.europa.eu/bulgaria>
- EU project examples: <http://europa.eu/!Wf76Xq>
- Follow us on Twitter: @EU\_Regional @EU\_Social @EU\_Agri @EU\_Mare #ESIFunds