

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS¹



NETHERLANDS

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).



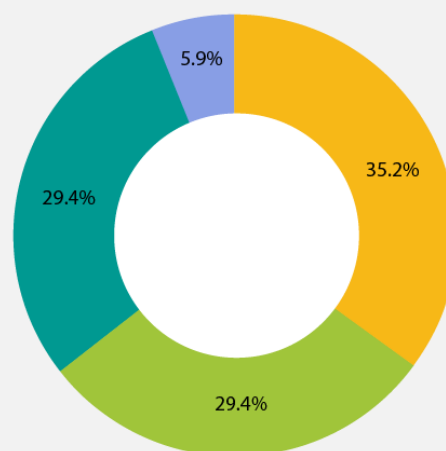
Categories of regions for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD 2014-2020
 ■ More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90% of EU-27 average)

Through seven national and regional programmes, the Netherlands have been allocated EUR 1.72 billion from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a minimum national contribution of EUR 1.85 billion, the Netherlands have a total budget of EUR 3.57 billion to be invested in various areas such as research and innovation, environmental protection and resource efficiency, a low-carbon economy and social inclusion.

ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR THE NETHERLANDS (2014-2020)²

- EUR 507 million through the ERDF
- EUR 607 million through the EAFRD
- EUR 507 million through the ESF
- EUR 101 million through the EMFF

■ EAFRD
 ■ ESF
 ■ ERDF
 ■ EMFF



¹ 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).

² Only those Member States with a gross national income (GNI) per inhabitant of less than 90 % of the EU average benefit from the Cohesion Fund. As such, The Netherlands are not eligible to benefit from the CF.

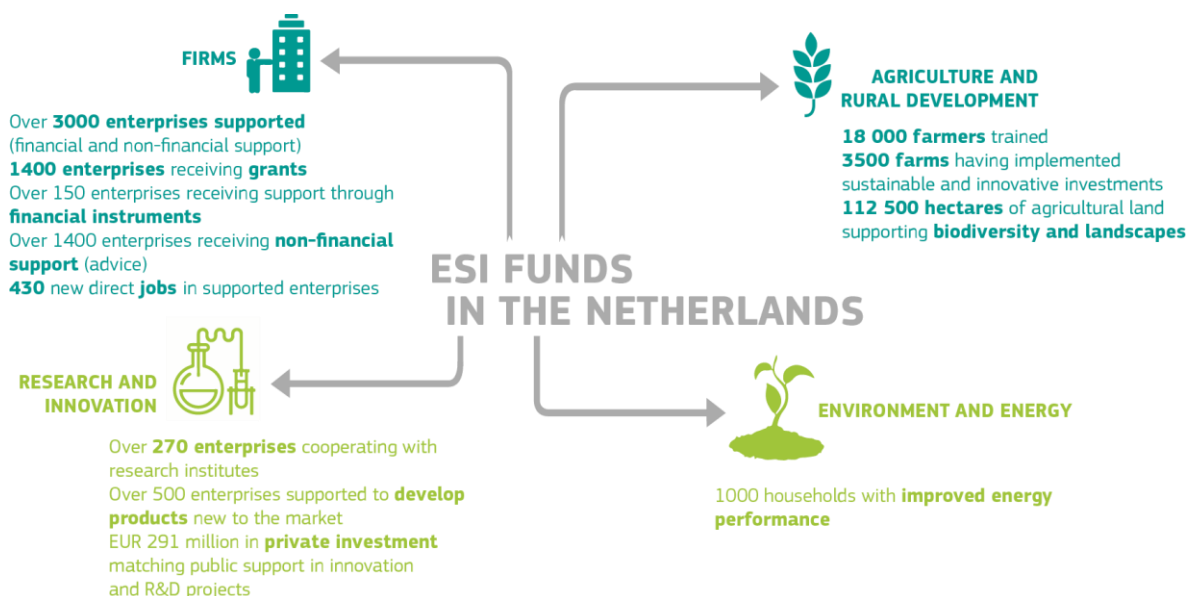
MAIN PRIORITIES

ESI FUNDS IN THE NETHERLANDS WILL:

- Strengthen the potential for innovation by financing measures designed to stimulate **business investment** in R&I, such as developing links between businesses and research institutes and supporting open innovation through smart specialisation strategies.
- Promote **active inclusion** and create **sustainable** and **high-quality employment**, among others, by vocational training and education and by helping excluded groups return to the labour market.
- Support the shift towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon economy** through actions directly related to renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Increase the **competitiveness** of agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture SMEs.
- Improve the **environmental sustainability** of the agricultural sector by investing in measures to restore, preserve and strengthen ecosystems affected by agricultural activities.
- Make fisheries and aquaculture more environmental-friendly, resource efficient, sustainable and improve **marine ecosystems** and **aquatic biodiversity**.

TARGETS

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



HOW WILL THE NETHERLANDS ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

The Netherlands 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.

The Netherlands has fulfilled almost all of the *ex-ante* conditionalities to deliver the expected results effectively. In relation to the thematic *ex-ante* conditionality on the promotion of cost-effective improvements in energy end-use efficiency and cost-effective investment in energy efficiency, an action plan has been agreed with a deadline of end-2016. In order to make the best use of the ESI Funds, regional smart specialisation strategies support investments in innovation.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

- The ESI funding used to create financial instruments such as loan, guarantee and equity funds is expected to increase substantially in the 2014-2020 programming period. This will be directed towards investment in measures designed to increase R&I intensity in businesses or to invest in innovations in the agricultural sector and in measures to improve energy efficiency in buildings.
- The ESI Funds will also invest in sustainable urban development in four major cities: Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht. The investment will fund measures designed to tackle the mismatch that currently exists between supply and demand in the labour market and will be integrated into wider strategies addressing the social, economic, demographic and environmental challenges faced in some urban areas. In addition, community-led local development will help to strengthen local partnerships and increase socio-economic diversification in rural areas.

SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

The Netherlands will reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries by using simplified cost options such as flat rates for labour costs. Improvements in the online ESI Funds management and the online exchange of information between beneficiaries and managing bodies should also help to simplify procedures for beneficiaries. The Dutch authorities are currently exploring other ways in which they could simplify the systems in place so as to help beneficiaries.

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

INVESTMENT FUND MAXIMISES THE USE OF PUBLIC CAPITAL

A revolving investment fund that pumped capital into start-up companies in the east Netherlands has helped 33 new companies to grow. As it is often difficult for young and promising companies to raise capital, the 'Innovation Fund East' was established to help small and medium-sized enterprises in the food, health and technology sectors to grow, create jobs and strengthen the regional economy. The fund provided investment capital – in the form of equity or loans – not exceeding half of that needed by the companies, with the remainder of the investment coming from the private sector. Examples of companies that grew successfully following investment from the fund include Nijmegen-based biomedical research company InterNA Technologies – which is developing therapeutic drugs to treat cancer – and Zaltbommel-based Ferm RFID Solutions, which produces radio-frequency identification chips.

Total budget: **EUR 13 636 364**

EU budget contribution to the project from **ERDF**: **EUR 6 136 364**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!uK38bQ>

THE BIOPROCESS PILOT FACILITY: TOWARDS A BIO-BASED ECONOMY

The Bioprocess Pilot Facility in Delft aims to contribute towards the development of a low-carbon economy, through the use of renewable resources instead of fossil fuels. Scaling production processes from laboratory experiments to the industrial level can represent a major bottleneck. This ERDF-funded project has developed a unique multi-purpose facility where companies, universities and knowledge institutions can experiment and learn how sustainable production processes respond to larger scales and how they can be scaled up.

Total budget: **EUR 41 500 000**

EU budget contribution to the project from **ERDF**: **EUR 4 645 000**

More information: <http://www.bpf.eu/>

MASTER PLAN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The project developed on-board innovations, such as sustainable fishing gear and facilities, to aid the processing and survival of by-catch.

Total budget: **EUR 6 711 586**

EU budget contribution to the project from **EFF**: **EUR 3 355 793**

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

More information: <http://www.masterplanduurzamevisserij.nl/nl/home>

BIOMASS HEATING FOR CUT-FLOWER PRODUCTION

EAFRD co-financing has been used in the Netherlands to reintroduce traditional biomass heating into commercial rose production as part of a successful strategy for economic survival and environmental sustainability in a competitive horticultural sector. The project's objective was to introduce biomass as an alternative energy source to natural gas so that the business could meet its energy demands in a way which would not damage the environment and would make the company more socially responsible and financially healthy.

Total budget: EUR 210 000

EU budget contribution to the project from EAFRD: EUR 75 000

More information: <http://europa.eu/lwF68JX>

JAN: JONGEREN AANPAK NOORDOOST-BRABANT

Jongeren aanpak Noordoost-Brabant or the JAN project in Noordoost-Brabant, Netherlands aimed to prevent unemployment amongst young people by providing education and training. Based on a strong belief in the importance of nurturing the talent of young people, the project aimed to half the growth rate of youth unemployment by offering unemployed young people under the age of 27 access to education and training. Over 6 000 young people took part in the project. A strong testament to its success is the fact that the unemployment rate amongst young people did not increase during the financial and economic crisis in the region of Noordoost-Brabant. Project manager Karin van Meer notes, "The ESF project helped us to increase cooperation with and between organisations that are actively guiding young people seeking work

Total budget: EUR 2 358 536

EU budget contribution to the project from ESF: EUR 790 000

More information: <http://europa.eu/lkC66xj>

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/NL>
- ERDF: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/netherlands
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=392&langId=en>
- EAFRD: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm
- EMFF: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/country-files/index_en.htm
- The EU Representation in the Netherlands: http://ec.europa.eu/netherlands/index_nl.htm
- EU project examples http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en
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