

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Support to Education and Training: 2014-2018

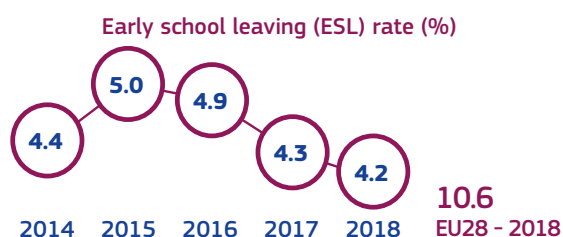


SLOVENIA

SUMMARY

ESF Thematic Objective 10 funding is used to support education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning. Over 261 million euro has been allocated to such operations in Slovenia, with 74 343 participations having taken place by the end of 2018. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far in the use of this funding in Slovenia.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES



► Slovenia has maintained a **very low and decreasing early school leaving (ESL) rate** since 2014, achieving the EU target rate of 10% or lower.

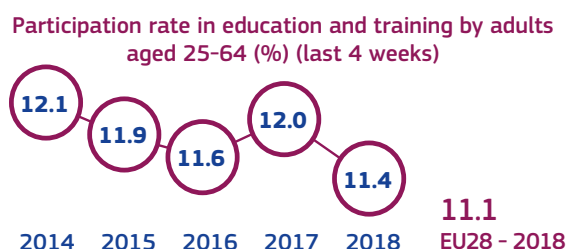
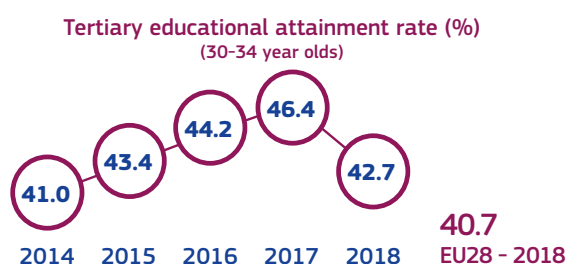
► OECD PISA results in 2015 show that Slovenia performs well in comparison to the EU and OECD averages with **low numbers of low achieving pupils in maths, reading and science**.

► The **tertiary educational attainment rate** is also high, and above the EU average (42.7% in 2018 compared to the EU average of 40.7%). There is a significant ongoing difference between the attainment rate of women and men (56% and 32% in 2018).

► There is a **large mismatch** between higher education and the needs of the labour market. This stems from weak involvement of employers and social partners in the education system.

► The adult **participation rate in education and training** was just above the EU average of 11.1% in 2018 but has been declining, particularly for older workers in the 55-64 age group, and those with lower levels of education.

► The general population in Slovenia lags behind in **ICT literacy** and e-skills; however, for 16-19 year olds, ICT skills are above the EU average.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

TO10 Thematic Objective 10

OP Operational Programme

IP Investment Priority

* Figures present the situation for ESF operations under Thematic Objective 10 and its four Investment Priorities (IPs) for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to the end of 2018, as reported on 1 October 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage, or have only recently started.

* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

* Where the breakdown of participants according to employment status, age, and level of education does not add up to 100%, it means that it was not possible to include characteristics of a number of participants in some OPs.

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ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS IN SLOVENIA

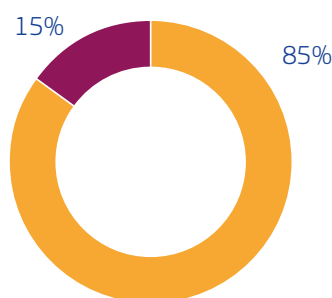
- ▶ Slovenia has **one** ESF Operational Programme (OP): the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.
- ▶ The OP has the following priorities relevant to Thematic Objective 10 (T010):
 - ▶ To **enhance access to lifelong learning** through a range of education and training programmes, measures for the recognition of skills and competences, and the promotion of flexible learning pathways;
 - ▶ To **improve the labour market relevance of education and training systems** through measures to modernise vocational education and training models, incentives for work-based training with employers, activities to improve the appeal and competitiveness of VET and measures to enhance the competences of professionals;
- ▶ **Workers**, particularly those above 45 with low levels of education are a priority target group targeted through several measures, as are **students** at all levels of education, and **educational staff**.

29% of total ESF funding¹...

€261 245 949

...is allocated to the following T010 investment priorities: **enhancing access to lifelong learning (85%)** and **improving the labour market relevance of education and training (15%)**.

Allocation of ESF T010 funds



○ Enhancing access to lifelong learning - IP10.iii

○ Improving the labour market relevance of education and training - IP10.iv

STATE OF PLAY

92% of planned resources under T010 had been allocated in 2018, with 33% spent.

Number of overall participations in T010 operations by the end of 2018:

74 343

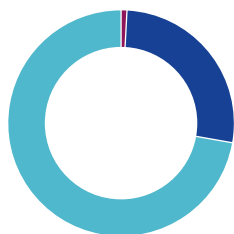
▶ **62 356** participations in operations to enhance access to lifelong learning

▶ **11 987** participations in operations to improve the labour market relevance of education and training

¹ This includes EU-only funding and co-financing from the Member State.

PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT

Employment status



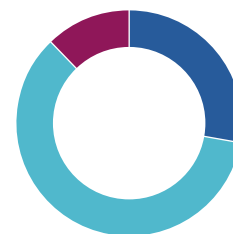
1% (622) Unemployed
27% (20 065) Inactive²
72% (53 656) Employed

Sex

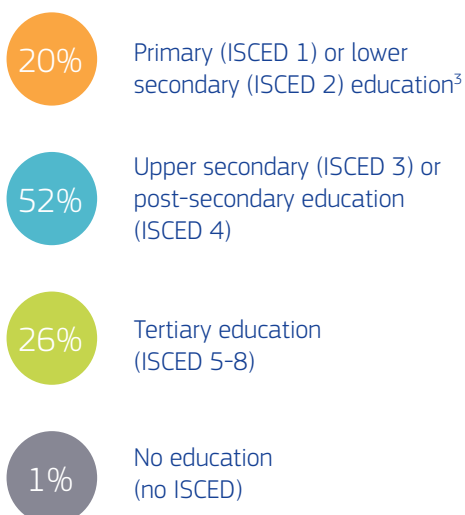
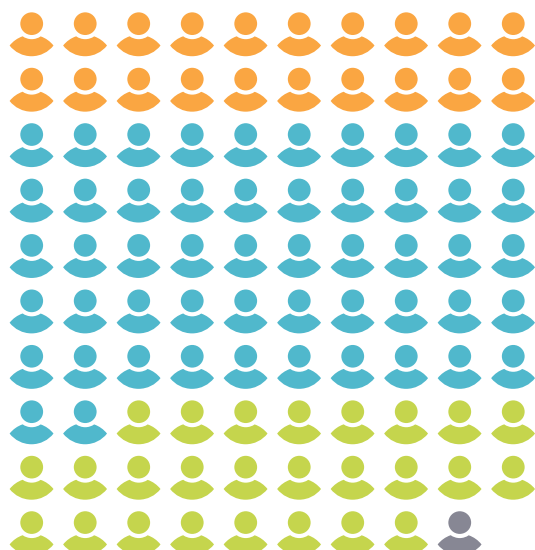


53% Women
47% Men

Age



28% (20 524) <25 years
60% (44 997) 25-54 years
12% (8 822) >54 years



3 223
Migrants

330
Other disadvantaged

941
Participants with disabilities

43
Homeless

Key achievements to date of ESF T010 activities in Slovenia include⁴:

► **20 701** successful results have been achieved to date following participation in an activity funded by ESF T010, of which:

► **4 600** participants went into education or training

► **12 812** participants gained a qualification

► **3 289** participants moved into employment upon leaving

► Progress under actions to increase lifelong learning has been very positive with high completion rates (above 75%) for participants involved in competence development, counselling and/or training programmes.

² The inactive population can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working and not available or looking for work.

³ ISCED is the UN reference classification for organising education programmes and related qualifications by education levels and fields.

⁴ Participants' data are collected when starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

► Involving users

Implementation of ESF TO10 in Slovenia has shown that involving users of the services in designing calls for proposals is key to increasing effectiveness. This has been shown to be particularly relevant for certain target groups, such as older workers with lower educational attainment, who remained challenging to reach throughout the programming period despite the range of educational, training and counselling programmes targeting them.

► Regional programming

As the education system in Slovenia is centralised, the division of resources between two regions of Slovenia presented a challenge in planning and implementing national and systemic measures. The regional division in the programming of funds has been questioned there are no significant differences in needs between the two regions.

► An effective information system

The information system – e-MA – that supports implementation of the OP is very complex. However, through several upgrades aiming to improve its user-friendliness, performance and functionality, and a team of experts set up to train staff on using the system, it has been assessed as increasingly efficient in monitoring and reporting on implementation of the OP.

► Easing the administrative burden

Following a survey of ESF beneficiaries to assess their capacity and training needs, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports organised training sessions for beneficiary organisations and intensified field visits to offer on-site support. Whilst there is still an ongoing need to strengthen the implementation capacities of beneficiaries, progress has been made.

► Employer buy-in

For ESF operations aiming to enhance vocational education and training, the co-responsibility of the business sector was shown to be crucial. Such VET-focused operations are more effective when the business sector is clearly represented in the development of operations, and is motivated and interested in providing on-the-job training opportunities.

► Coherence with ERDF

There is alignment of the ESF and ERDF under TO10 with the ERDF being used to support ICT literacy and the development of the necessary infrastructure. These measures were complementary to measures funded under TO2 (Increased accessibility and use and quality of ICTs).

PROJECT EXAMPLES

► Competence Centres for Human Resources Development

These centres aim to better match skills with labour market needs. Companies from specific sectors establish partnerships to identify skills gaps and design and implement training programmes to address them. These programmes take the form of in-company training or external training bringing together participants of the same profile from different companies of the partnership. 19 sectoral partnership have been developed to date, with 550 companies involved and over 50 000 participants.

► Programmes for acquiring basic and professional competences (2018-2022)

This operation finances programmes for acquiring basic and professional competences, primarily targeting adults who are less qualified and less educated, with a focus on those over 45 years of age. The financed programmes teach basic competencies, computer literacy and language skills, while counselling is available in all programmes.

► Linking Vocational Education and Training to Labour Market Needs

The operation aims to ensure better coordination and integration of the vocational education system with the needs of the labour market through an incentive mechanism for employers to provide on-the-job training for apprentices, secondary vocational students and students of higher vocational education. The operation is implemented by the Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Alimony Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, which is also responsible for the disbursement of the incentives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SVRK, Implementation report European Cohesion Policies 2014-2020 January 2014- June 2019, <https://www.eu-skladi.si/sl/dokumenti/porocila-mnenja-tolmacenja/porocilokp.pdf>

European Commission, Study supporting the evaluation of ESF support to education and training (Thematic Objective 10)

The ESF in Slovenia: <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=399&langId=en>

Website of the ESF in Slovenia: <https://www.eu-skladi.si/kontakti>

