



ESF Data Support Centre

Final ESF Synthesis Report of Annual Implementation Reports 2019 submitted in 2020

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List of acronyms

AIR	Annual Implementation Report
ALMP	Active Labour Market Policies
CIE	Counterfactual impact evaluation
CIR	Commission Implementing Regulation
CPR	Common Provisions Regulation
CSR	Country Specific Recommendations
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
IB	Intermediate Body
IP	Investment Priority
IVET	Initial Vocational Education and Training
MA	Managing Authority
MS	Member State
NRP	National Reform Programme
OP	Operational Programme
PAX	Priority Axis
PES	Public Employment Service
SO	Specific Objective
SFC	System for Fund Management
SME	Small or Medium-sized Enterprise
TA	Technical assistance
TO	Thematic Objective
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The present report has been prepared for Task 6 of the ESF Data Support Centre (VC/2019/032). It provides a summary of monitoring information reported by Managing Authorities (MAs) of European Social Fund Operational Programmes (ESF OPs) in their Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) **submitted by December 1, 2020**. Data submitted at a later stage by Member States could not be taken into account for the purpose of this report. It covers both the measures implemented under the ESF and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). This reporting cycle covers 2019, and aggregates 2014-2019 implementation data.

This report provides input for the Annual Summary Report that was submitted to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (Article 53(1)).

Figure 1.1 Overview contents of report

Scope of ESF

- Overview of budget allocations
- Changes to operational programmes since the start of the programming period

Reported progress of YEI implementation

- An overview of the progress made in the implementation, as expressed by the financial spending figures and physical progress indicators

Reported progress of ESF implementation

- An overview of the progress made in the implementation, as expressed by the common and programme specific output, result indicators at national level, thematic objective and investment priority.
- An overview and assessment of the performance, as shown by cumulated achievements in relation to financial allocations and quantified achievement targets, along with success rates.

ESF support to EU policy objectives

- An analysis of the contribution to the main EU policy objectives. The assessment of the contribution of the ESF and YEI to these objectives is based on the monitoring data in the AIR 2019.

1.2 Methodology

This report is based on a total of 186 AIRs submitted on SFC2014 (the System for Fund Management in the European Union), by **December 1, 2020**. One AIR was not yet submitted (Guyane État); its progress as reported in the draft AIR is not yet official. As this concerns a relatively small operational programme, any potential revisions to the draft AIR are not likely to affect the trends and figures reported in this report. The status of the other AIRs is summarised below.

Table 1.1 Number of AIRs by status

MS	Total no OP	Not received	AIRs Returned for modification	AIRs Admissible	Accepted by EC
AT	1				1
BE	4			2	2
BG	3				3
CY	1				1
CZ	3				3
DE	17			3	14
DK	1				1
EE	1				1
ES	23				23
FI	2				2
FR	33	1	5	4	23
GR	17		13	1	3
HR	1				1
HU	5		2	2	1
IE	1			1	
IT	29		1		28
LT	1		1		
LU	1				1
LV	1				1
MT	1				1
NL	1				1
PL	17				17
PT	10		9		1
RO	2				2
SE	2				2
SI	1				1
SK	2			1	1
UK	6			1	5
EU	187	1	31	15	140

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

In order to prepare this year's synthesis report of AIRs, the following methodological steps were undertaken:

1. First of all, data was collected from all OPs and AIRs submitted through SFC until December 1, 2020. Data was exported from SFC2014 by the EC, including information on (1) programme architecture (MS; CCI – the OP code; PAX – Priority Axes; IP – Investment Priority; type of region); (2) financial tables (Table 6 and 7 in Section 3.4 of the AIR), common output and result indicator tables (table 2A and 4A in section 3.2 of the AIR), Youth Employment Initiative result indicators (Table 2B), and programme-specific output and result indicator tables (table 2C and table 4B in Section 3.2 of the AIR).
2. Secondly, the extracted data was assessed (addressing missing values, 'zero' values, extreme values, coherence between output and result values, unit costs, identification of measurement of units) by defining rules for (1) the detection of trivial errors (gaps, inconsistencies and format errors) and (2) the detection of performance peculiarities (under- or over performance, etc.). In order to allow comparison at EU level and further aggregation and analysis, some of the data was further screened and categorised.
3. Thirdly, data collected was analysed by: aggregating financial, output and result indicators; measuring progress in target achievement; calculating success rates of individuals supported; calculating costs per output and result; benchmarking with the EU average, analysing outliers, and analysing categories of qualitative information in AIR.

2 Scope of the ESF

2.1 Scope of ESF budget

In the 2014-2020 programming period, the European Social Fund (ESF) is structured into 187 ESF OPs, adopted by the 28 Member States. The total EU budget for the ESF is almost EUR 88.4 billion, of which EUR 84 billion is allocated to the ESF, and another EUR 4.4 billion of ESF funds complements the dedicated YEI share (also EUR 4.4 billion). Member States are required to match EU funding with a certain level of national co-financing.

Table 2.1 below summarises the total EU budget and total ESF amount available to all Member States. The allocation of the funds under the Youth Employment Initiative is also reported here.

Table 2.1 Allocated ESF / YEI Budget (2014-2020)

MS	Nr. of OPs	EU amount (in € million)*			EU + national (in € million)*		
		ESF budget	ESF budget (incl. ESF contribution to YEI)	YEI (dedicated budget)	ESF budget	ESF budget (incl. ESF contribution to YEI)	Total ¹ (ESF+ ESF contribution to YEI + YEI)
AT	1	442.1	442.1	-	875.7	875.7	875.7
BE	4	973.4	1 037.8	64.4	2 174.0	2 302.8	2 367.2
BG	3	1 476.9	1 532.1	55.2	1 736.3	1 801.2	1 856.4
CY	1	150.3	168.5	18.1	176.8	198.2	216.3
CZ	3	3 416.4	3 430.0	13.6	4 202.6	4 218.6	4 232.2
DE	17	7 495.6	7 495.6	-	12 531.9	12 531.9	12 531.9
DK	1	213.0	213.0	-	410.8	410.8	410.8
EE	1	576.6	576.6	-	682.2	682.2	682.2
ES	23	7 041.2	8 433.4	1 392.3	10 210.4	11 848.3	13 240.6
FI	2	518.3	518.3	-	1 036.5	1 036.5	1 036.5
FR	33	5 472.9	5 955.3	479.6	9 659.6	10 319.0	10 798.6
GR	17	3 898.7	4 153.8	255.1	5 038.2	5 368.1	5 623.2
HR	1	1 414.7	1 517.9	103.2	1 664.4	1 785.8	1 888.9
HU	5	4 615.5	4 665.2	49.8	5 599.4	5 658.0	5 707.7
IE	1	476.4	544.5	68.1	952.7	1 089.0	1 157.2
IT	29	10 196.5	11 132.4	935.9	16 892.7	18 308.7	19 244.6
LT	1	1 200.4	1 232.1	31.8	1 412.2	1 449.6	1 481.4
LU	1	20.1	20.1	-	40.1	40.1	40.1
LV	1	647.7	676.7	29.0	762.0	796.1	825.1
MT	1	105.9	105.9	-	132.4	132.4	132.4
NL	1	510.3	510.3	-	1 030.8	1 030.8	1 030.8
PL	17	12 912.4	13 182.1	269.7	15 194.6	15 511.8	15 781.5
PT	10	7 176.4	7 401.5	225.2	8 686.6	8 951.5	9 176.7
RO	2	4 622.9	4 774.0	151.1	5 439.2	5 617.0	5 768.1
SE	2	719.6	763.8	44.2	1 436.6	1 524.9	1 569.1
SI	1	718.8	728.0	9.2	898.5	910.0	919.2
SK	2	2 451.7	2 537.8	86.1	2 962.5	3 063.9	3 150.0
UK	6	4 758.8	4 944.1	185.3	8 692.9	9 046.0	9 231.3
EU28	187	84 223.3	88 692.9	4 466.8	120 532.7	126 509.0	130 975.8

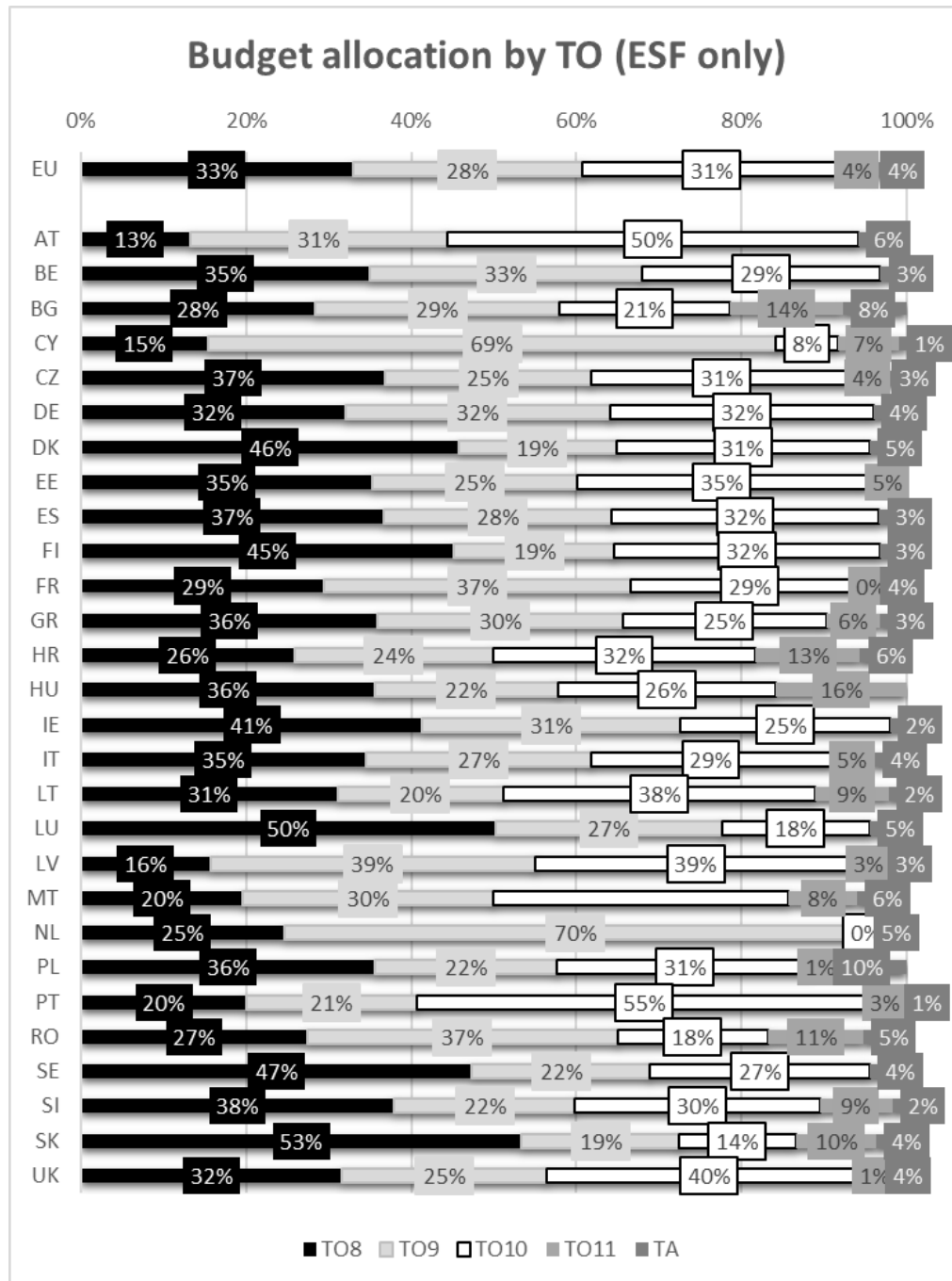
* Includes Technical assistance

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

To better understand the priorities chosen by Member States within these overall budgets, the figure below summarises the share of ESF investments across all analysed OPs in the EU for the four ESF-relevant Thematic Objectives.

¹ This total sums the total amounts for ESF, the total amounts for YEI funded by ESF and the dedicated budget for YEI (EU amount).

Figure 2.1 ESF allocation to thematic objectives



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The figure shows how Member States have in some cases made specific choices in the programming of ESF. In the Netherlands for instance, 70% of the budget is dedicated to Social Inclusion (TO9), compared to legally required minimum of 20% in Lithuania². In Denmark, Finland, and Slovakia the latest approved version of the OP allocated 19% to social inclusion objectives, which can happen in specific cases where there are specific priority axes with social innovation or transnational cooperation measures.

The importance of employment objectives in Slovakia (53%), Luxembourg (50%), Denmark (46%) also stands out, for instance in comparison to Austria (13%), Latvia (16%), Malta (20%) and Portugal (20%). This latter group instead dedicated substantially larger shares of ESF budgets to education interventions.

² As required by Article 4 of the ESF Regulation (2013/1304).

2.2 Changes to Operational Programmes

Since the start of the programming period, Operational Programmes have adjusted to new realities by allocating new funding or shifting priorities. Over the years, such adjustments have grown quite considerable. Most are best understood from the perspective of higher allocations to the YEI, as proposed by the European Commission in September 2016 and approved by Parliament and Council in June 2017. In view of persisting levels of youth unemployment, an additional EUR 1.2 billion was allocated to the YEI, further topped up by a matching share of EUR 1.2 billion of ESF funding and additional national ESF contributions. As shown by table 2.2 below, the total budget (EU and national co-financing) allocated to employment objectives (under which youth employment is a dedicated investment priority) increased by EUR 2.3 billion. The increase in YEI is particularly visible in Spain, which invests an additional EUR 1 billion in employment objectives (of which EUR 0.9 billion is funded by the YEI increase). Italy also had an increased YEI budget of EUR 0.8 billion, which does not show up in the figure, as the programmed share of intervention in other employment objectives were reduced with a similar amount and are spent on social inclusion instead. In France and Portugal, the YEI was also substantially increased (by EUR 0.4 billion and EUR 0.1 billion respectively). The two countries also reprogrammed allocations for TO8 priorities elsewhere, resulting in a minor budget increase for TO8 in France (EUR 0.1 billion), and a marginally lower overall allocation to employment objectives in Portugal (EUR 33 million). In Greece, the increase in YEI budget remains roughly in line with the overall increase in employment investments.

Table 2.2 Development of OP over time

Comparing OP 2015 against latest approved version OP (as of December 2020)							
(x€1,000)	TO08	TO09	TO10	TO11	TA	Total	
AT	€ -12 271.3	€ -2 556.7	€ 14 828.0	€ -	€ -	€ 0.0	
BE	€ 63 951.5	€ -792.8	€ -15 437.7	€ -	€ -3 632.0	€ 44 088.9	
BG	€ 40 749.8	€ 40 707.1	€ 13 391.6	€ -58 707.5	€ -22 727.7	€ 13 413.3	
CY	€ -26 613.2	€ 89 795.6	€ -17 312.9	€ 7 128.2	€ 0.0	€ 52 997.7	
CZ	€ -34 176.1	€ 34 176.1	€ 0.0	€ 0.0	€ 0.0	€ 0.0	
DE	€ 226 251.0	€ -176 785.8	€ -81 672.7	€ -	€ -6 348.0	€ -38 555.5	
DK	€ 37 588.6	€ -1 820.1	€ -24 184.0	€ -	€ -	€ 11 584.5	
EE	€ -27 326.7	€ 11 457.7	€ 9 706.4	€ -2 163.8	€ -	€ -8 326.4	
ES	€ 1 033 778.1	€ -63 637.1	€ 453 862.0	€ -	€ 42 035.9	€ 1 466 038.8	
FI	€ -971.7	€ 1 162.3	€ 2 545.1	€ -	€ 3 075.8	€ 5 811.5	
FR	€ 139 847.8	€ 122 885.4	€ -288 568.4	€ -1 132.7	€ 2 749.0	€ -24 218.9	
GR	€ 257 318.5	€ 480 565.2	€ 19 227.2	€ -42 056.3	€ -12 780.1	€ 702 274.5	
HR	€ 39 164.1	€ 14 290.4	€ 0.0	€ -14 290.4	€ 0.0	€ 39 164.1	
HU	€ -10 178.9	€ -53 962.7	€ 859.1	€ 17 875.4	€ -	€ -45 407.1	
IE	€ 68 471.2	€ -90 000.0	€ 25 687.4	€ -	€ -	€ 4 158.5	
IT	€ -1 604.6	€ 866 770.4	€ -692 807.4	€ -76 374.9	€ 26 569.3	€ 122 552.9	
LT	€ 151 919.0	€ 24 423.5	€ -2 508.0	€ -50 470.6	€ 0.0	€ 123 363.9	
LU	€ -1 500.0	€ 2 950.0	€ -850.0	€ -	€ -600.0	€ -	
LV	€ -12 400.8	€ 34 186.2	€ 23 406.3	€ -310.0	€ 0.0	€ 44 881.7	
MT	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	
NL	€ 1 472.5	€ 4 219.3	€ -	€ -	€ 296.4	€ 5 988.2	
PL	€ -115 022.6	€ 102 703.0	€ -58 978.9	€ 25 001.2	€ 61 297.1	€ 14 999.9	
PT	€ -33 216.4	€ -200 587.8	€ 210 823.6	€ -34 530.3	€ -41 176.5	€ -98 687.5	
RO	€ -126 706.2	€ 717 432.9	€ -492 192.7	€ 12 996.2	€ -61 189.4	€ 50 340.9	
SE	€ 8 247.9	€ 452.8	€ -31 520.4	€ -	€ -951.7	€ -23 771.4	
SI	€ -7 472.3	€ 15 466.9	€ 4 825.6	€ 1 000.0	€ 0.0	€ 13 820.2	
SK	€ 603 016.0	€ 31 469.3	€ -130 009.2	€ -34 142.4	€ 2 409.8	€ 472 743.4	
UK	€ -7 842.5	€ 159 933.4	€ -315 544.7	€ 49 584.0	€ 5 917.9	€ -107 951.9	
EU	€ 2 254 472.7	€ 2 164 904.6	€ -1 372 425.1	€ -200 593.9	€ -5 054.1	€ 2 841 304.2	

Source: SFC2014, based on latest approved versions of OP (data extracted on December 1, 2020 and July 2016). Amounts include EU + national co-financing.

The figure shows a substantial increase of the overall ESF budget in Slovakia (EUR 0.4 billion), with which its total ESF budget is now EUR 3.2 billion. So far, this is the first most visible use of the emergency measures passed by the European Commission in response

to the economic fallout of COVID-19 restrictions. The Regulation permits the transfer of resources between the ERDF, Cohesion Fund and ESF for the year 2020, as well as more favourable co-financing rates³. In Slovakia, this resulted in a major increase of investments towards employment objectives (EUR 0.6 billion). More reprogramming efforts of this kind can be expected in the coming months, possibly further increasing the available resources for ESF investments in 2020-2021.

2.3 Gender equality in programming

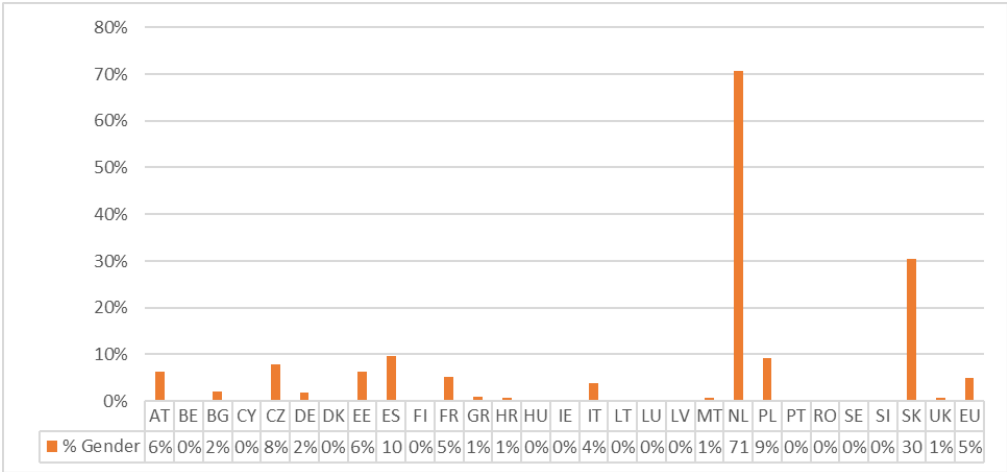
The promotion of equality between men and women is a central objective for the ESF across all actions and receives specific attention in EU-wide programming through its dedicated investment priority (IP8iv). A total of EUR 2.0 billion has been allocated to fund this investment priority (see section 6.1). In addition, Member States report on a horizontal programming of gender equality issues across their programmes. In the progress reports in 2017 and 2019, Member States reported on the specific actions taken to integrate the gender perspective in their OPs and in specific operations. Some Member States, for instance, reported specific additional training measures for staff within the managing authority (Germany, Estonia, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, Italy, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom), or targeted support and guidance material to beneficiaries to sufficiently integrate a gender equality perspective in projects (all Member States, except in Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia). Such targeted support can range from information provided on a website to detailed handbooks and guidelines on gender equality, but may equally consist of various forms of training and participatory approaches to project development in which specific attention is paid to gender equality.

To further incentivise ESF project to adopt a gender perspective, some Member States offer specific positive incentives; in Portugal for instance bonuses are applied to projects that promote equal opportunities (e.g. in projects resulting from female or young entrepreneurship, or specifically supporting disabled or disadvantaged trainees). Other means to ensure the horizontal integration of gender equality is by mobilizing relevant stakeholders. In Spain, for instance, the Women's Institute and the Equality Network is actively mobilized and contributes to establishing mechanisms for promoting and monitoring gender equality actions. In Poland, a working group on equal opportunities for men and women was established.

To measure the scope of gender mainstreaming in ESF projects and programmes, managing authorities are asked to report the shares of funding that can be linked to gender equality measures as a secondary objective. This is presented in figure 2.2, which shows that 5% of the total ESF budget can be associated with horizontal gender equality measures, which is the equivalent of roughly EUR 6 billion, up to three times the size of the dedicated investment priority. Even though this is a considerable amount, a closer analysis of the allocations in figure 2.2 shows that this may not necessarily fully reflect the extent of gender equality investments on the ground. Various Member States that report multiple activities and support for gender mainstreaming in their programmes do not report any shares of their budget under this objective. Combined with the substantial variation between Member States, this suggests that there is no common methodology and criteria to report financial allocations to the objective of gender equality. This makes it difficult to draw more general conclusions.

³ Article 25a (2), as introduced by Regulation (EU) 2020/558 amending Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013 and (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards specific measures to provide exceptional flexibility for the use of the European Structural and Investments Funds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. OJ L 130, 24.4.2020, p. 1–6.

Figure 2.2 Share of funding classified with the ESF secondary theme of gender equality



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)⁴

⁴ This figure is based on 163 OP instead of 187 OP. It is not clear why the data received is not complete. This will be revised in future versions, if additional data can be provided.

3 Implementation of the YEI

3.1 Implementation against allocated budgets

The YEI provides financial support to Member States worst hit by youth unemployment, according to set percentages of youth unemployment at regional level⁵. Originally, the YEI resources consisted of (1) a dedicated budget line (YEI specific allocation) of EUR 3.2 billion, (2) a matching ESF contribution of EUR 3.2 billion. These funds are subsequently matched with (3) national co-financing for the ESF matching allocation. The YEI specific allocation is not complemented with national co-financing⁶. This sets the total *original* EU budget allocated to YEI (YEI + matching ESF) at EUR 6.4 billion (EUR 7.67 billion if we include national co-financing to the ESF share). In view of persisting levels of youth unemployment, in June 2017, the European Parliament and the Council agreed to increase YEI funding with another EUR 1.2 billion, matched by an equivalent matching of ESF funding (EUR 2.4 billion in total). Again, this total is further complemented by the eligible Member States' national contribution to the ESF share. All in all, this means that a total budget of EUR 10.4 billion is available for YEI objectives, as shown in table 3.1 below⁷.

Table 3.1 Progress financial implementation 2019 YEI

MS	Allocated budget – EU amount (€ million)	Total allocated budget (€ million)	Eligible costs reported (€ million)	Project selection rate (%)		Expenditure declared (€ million)	% expenditure declared	
				2019	Δ2018		2019	Δ2018
BE	128.8	193.2	211.6	110%	2	73.8	38%	18
BG	110.4	120.1	121.4	101%	4	81.8	68%	4
CY	36.3	39.5	37.6	95%	0	21.6	55%	15
CZ	27.2	29.6	32.2	109%	0	28.2	95%	25
ES	2 784.5	3 030.2	3 721.7	123%	38	1 813.7	60%	11
FR	962.0	1 139.0	1 265.2	111%	16	741.7	65%	10
GR	510.2	585.0	345.4	59%	14	211.2	36%	9
HR	206.3	224.5	214.9	96%	-	148.7	66%	15
HU	99.5	108.3	99.9	92%	-8	110.9	102%	-9
IE	136.3	204.4	204.4	100%	-	144.0	70%	13
IT	1 871.8	2 351.9	1 974.2	84%	4	1 315.4	56%	2
LT	63.6	69.2	69.2	100%	-	69.1	100%	9
LV	58.0	63.1	66.5	105%	-0	64.0	101%	7
PL	539.4	586.9	630.2	107%	6	574.5	98%	6
PT	450.3	490.0	525.5	107%	17	372.0	76%	8
RO	302.2	328.9	43.5	13%	12	4.8	1%	1
SE	88.3	132.5	125.7	95%	6	106.3	80%	4
SI	18.4	20.7	21.0	101%	-	18.8	91%	-2
SK	172.3	187.5	288.6	154%	15	131.2	70%	22
UK	370.6	538.4	408.8	76%	2	229.0	43%	11
EU	8 936.5	10 443.0	10 407.3	100%	16	6 260.5	60%	8

Allocated budget– EU amount consists of the EU amount of the dedicated YEI budget line and the matching equivalent in ESF contribution

Total allocated budget presents the allocated budget 2019 – EU amount topped up with the national co-financing to ESF contributions allocated to YEI.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

By the end of 2019, project selection rates confirm that implementation has focused first on implementing YEI projects, usually only after which the ESF is used to address youth unemployment (ESF selection rates are considerably lower). This is by design, as the European Commission actively focused on frontloading YEI resources and enabling Member

⁵ Art. 16 ESF Regulation

⁶ Article 22(3) ESF Regulation

⁷ This total combines the EU amount of the dedicated YEI budget line, with the matching ESF share (EU contribution) and national co-financing to this matching ESF share.

States in using the YEI to fight youth unemployment. On average, 100% of the total budget is already reported as eligible costs, and many MSs already report costs above 100% (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Spain, France, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia).⁸ In comparison to 2018, particularly in Spain a considerable increase is reported (with 38 percentage points), which is now considerably higher than the overall budget. Most other Member States are also closing in towards committing their entire budgets. The reported eligible costs in Romania (13%), Greece (59%), and United Kingdom (76%) have been behind the EU average over the past years. Romania mentions a variety of structural features that affected its implementation of the YEI as much as of the ESF (political fragmentation, limited capacity available at the managing authority). The Greek managing authority for YEI reports that its project selection rate is satisfactory, and still on track to meet the anticipated targets. For the UK, the English managing authority reports that it faces some challenges in funding youth unemployment projects in the specific eligibility areas, due to an improved economic situation and falling youth unemployment rates in these areas; the Regulation directs 90% of funding to areas based on the youth unemployment rates in 2012, which in the UK have improved considerably. The impacts of COVID-19 are not yet clear and are not taken into account in the AIR2019; possibly, the remaining funding for the eligible areas can serve as a relevant lifeline to combat youth unemployment in these areas.

3.2 Outputs – YEI

This section assesses the number of participations reached by the YEI⁹. The figure shows that the number of participations is now stabilising, after considerable increases in 2016-2018. A total of 3 million participations are reported by the end of 2019. Since 2018, all MSs show a certain level of participations, including Romania. As can be expected, given their larger programmes and number of potential beneficiaries, Spain, France and Italy are responsible for more than half of all participations.

⁸ Eligible costs reported will undergo a process of certification and declaration to the EC later, after which it is decided which of them are fully certified. Because not all costs tend to be fully certified, MSs tend to aim at reporting eligible costs slightly above 100%.

⁹ The monitoring data does not allow differentiating between unique participants and individuals who participated in ESF multiple times. Throughout this report, the number of participations is reported, thus possibly including the same participant multiple times.

Table 3.2 Total number of YEI participations (measured by ESF common indicators) per MS cumulative (compared to earlier years)

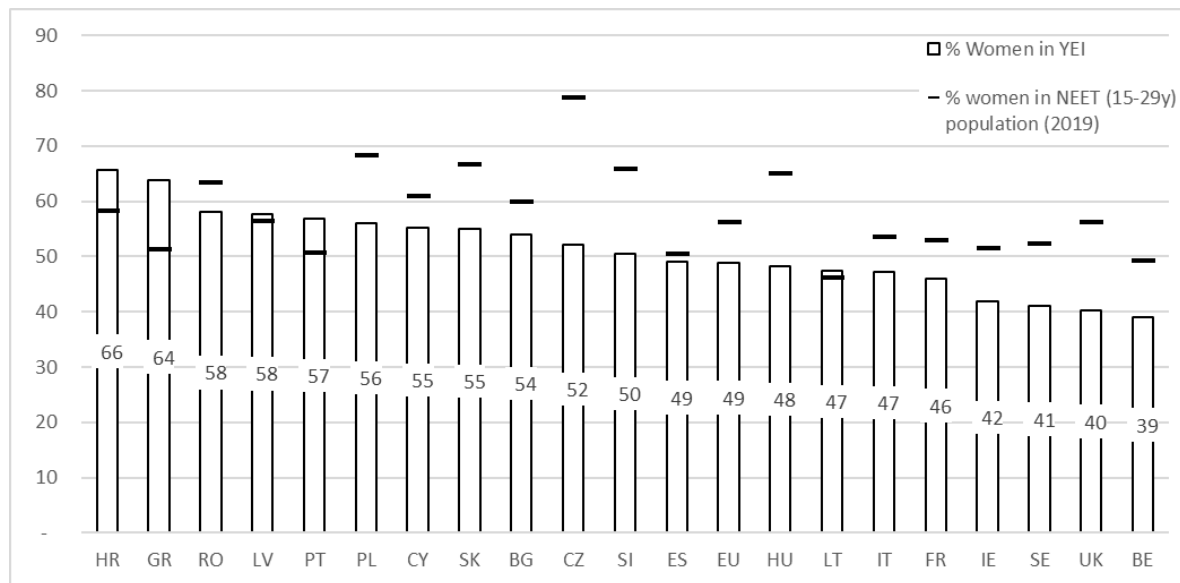
MS	Cumulative until 2014	Cumulative until 2015	Cumulative until 2016	Cumulative until 2017	Cumulative until 2018	Cumulative until 2019
BE	5 307	27 626	56 233	89 403	134 701	162 855
BG	-	4 735	26 538	38 338	51 411	63 282
CY	1 100	1 651	2 219	4 021	5 133	5 652
CZ	-	-	199	2 344	4 059	5 481
ES	51 814	141 060	301 362	550 520	750 804	857 747
FR	38 533	173 864	299 007	425 765	519 539	572 073
GR	28 923	40 078	46 515	57 251	64 093	67 744
HR	1	12 142	22 161	29 185	30 670	30 670
HU	-	19 557	35 590	40 079	40 089	40 089
IE	1 745	2 887	4 798	10 535	11 892	13 343
IT	19 306	202 565	334 069	439 440	495 799	545 529
LT	-	-	11 420	44 236	61 582	61 826
LV	4 953	10 568	18 346	25 156	29 035	29 035
PL	4 414	74 277	151 555	229 885	268 366	277 465
PT	51 086	59 966	61 983	64 593	65 585	65 705
RO	-	-	-	-	1 268	2 138
SE	856	6 490	16 793	26 842	29 037	30 658
SI	-	38	2 896	2 950	2 950	2 950
SK	-	887	10 536	40 176	88 044	109 210
UK	2	2 685	22 126	59 134	78 108	90 927
EU	208 040	781 076	1 424 346	2 179 853	2 732 165	3 034 379

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

At the level of the EU, the share of women among all YEI participations is 49%. In view of the general overrepresentation of women in the population that is neither in employment nor education (NEET) at EU level (56% in 2019, for those 15-29 year old), this means that young men are overrepresented in the YEI participation, at the expense of young female NEETs¹⁰. Only in some Member States the share of women in YEI participation actually exceeds the overall share of women in the young NEETs population (Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Lithuania); in all other Member States, the share of women in YEI participation is lower than what could be expected based on the share of young women in the overall NEET population. YEI interventions in Croatia predominantly reached young women (66%, against 58% of young NEETs that are women), as well as in Greece (64% women, against 51% in the young NEET population). In Belgium, on the other end of the scale, youth unemployment initiatives reached the smallest share of women (39%, against 49% women in its NEETs population). These substantial gender disparities in YEI participation across the EU appear to be the result of its focus on fighting unemployment, as opposed to mobilising inactive women.

¹⁰ Based on Eurostat, Labour Force Survey (LFSI_NEET_Q), 2019, Q4. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training, individuals 15-29 year old (seasonally adjusted).

Figure 3.1 Relative share (%) of (fe)male participation across Member States over 2014-2019 YEI



Source: AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020), Eurostat data on NEETs.

3.3 Results – YEI

This section explores the results reported for the 35 YEI programmes across the twenty Member States where the YEI is active. Table 3.3 presents an overview of the total results achieved by the YEI in each MS, measured by the ESF common result indicators. It also presents the number of disadvantaged participants that reached a positive result, and the share of disadvantaged participants with positive results compared to the total number of participants with positive results. There are a number of Member States that do not (yet) report YEI results in ESF common indicators (such as Hungary and Italy). No explanations were provided by managing authorities in their AIR for this lack of reporting.

Table 3.3 Overview of common indicators for immediate results by Member State until 2019 (YEI-funded interventions only)

MS	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					Disadvantaged	
	Active in Job search	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
BE	1 881	16 308	7 151	7 033	32 373	5 287	16%
BG	2 898	673	13 879	13 781	31 231	5 707	18%
CY	-	74	664	1 373	2 111	151	7%
CZ	-	169	2 144	2 103	4 416	1 036	23%
ES	27 020	38 260	157 961	303 521	526 762	105 361	20%
FR	34 626	62 111	31 493	144 729	272 959	97 357	36%
GR	-	1 249	14 789	7 095	23 133	6 137	27%
HR	-	187	1 061	14 450	15 698	247	2%
HU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IE	372	3 901	3 536	1 993	9 802	2 796	29%
IT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LT	3 615	8 908	9 728	21 405	43 656	588	1%
LV	91	362	7 594	6 936	14 983	3 583	24%
PL	2 911	3 567	33 569	197 218	237 265	112 217	47%
PT	57	847	-	36 787	37 691	459	1%
RO	83	806	1 093	296	2 278	900	40%
SE	576	5 098	1 822	13 121	20 617	9 128	44%
SI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SK	10	123	6	31 434	31 573	19 630	62%
UK	1 051	11 041	5 232	16 538	33 862	17 932	53%

MS	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					Disadvantaged	
	Active in Job search	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
Total YEI	75 191	153 684	291 722	819 813	1 340 410	388 516	29%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Table 3.4 below provides an overview of the reported longer-term results, capturing effects six months after a participant has left the operation. The table shows a number of inconsistencies with other data reported; Italy for instance reports results six months after the intervention, even though no short-term results are reported. Hungary continues without results reported. In Slovakia, more disadvantaged people are reported to have entered employment than the total number of participants that entered employment. Such inconsistencies tend to be removed in later versions of the AIR, of which most are still being assessed by the European Commission at the time of writing.

Table 3.4 Overview of common indicators for long-term results by Member State until 2019 (YEI only)

MS	Six months after intervention				
	All results			Disadvantaged	
	Entered employment	Better LM position	Total	Entered employment	% of all that entered employment
BE	66 277	-	66 277	9 072	14%
BG	24 013	-	24 013	4 153	17%
CY	1 389	993	2 382	40	3%
CZ	2 492	-	2 492	255	10%
ES	163 076	-	163 076	47 565	29%
FR	179 397	245	179 642	85 829	48%
GR	16 424	-	16 424	2 011	12%
HR	22 436	-	22 436	1 465	7%
HU	-	-	-	-	-
IE	496	198	694	148	30%
IT	170 805	-	170 805	-	0%
LT	9 158	-	9 158	-	0%
LV	12 531	1 725	14 256	3 669	29%
PL	193 698	-	193 698	131 115	68%
PT	41 898	-	41 898	435	1%
RO	647	-	647	60	9%
SE	11 303	-	11 303	4 598	41%
SI	34	-	34	-	0%
SK	28 446	-	28 446	35 301	124%
UK	15 640	-	15 640	10 160	65%
Total YEI	960 160	3 161	963 321	335 876	35%

Indicator CR08 targets people over 54 years of age and is therefore not relevant from the perspective of the YEI. Therefore it is not included in this table

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The table below shows the total aggregation per Member State and at EU level for each common YEI result indicator (as defined in Annex II of the ESF regulation). It also reports on the total number of female participants that have been supported, along with the target achievement per type of YEI indicator. The table below shows that:

- **The young unemployed:** Over 1.7 million unemployed persons completed a YEI intervention, which amounts to over half the total participations (3.0 million participations counted for YEI interventions, as reported in section 3.2 above). Note that many participations may continue to be supported at the moment of measurement and an additional 0.4 million inactive completed the intervention (see table 3.6 below). This equals on average 72% of all the target values set for this indicator. A total of 0.8 million unemployed persons received an offer after completing the intervention (with an average

target achievement of 62%), while 1.2 million unemployed were in education or training, gained a qualification or were in employment (77 % of the target achievement).

- **The long-term young unemployed:** A total of 0.5 million long-term unemployed completed the YEI intervention (80 % of target achievement), while 0.2 million received an offer (65 % of target achievement), and 0.3 million persons were activated into education or training, gained a qualification or were in employment (87 % of target achievement).

Table 3.5 Total YEI common indicators for results, aggregated by Member State

	Unemployed participants			Long-term unemployed participants		
	who completed the YEI-supported intervention	who received an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	in education / training, gain a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	who completed the YEI-supported intervention	who received an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	in education / training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving
BE	45 503	6 032	11 833	28 343	1 506	3 589
BG	27 311	1 476	25 962	7 819	219	4 013
CY	3 360	404	2 761	640	370	404
CZ	4 478	418	3 734	250	113	195
ES	447 859	163 354	355 743	73 569	21 277	70 207
FR	282 539	188 387	180 690	82 693	50 015	47 789
GR	56 279	12 625	22 140	44 851	9 214	14 149
HR	26 621	14 516	15 329	-	-	-
HU	30 456	39 196	29 237	7 652	9 602	6 992
IE	2 914	40	2 700	1 297	1	1 242
IT	303 379	56 246	150 137	157 883	29 625	66 654
LT	42 620	24 571	32 742	4 494	4 756	6 587
LV	16 171	12 050	8 325	3 487	4 618	3 345
PL	216 729	157 456	198 713	77 407	63 854	74 701
PT	54 472	41 658	37 324	5 768	4 579	4 294
RO	2 047	1 668	1 014	952	857	554
SE	5 899	1 323	15 690	1 816	406	3 588
SI	130	118	-	41	134	-
SK	81 835	39 055	41 137	14 311	7 322	10 446
UK	27 925	16 152	20 330	10 878	6 152	7 683
Total YEI	1 678 527	776 745	1 155 541	524 151	214 620	326 432
<i>Target achievement (weighed)</i>	72%	62%	77%	80%	65%	87%
<i>No. women</i>	857 950	409 320	583 902	272 018	115 319	166 958
<i>% of women</i>	51%	53%	51%	52%	54%	51%

Target achievement was calculated by summing all targets and cumulative numbers achieved. This means that these take the distance measured in absolute numbers into account.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The table below shows that:

- **The inactive young:** A total of 0.4 million inactive persons completed the YEI intervention (47% of target achievement), while 0.1 million of these inactive received an offer (36 % of the target achievement), and 0.2 million are in education or training, gained a qualification or were in employment (45 % of target achievement). Note that these target achievement rates are considerably lower than those for unemployed youth.
- Finally, a total of 0.3 million are reported to be in education or training after six months (target achievement of 87 %), 1.0 million are in employment after six months (98% target achievement), and 0.08 are in self-employment after six months (43 % target achievement).

Table 3.6 Total YEI common indicators for results, aggregated by Member State (2)

	Inactive participants			All participants, six months after leaving		
	who completed the YEI-supported intervention	who received an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving	in education / training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship	in employment	in self-employment
BE	18 606	5 224	23 033	26 433	66 276	36
BG	10 494	7 480	2 371	685	24 013	843
CY	-	-	-	48	1 389	13
CZ	356	225	328	-	2 492	107
ES	48 106	15 925	28 307	66 922	163 076	9 324
FR	64 313	44 459	40 488	62 215	179 221	3 239
GR	-	-	-	1 705	16 424	947
HR	-	-	-	2 574	22 436	805
HU	666	872	630	506	26 101	677
IE	4 717	99	4 233	416	422	108
IT	168 684	32 602	102 058	98 691	170 805	-
LT	6 763	1 692	2 049	5 766	16 670	204
LV	6 284	2 652	3 102	2 214	11 345	86
PL	21 137	20 789	21 777	70 591	193 698	57 244
PT	333	16	17	1 957	41 898	492
RO	-	-	-	-	647	-
SE	1 643	568	2 988	5 172	11 276	27
SI	-	-	-	-	34	-
SK	83	39	8	731	28 446	1 897
UK	16 583	10 330	11 717	2 559	693	2
Total YEI	368 768	142 972	243 106	349 185	977 362	76 051
<i>Target achievement (weighed)</i>	47%	36%	45%	41%	98%	43%
<i>No. women</i>	167 708	67 017	106 962	171 451	474 790	35 332
<i>% of women</i>	45%	47%	44%	49%	49%	46%

Target achievement was calculated for each common indicator on the basis of average progress of indicators towards their target (weighed by the number of individuals)

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

3.4 Achievement of targets

Out of the 444 common result indicators measuring progress for the YEI (annex II), a total of 380 have set a target. By the end of 2019, 351 indicators are progressing towards their final targets. The remaining common result indicators with a target are not yet reporting progress. Table 3.7 below provides an overview of the median target achievement of the YEI common result indicators across Member States. The values reported in table 3.7 below diverge from the target achievement presented in the previous section. Table 3.7 presents the *median* target achievement by Member State. To allow an easy comparison with table 3.6, the weighed values are presented in the final line of table 3.7.

When interpreting the target achievement as presented in table 3.7, it is important to realise that most Member States programmed the YEI in one OP (within one priority axis), and hence defined only one target for each type of common indicator. As such, the target achievement presented for all Member States, except for Belgium, France and the United Kingdom, are the target achievement rates of *one indicator*. For these Member States, indicators were defined in multiple OPs; in this case the median target achievement is presented. The main element that stands out is the relatively high achievement rates, often above 100% in various Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Lithuania,

Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia). In most cases this is a single indicator, possibly with a conservative target setting.

YEI result indicators measure the number of participants that complete an intervention (first column for each type of participant), the number of participants that received an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving (second column) and the number of participants that actually found a job, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving (other positive result – third column for each group). Remarkably, the YEI indicators that measure the third type of result (participants finding a job, continuing education or otherwise positive) also have the highest target achievement rates. Inactive participants show the highest median for such positive results (114%), followed by long-term unemployed (108%) and unemployed participants (102%). When taking into account how many individuals achieved such results, the long-term unemployed report the highest results so far (weighed target achievement of 87%), which is considerably higher than that of the inactive (45%). These high results are remarkable, because in theory these results would be the hardest to achieve. As such, this could be a reflection of the better-than-expected macro-economic conditions, leading to outperforming the previously set targets in a number of Member States. Often, managing authorities used modest targets for this type of indicators, which can explain that these targets were the first to be (over)achieved.

Table 3.7 Progress towards target achievement of common result indicators that have a target value (median % of target achievement)

MS	Median target achievement	Unemployed, after leaving			Long-term unemployed, after leaving			Inactive, after leaving			All participants, six month after leaving		
		Completed	With offer	Pos. result	Completed	With offer	Pos. result	Completed	With offer	Pos. result	Completed	With offer	Pos. result
BE*	157	149	115	235	166	36	40	602	725	2095	227	863	100
BG	105	149	80	166	153	43	105	75	425	18	381	76	272
CY	54	58	18	122	50	102	112	0	0	0	6	87	4
CZ	179	179	28	373	48	36	93	230	250	505	0	298	170
ES	45	54	34	53	70	37	79	12	7	9	15	43	14
FR*	84	83	86	102	73	83	112	47	53	143	48	79	9
GR	36	89	36	74	97	36	64	0	0	0	5	50	7
HR	43	96	120	140				0	0	0	34	155	52
HU	144	131		259	99		194	83		158		326	
IE	29	27	1	43	16	0	25	250	10	857	32	7	54
IT	73	75	36	65	73	38	54	74	37	79	62	120	0
LT	117	104	90	120	113	187	318	261	76	276	58	61	4
LV	103	125	107	74	102	225	163	97	68	80	132	195	108
PL	106	94	84	115	83	84	128	84	136	106	64	133	99
PT	115	139	116	115	158	138	162	130	7	10	10	142	7
RO	3	3	4	2	7	10	7				0	2	0
SE	83	28	28	330	33	34	303	38	55	288	112	111	8
SI	11	5	5		4	16						2	0
SK	137	141	188	99	171	239	238	5	8	1	18	137	76
UK*	68	51	37	60	75	56	111	92	98	114	36	13	0
EU	80	83	73	102	75	59	108	81	55	114	42	88	8
EU (weighed average)		72	62	77	80	65	87	47	36	45	41	98	43

* More than one OP per Member State. All other Member States report only one target per type of indicator
Empty fields mean that no targets have been defined in the OP in that MS for that particular investment priority

0% means that no progress has been achieved towards a particular target set for that investment priority

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4 Implementation of ESF

4.1 Introduction

This chapter summarises the key progress of ESF implementation. It first sets out the progress achieved in terms of 'input', which includes reporting on the progress in committing and spending ESF financial allocations. Subsequently, this chapter reports on the outputs of these interventions and the results achieved. Section 4.3 on absolute outputs and results summarises the key monitoring data by the end of 2019, first for the ESF specifically, and then taking ESF and YEI together for a full overview of the achievements reached. Finally, section 4.4 is focused on progress against the targets defined by operational programmes themselves.

4.2 Financial implementation progress

4.2.1 Overview

An overall assessment of implementation logically starts with assessing the input-side, by comparing the reported spending against the total allocated budget for each Member State. This gives a first indication of whether the implementation is on track or not. Table 4.1 below presents the key figures, distinguishing between the **eligible costs for selected operations** (based on which the project selection rate is calculated) and the **declared expenditure** (which serve as the basis for the implementation rate). The table also presents the difference in percentage points for AIR2019 in comparison to the values reported in the previous year (AIR 2018), which allows a better understanding of which Member States are accelerating or decelerating their implementation.

Table 4.1 Progress of financial implementation - Total (ESF)

MS	Allocated budget (€ million)	Eligible costs reported (€ million)	Project selection rate (%)		Expenditure declared (€ million)	% expenditure declared	
			2019	Δ2018		2019	Δ2018
AT	875.7	703.0	80%	20	312.3	36%	10
BE	2 174.0	1 918.1	88%	4	819.6	38%	12
BG	1 736.3	1 370.3	79%	19	724.2	42%	13
CY	176.8	156.4	88%	-20	72.0	41%	-6
CZ	4 202.6	3 902.1	93%	21	1 707.5	41%	14
DE	12 531.9	11 875.2	95%	14	6 845.1	55%	15
DK	410.8	364.5	89%	21	144.2	35%	10
EE	682.2	611.3	90%	5	302.1	44%	15
ES	10 210.4	10 654.5	104%	33	3 305.9	32%	12
FI	1 036.5	867.7	84%	14	534.5	52%	14
FR	9 659.6	8 818.3	91%	18	4 603.0	48%	10
GR	5 038.2	3 783.7	75%	12	2 102.2	42%	11
HR	1 664.4	1 155.3	69%	12	371.3	22%	10
HU	5 599.4	5 390.2	96%	-3	2 366.8	42%	15
IE	952.7	952.7	100%	-	397.3	42%	16
IT	16 892.7	12 001.7	71%	16	5 589.0	33%	13
LT	1 412.2	1 052.2	75%	11	508.4	36%	11
LU	40.1	45.6	114%	13	23.7	59%	15
LV	762.0	637.7	84%	-5	254.0	33%	11
MT	132.4	139.3	105%	1	58.0	44%	12
NL	1 030.8	1 212.5	118%	10	563.3	55%	9
PL	15 194.6	11 267.1	74%	16	5 549.1	37%	14
PT	8 686.6	7 369.3	85%	16	4 019.8	46%	12
RO	5 439.2	4 427.8	81%	18	1 588.7	29%	13
SE	1 436.6	1 080.8	75%	10	578.1	40%	13
SI	898.5	873.5	97%	4	335.3	37%	10
SK	2 962.5	2 603.5	88%	6	945.2	32%	7
UK	8 692.9	7 333.3	84%	22	2 802.3	32%	9

EU28	120 532.7	102 567.3	85%	16	47 422.8	39%	12
Region	Allocated budget (€ million)	Eligible costs reported (€ million)	Project selection rate		Expenditure declared (€ million)	% expenditure declared	
			2019	Δ2018		2019	Δ2018
Less dev.	59 402.5	48 678.3	82%	15	21 762.1	37%	13
More dev.	44 822.3	39 384.1	88%	17	19 030.5	42%	12
Trans.	16 308.0	14 504.9	89%	17	6 630.2	41%	13

Totals are based on latest approved version of OP by December 1, 2020.

Δ2018 shows the difference between 2019 and 2018 project selection rates. For AT, for instance, 20 means that the current project selection rate (80 %) increased 20 percentage points in comparison to 2018 (60 %).

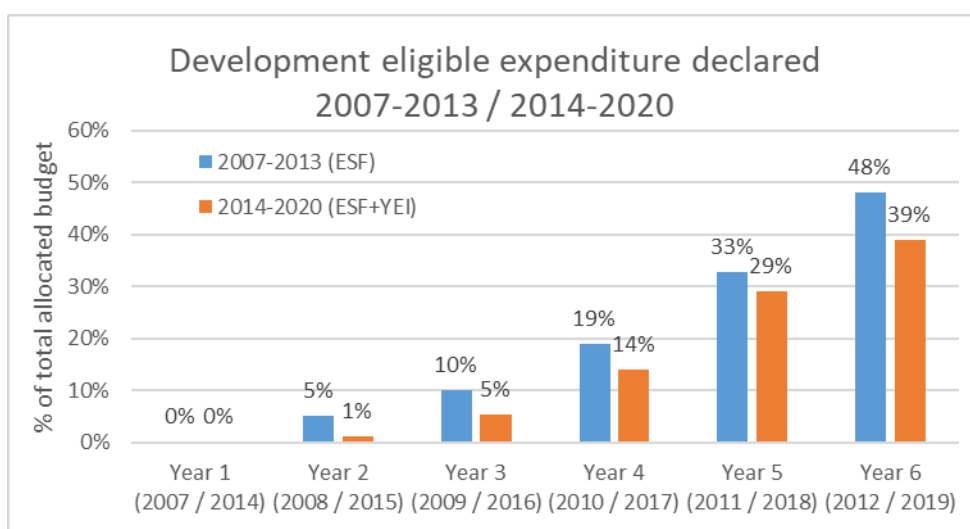
All values refer to the total ESF amount (EU + national share) and include TA, but exclude YEI. Project selection and implementation rates are calculated at MS level; the total costs / expenditure at MS level are divided by the total allocated budget at MS level.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The table shows that the ESF project selection rate is steadily increasing, now reaching 85 % at EU level, which means an increase of 16 percentage points compared to last year's reporting. Though differences among types of regions were quite pronounced in the early years of implementations, these have almost entirely disappeared, both in terms of project selection rates as well as declared expenditure. While project selection rates are an important measure to assess the progress of ongoing ESF operational programmes, the declared expenditure gives a more accurate picture of the implemented activities on the ground. Table 4.1 above shows that the expenditure rates are steadily rising, now reaching 39% at the EU level. The lowest implementation rates are reported by Croatia (22%) and Romania (29%); these Member States had problems meeting the ex-ante conditionalities at the start of the programming period, which continue to cascade into present-day delays. Moreover, both Member States indicate that their capacity to manage project calls and monitoring continues to face challenges. High rates were reported by Luxembourg (59%), Germany and the Netherlands (55%) and Finland (52%).

Though overall positive and well on track, it is insightful to compare implementation rates with the 2007-2013 programming period, which by this time reported implementation rates of 48%. This shows that though implementation appears to be progressing, continued attention to the implementation rates in the current programming period remains necessary to ensure that all investments can be disbursed as planned.

Figure 4.1 Expenditure declared to the European Commission (implementation rate): 2007-2013 (ESF) / 2014-2020 (ESF)



Source: AIR 2019 – Ex Post synthesis evaluation ESF 2007-2013¹¹ (SFC2007)

¹¹ ESF Ex-post Evaluation Synthesis 2007-2013 - EU synthesis report (2016) <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16862&langId=en>

4.2.2 Absorption across themes

This section explores the implementation of ESF investments from a thematic perspective. Member States allocate their OP budgets to individual Investment Priorities (IPs), which are grouped into four Thematic Objectives (TO). To fully understand the current progress of implementation, the project selection rate (declared eligible costs) reported in the AIRs 2019 is assessed in greater detail against the allocated budgets for each thematic objective.

Table 4.2 Overview of allocated budget and project selection rate by thematic objective per MS and EU28 (in million EUR) – ESF only

MS	Employment (TO8)		Social Inclusion (TO9)		Education (TO10)		Institutional capacity (TO11)	
	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection
AT	116.2	74.7%	271.8	87.5%	435.6	79.7%		
BE	760.5	88.4%	717.9	90.4%	626.1	84.2%		
BG	493.4	90.5%	512.1	77.7%	359.0	62.6%	237.0	73.5%
CY	27.2	131.1%	121.6	58.7%	13.3	225.7%	13.1	118.2%
CZ	1 547.1	101.0%	1 050.8	87.6%	1 322.3	86.5%	163.3	91.1%
DE	4 011.7	94.8%	4 015.3	96.8%	4 004.3	94.9%		
DK	187.8	84.8%	78.3	92.8%	126.1	95.9%		
EE	241.1	91.6%	168.8	83.8%	239.0	90.6%	33.4	97.1%
ES	3 744.7	81.0%	2 808.2	96.2%	3 316.9	140.8%		
FI	468.4	77.9%	201.1	78.0%	332.8	93.1%		
FR	2 846.8	83.3%	3 578.9	94.8%	2 797.0	100.4%	23.8	55.3%
GR	1 808.7	82.7%	1 494.7	56.1%	1 246.5	85.7%	324.3	71.9%
HR	430.0	87.3%	400.2	87.7%	529.4	54.8%	210.7	45.7%
HU	1 992.7	93.3%	1 239.9	96.2%	1 474.3	95.7%	892.5	103.9%
IE	394.0	100.0%	297.6	100.0%	241.1	100.0%		
IT	5 828.3	70.2%	4 605.2	52.5%	4 896.3	91.4%	889.8	59.9%
LT	438.7	61.8%	283.6	78.3%	533.2	80.1%	126.4	91.8%
LU	20.2	124.6%	11.0	82.0%	7.2	133.0%		
LV	119.5	104.1%	299.1	78.1%	297.2	81.0%	20.9	95.2%
MT	26.0	105.6%	40.0	106.1%	47.4	96.6%	11.0	142.4%
NL	253.5	142.9%	726.3	114.6%				
PL	5 402.4	68.8%	3 362.2	71.5%	4 703.7	83.8%	227.0	64.2%
PT	1 745.2	87.6%	1 785.9	81.9%	4 790.1	85.7%	259.8	76.7%
RO	1 493.1	91.4%	2 039.6	88.0%	991.5	49.0%	625.1	92.2%
SE	680.4	66.7%	309.5	88.0%	382.1	76.8%		
SI	340.7	114.3%	197.0	68.8%	266.1	93.6%	78.6	104.4%
SK	1 581.4	80.9%	563.7	101.3%	419.1	67.8%	287.8	124.0%
UK	2 752.4	91.1%	2 143.7	86.2%	3 437.5	82.8%	49.6	0.0%
EU	39 752.1	83.1%	33 323.9	82.7%	37 835.1	91.5%	4 474.1	82.4%
Region	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection	Allocated	% project selection
Less	19 823.1	80.8%	14 125.4	79.8%	19 073.5	85.6%	3 605.7	83.0%
More	14 568.7	88.0%	14 352.2	83.8%	13 428.0	94.9%	724.3	81.8%
Trans	5 360.3	77.9%	4 846.4	87.8%	5 333.5	103.7%	144.2	70.4%

All values refer to the total amount (EU + national share)

Allocation to Thematic Objective based on Intervention field selected in the Operational Programme

Table excludes all YEI allocated budgets and project selection rates, as well as ESF budgets dedicated to YEI operations. See chapter 3 for a comparison of project selection rates / allocated budgets for YEI supported operations.

Empty cells mean that no budgets are allocated

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Naturally, the same differences in implementation between Member States (see previous section) are also confirmed here and will not be further discussed. However, in table 4.2 it is worth noting the differences between different thematic objectives. Overall, implementation across different thematic objectives is relatively balanced; while education

investments (TO10) report on average the highest project selection rates, other thematic objectives are at or around 83%. When assessing project selection rates by thematic objective between different types of regions, some differences become more accentuated. Particularly, operations with an education objective (TO10) have been selected more often in more developed and transition regions (94.9% and 103.7 % respectively), while the project selection rate of these types of projects is somewhat trailing in less developed regions (85.6 %). In other thematic objectives the differences are considerably less substantial and decreasing over time.

4.3 Outputs and results reported

4.3.1 Total outputs achieved by the ESF

This section summarises the outputs achieved by ESF projects at EU level and aims to provide a better understanding of the number and type of individuals that were reached by the ESF until the end of 2019.

Table 4.3 Total participations per MS (ESF) Cumulative until 2019

MS	Cumulative until 2014	Cumulative until 2015	Cumulative until 2016	Cumulative until 2017	Cumulative until 2018	Cumulative until 2019
AT	-	21 424	58 429	104 504	151 650	196 447
BE	38 362	185 796	395 150	613 065	825 951	1 047 781
BG	-	17 527	107 229	670 959	1 022 247	1 207 835
CY	1 704	4 349	5 156	6 063	6 711	7 585
CZ	-	14 304	17 244	95 781	300 403	459 790
DE	19 698	396 847	939 012	1 525 369	1 990 547	2 362 900
DK	69	2 574	7 008	16 238	33 085	51 464
EE	-	2 350	38 999	75 486	116 410	151 073
ES	240 135	598 281	1 448 451	2 609 809	3 816 628	4 262 365
FI	-	17 467	67 164	138 365	204 137	266 203
FR	192 323	848 753	1 600 193	2 460 687	3 216 652	3 604 536
GR	64 803	171 059	300 895	484 534	636 359	789 091
HR	-	15 266	32 356	67 630	113 433	140 490
HU	11	10 313	104 227	348 655	695 952	944 626
IE	47 220	77 292	125 072	189 361	277 509	343 785
IT	1 742	176 580	1 115 239	2 314 465	4 726 077	7 179 558
LT	9 480	36 291	173 746	220 711	432 376	637 737
LU	-	609	3 358	8 590	13 883	18 293
LV	-	14 740	38 013	92 494	180 378	248 538
MT	-	485	4 596	8 883	16 650	25 378
NL	44 411	158 816	266 098	490 102	546 937	590 861
PL	5 065	95 809	413 153	1 443 330	3 022 863	4 145 473
PT	340 653	583 763	828 486	1 156 605	1 568 362	1 757 850
RO	-	-	255	328	382 216	647 010
SE	-	2 062	27 554	75 202	136 274	189 796
SI	-	2	14 621	56 728	122 810	178 968
SK	-	5 062	73 124	216 675	369 130	603 418
UK	16 527	129 983	374 149	786 737	1 122 703	1 354 982
EU28	1 022 203	3 587 804	8 578 977	16 277 356	26 048 333	33 413 833
Type of region	Cumulative until 2014	Cumulative until 2015	Cumulative until 2016	Cumulative until 2017	Cumulative until 2018	Cumulative until 2019
Less developed	392 618	907 229	2 199 603	5 138 338	10 108 137	14 173 523
More developed	440 555	1 856 071	4 589 346	8 030 825	11 504 405	14 003 596
Transition	189 030	824 504	1 790 028	3 108 193	4 435 791	5 236 714

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Table 4.3 above shows the total number of ESF participations broken down by different types of region and shows that the ESF has reached over 33.4 million participations¹². While in the years before 2019, some Member States did not yet report participation outputs, currently all do so. Some Member States report considerable increases in participations in the past years, such as Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and with particular mention of Romania, which moved from almost no reported participations in 2017 to its current 647 010 participations. Similar values are reported for less developed and more developed regions (14.1 million and 14.0 million respectively, followed by a smaller number in transition regions (5.2 million). The table below presents the distribution of the common output indicators for the ESF across the three different types of regions.

Table 4.4 Totals common outputs for participations by type region (ESF only), cumulative until 2019, by indicator

Description Common Output indicator	Less developed Total	Less developed %	More developed Total	More developed %	Transition Total	Transition %	Total ESF
Employment status							
CO01 Unemployed	3 557 996	29%	6 463 061	53%	2 170 872	18%	12 191 929
CO02 of which Long-term unemployed	1 217 795	27%	2 530 819	55%	822 650	18%	4 571 264
CO03 Inactive	6 907 823	52%	4 380 029	33%	2 014 798	15%	13 302 650
CO04 of which not in education or training	596 234	26%	1 186 984	52%	479 222	21%	2 262 440
CO05 Employed, including self-employed	3 707 704	47%	3 160 506	40%	1 051 044	13%	7 919 254
Total CO1+CO3+CO5	14 173 523	42%	14 003 596	42%	5 236 714	16%	33 413 833
Age							
CO06 Below 25 years of age	6 713 638	47%	5 199 507	37%	2 288 659	16%	14 201 804
CO06a Between 25-54 years of age	5 979 051	37%	7 570 512	47%	2 649 216	16%	16 198 779
CO07 Above 54 years of age	1 474 393	49%	1 233 577	41%	298 839	10%	3 006 809
CO08 Above 54 years of age who are unemployed, or inactive	560 256	36%	803 877	51%	200 582	13%	1 564 715
Education							
CO09 With primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1/2)	6 623 454	39%	7 049 353	42%	3 112 581	19%	16 785 388
CO10 With upper secondary or post-secondary Education (ISCED 3/4)	4 058 577	44%	4 018 797	44%	1 159 835	13%	9 237 209
CO11 With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	2 471 976	47%	2 205 501	42%	627 270	12%	5 304 747
CO11a Other / unknown ISCED	1 018 504	49%	729 945	35%	337 028	16%	2 085 477
Other background characteristics							
CO15 Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities	906 700	17%	3 591 832	69%	711 888	14%	5 210 420
CO16 Participants with disabilities	699 304	29%	1 244 523	52%	434 309	18%	2 378 136
CO17 Other disadvantaged	2 157 752	35%	2 829 713	46%	1 112 440	18%	6 099 905
CO18 Homeless or affected by housing exclusion	65 554	16%	260 724	64%	80 117	20%	406 395
CO19 From rural areas	4 120 907	59%	1 822 572	26%	1 001 432	14%	6 944 911
<i>% of participants calculated on the basis of the sum of Unemployed (CO1), Inactive (CO3), and Employed (CO5), these 3 categories (presented in bold in the table) add up to 100 %</i>							

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Types of projects supported

¹² The monitoring data does not allow differentiating between unique participants and individuals who participated in the ESF multiple times. Throughout this report, the number of participations is reported, thus possibly including the same participant multiple times.

The common output indicators also measure the number of projects and entities supported, and show, in addition to the participations, a total of 82 962 projects by social partners or non-governmental organisations, while 40 105 projects were supported that are dedicated to the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment. Another 51 733 projects targeted public administration / public services. The ESF supported a total of 733 100 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the first five years of the programme.

The number of projects implemented fully or partially by social partners or NGOs is relatively concentrated among a small number of Member States; almost half of such projects are reported by Italy. Germany, Spain and Poland are responsible for most projects dedicated to the sustainable participation and progress of women in the labour market. Almost two-thirds of the projects targeting public administrations are found in Italy (61.0 %). Finally, the number of SMEs supported is mainly reported by France and Germany.

Table 4.5 Total number of projects / SMEs at EU level over 2014-2019 (entire ESF programme)

	Sum of 2014-2016 total	Sum of 2017 total	Sum of 2018 total	Sum of 2019 total	Sum of Cumulative value
Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or NGOs	12 021	21 256	36 143	13 542	82 962
Number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment;	9 958	11 708	11 944	6 495	40 105
Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	5 177	11 239	12 665	22 652	51 733
Number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative /social enterprises)	363 460	142 557	133 480	93 603	733 100

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4.3.2 Total outputs for individuals ESF + YEI

This section combines the participations reported under the ESF and the YEI to get a full sense of the coverage of the two funds combined together. As reported in table 4.6 below, 37.9 million participations were reached by ESF / YEI, with sufficient information on background characteristics (such as employment status) for 36.4 million¹³. As the table shows, significant discrepancies in total values are mostly due to the lack of background characteristics of participations in Hungary (64 %); for other Member States, the difference is considerably smaller. In earlier years some differences between the two totals were sometimes fixed by managing authorities as reporting progressed; additional time enabled the managing authorities to obtain the missing information necessary for the monitoring system. It is important that eligible participants are allowed to participate in ESF / YEI interventions, even if they do not want to share sensitive personal information. At the same time, managing authorities and the EC have a responsibility to try to obtain as much of the background variables as possible to allow counting a participation in the monitoring system. DG EMPL's audit methodology uses 10% as a benchmark for under-reporting, above which an in-depth analysis about its causes, as well as additional efforts by managing authorities to reduce it, are necessary. This 10% guideline is breached by Austria, Greece, Hungary and Ireland.

¹³ Note that figures for "Grand total" reported in the AIRs are insufficiently detailed for analysis (they do not differentiate between ESF / YEI or between different regions). Therefore, the synthesis report conducts all analyses on the basis of the total of 36.4 million participations, except figure 4.3, which compares against 2007-2013.

Table 4.6 Absolute outputs (number of individuals) ESF + YEI

	ESF	YEI	ESF+YEI	Grand total reported	% Grand Total
AT	196 447	-	196 447	221 209	89%
BE	1 047 781	162 855	1 210 636	1 221 630	99%
BG	1 207 835	63 282	1 271 117	1 271 684	100%
CY	7 585	5 652	13 237	13 237	100%
CZ	459 790	5 481	465 271	465 274	100%
DE	2 362 900	-	2 362 900	2 370 202	100%
DK	51 464	-	51 464	53 364	96%
EE	151 073	-	151 073	154 323	98%
ES	4 262 365	857 747	5 120 112	5 382 933	95%
FI	266 203	-	266 203	274 379	97%
FR	3 604 536	572 073	4 176 609	4 204 451	99%
GR	789 091	67 744	856 835	962 346	89%
HR	140 490	30 670	171 160	171 766	100%
HU	944 626	40 089	984 715	1 526 920	64%
IE	343 785	13 343	357 128	403 345	89%
IT	7 179 558	545 529	7 725 087	7 725 710	100%
LT	637 737	61 826	699 563	699 563	100%
LU	18 293	-	18 293	18 293	100%
LV	248 538	29 035	277 573	286 608	97%
MT	25 378	-	25 378	25 378	100%
NL	590 861	-	590 861	590 917	100%
PL	4 145 473	277 465	4 422 938	4 672 812	95%
PT	1 757 850	65 705	1 823 555	1 823 555	100%
RO	647 010	2 138	649 148	649 435	100%
SE	189 796	30 658	220 454	231 581	95%
SI	178 968	2 950	181 918	188 897	96%
SK	603 418	109 210	712 628	712 628	100%
UK	1 354 982	90 927	1 445 909	1 533 889	94%
EU28	33 413 833	3 034 379	36 448 212	37 856 329	96%

Discrepancies in totals reported by Member States (last column) and totals in first 3 columns arise when Member States do not collect all non-sensitive background characteristics or when participants refuse to report on some of these characteristics

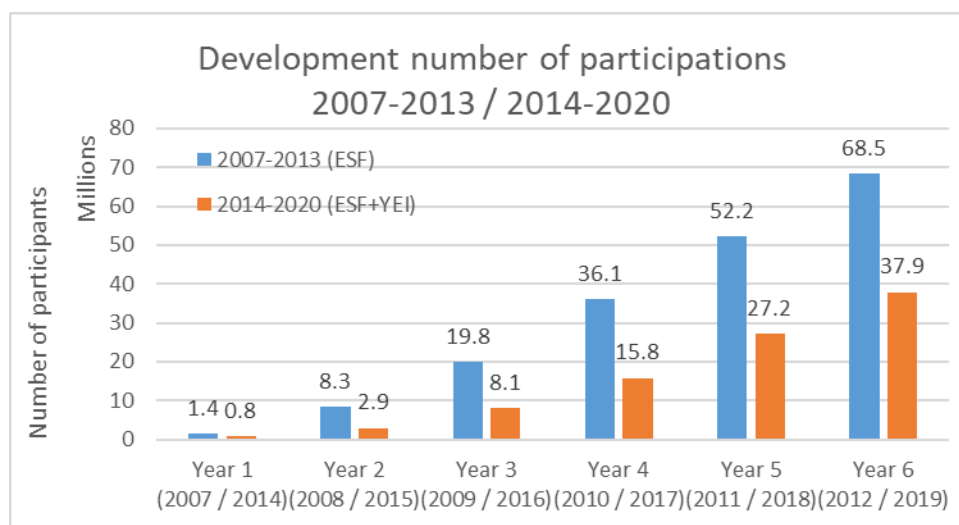
Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Total participations compared to the previous programming period 2007-2013

Figure 4.3 presents an overview of all participations in comparison to progress in participation levels of the ESF 2007-2013 programming period. In total, 37.9 million participations are registered in ESF/YEI operations.¹⁴ While the figure shows a steady improvement of participation figures since the third year of implementation, participation figures for 2014-2020 continue to be significantly lower than 2007-2013 at the same point in time (88.5 million participations recorded). Even though such comparisons can be informative, comparing the number of participations with that of the 2007-2013 period should be done with caution, since the current ESF Regulation (Annex I) adopts a stricter definition of 'participation', while in 2007-2013 considerable numbers of indirect participations are also included. It is therefore unlikely that 2014-2020 will reach similar numbers of participants at the end of the programming period. Despite this caveat, it is worth pointing out that also the financial expenditure rates continue to be lower in comparison (see 4.2 above). Taking these two elements together, it can be concluded that further and sustained efforts are still needed in order to boost implementation on the ground.

¹⁴ This total figure is based on SFC output on the 'grand total of participations'. This aggregation is slightly higher (37.9 million) than the figures reported elsewhere in this report (36.4 million). Other figures in this report calculate the total based on summing the common output indicators unemployed (CO01), employed (CO05) and inactive (CO03), since these are mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories. However, Member States are not always able to collect all background characteristics; as a result, these values tend to be slightly lower.

Figure 4.2 Cumulative number of participations over the current programming period (ESF+YEI) versus 2007-2013 (first 6 years, ESF)



Source: SFC 2007 and SFC2014, based on AIR 2019 (Grand total of participations)

Characteristics of participants

Table 4.7 provides information on the total number and relative share of participations per type of common indicator, showing that the largest group of participants consists of the unemployed (40 % of total participations in ESF + YEI). The largest age group is 25-54-year-old (47 %), closely followed by persons below 25 years old (45 %). This underlines how the YEI has had a substantial effect on the programming of employment interventions for young people. In terms of education level, most participants have ISCED level 1 or 2 (49 %), followed by ISCED level 3 or 4 (29 %). The table points to a reporting inconsistency for the YEI, which shows 584 348 inactive participations, of which 577 897 not in education or training. This is inconsistent, as the YEI cannot be used for young people in education. The main difference is caused by French-speaking Belgium (a difference of 3 435 participations), Ireland (difference of 1 002 participations) and to a lesser extent by the United Kingdom, Sweden and Romania (where the difference is less than a thousand participations). No explanations for these consistencies were reported in AIR.

Table 4.7 Total common outputs for participations per Member State (ESF / YEI / ESF + YEI), cumulative until 2019 by indicator

Description Common Output indicator	Total ESF		Total YEI		Total (ESF + YEI)	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total participations reported (CO1+CO3+CO5)	33 413 833		3 034 379		36 448 212	
Employment status						
CO01 Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	12 191 929	36%	2 450 031	81%	14 641 960	40%
CO02 of which Long-term unemployed	4 571 264	14%	721 738	24%	5 293 002	15%
CO03 Inactive	13 302 650	40%	584 348	19%	13 886 998	38%
CO04 of which not in education or training	2 262 440	7%	577 897	19%	2 840 337	8%
CO05 Employed, including self-employed	7 919 254	24%	-	0%	7 919 254	22%
Age						
CO06 Below 25 years of age	14 201 804	43%	2 177 010	72%	16 378 814	45%
CO06a Between 25-54 years of age	16 198 779	48%	857 369	28%	17 056 148	47%
CO07 Above 54 years of age	3 006 809	9%	-	0%	3 006 809	8%
CO08 Above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including Long-term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	1 564 715	5%	-	0%	1 564 715	4%

Description Common Output indicator	Total ESF		Total YEI		Total (ESF + YEI)	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Education						
CO09 With primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	16 785 388	50%	1 025 604	34%	17 810 992	49%
CO10 With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary Education (ISCED 4)	9 237 209	28%	1 288 824	42%	10 526 033	29%
CO11 With tertiary education (ISCED 5-8)	5 304 747	16%	590 229	19%	5 894 976	16%
*Other / unknown ISCED level	2 085 477	6%	129 722	4%	2 215 199	6%
Other background characteristics						
CO15 Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities	5 210 420	16%	364 329	12%	5 574 749	15%
CO16 Participants with disabilities	2 378 136	7%	140 507	5%	2 518 643	7%
CO17 Other disadvantaged	6 099 905	18%	386 569	13%	6 486 474	18%
CO18 Homeless or affected by housing exclusion	406 395	1%	29 152	1%	435 547	1%
CO19 From rural areas	6 944 911	21%	525 689	17%	7 470 600	20%
<i>% of participants calculated on the basis of the sum of Unemployed (CO1), Inactive (CO3), and Employed (CO5), These 3 categories (presented bold in the table) add up to 100 %</i>						

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Number of participations by thematic objective and investment priority

This section assesses the reported participations at the level of individual investment priorities and shows considerable differences in participation figures between these. Most participations were recorded under the heading of active inclusion (IP 9i: 6.7 million), followed by early school leaving (IP 10i: 6.5 million) and access to employment (IP 8i: 5.5 million). This suggests that the participations are relatively well distributed across the various objectives, with lower numbers of participation in the remaining investment priorities.

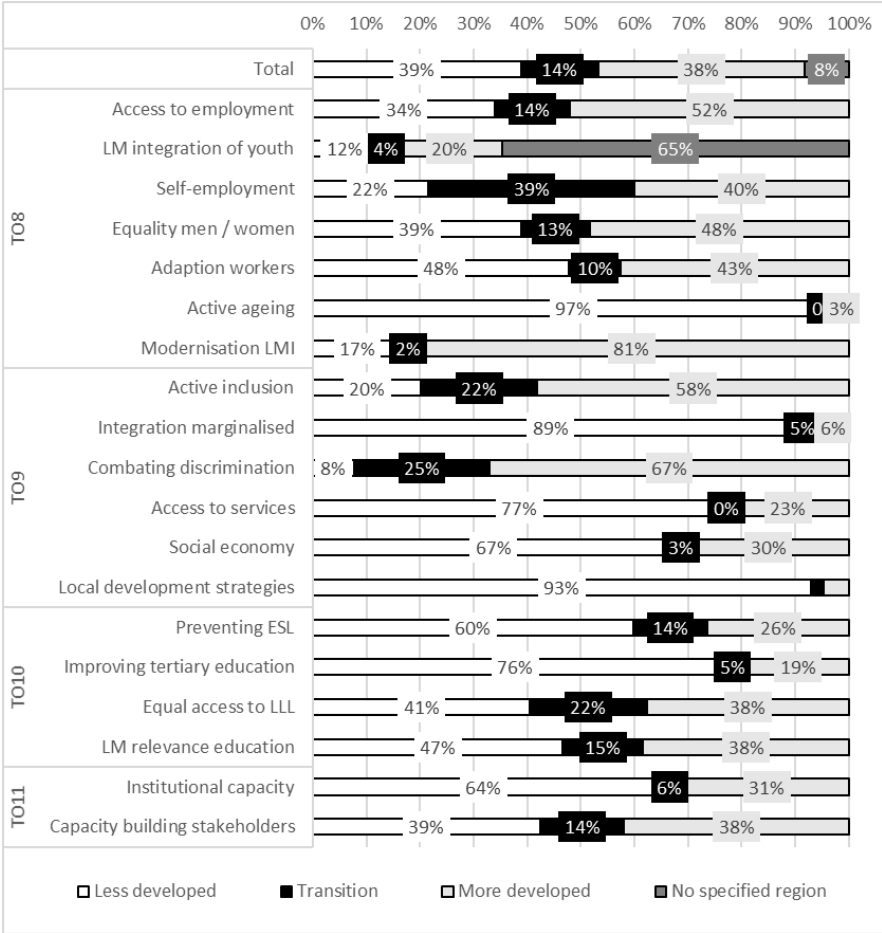
Table 4.8 Total number of participations per investment priority across MS until 2019 (sum of COO1, COO3, and COO5, ESF + YEI)

MS	Access to employment	Youth employment	Entrepreneurship	Gender equality	Adaptation to change	Active Ageing	Labour market Institutions	Active inclusion	Integration marginalised	Combating discrimination	Access to social services	Social economy	Local development	Early school leaving	Access to HE	Access to LLL	LM relevance education	Institutional capacity	Capacity building	Total	%	
	8i	8ii	8iii	8iv	8v	8vi	8vii	9i	9ii	9iii	9iv	9v	9vi	10i	10ii	10iii	10iv	11i	11ii			
AT	1 918	-	-	1 458	-	-	-	82 154	-	-	-	-	-	90 305	-	20 612	-	-	-	-	196 447	1%
BE	216 924	311 956	5 111	-	4 928	-	-	301 040	600	-	-	142	-	9 365	-	360 570	-	-	-	-	1 210 636	3%
BG	40 382	75 786	4 895	-	82 666	-	1 244	19 591	79 975	-	108 048	5 020	-	451 498	23 849	274 005	54 428	49 730	-	-	1 271 117	3%
CY	2 993	7 314	-	-	-	-	-	1 401	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 263	266	-	-	-	13 237	0%
CZ	172 041	5 481	-	55 814	83 270	-	2 105	38 199	3 807	398	17 077	-	17 509	54 804	5 085	-	-	-	9 681	-	465 271	1%
DE	19 531	111 381	51 367	48 098	422 989	-	-	605 338	-	446	-	-	-	420 815	9 613	195 067	478 255	-	-	-	2 362 900	6%
DK	-	-	19 352	-	9 089	-	-	4 331	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 854	13 838	-	-	-	51 464	0%
EE	67 287	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 148	-	-	18 029	-	-	10 224	-	44 465	-	1 920	-	-	151 073	0%
ES	846 339	864 996	391 467	152 421	69 109	-	60	824 726	26 736	203 240	46 615	25 602	-	764 485	9 686	490 245	404 385	-	-	-	5 120 112	14%
FI	71 594	-	-	3 145	39 769	-	-	40 598	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111 097	-	-	-	-	266 203	1%
FR	418 762	616 837	209 182	-	260 789	76	8 638	2 079 117	4 093	5 384	973	1 373	-	102 150	2 317	452 282	14 636	-	-	-	4 176 609	11%
GR	118 454	67 744	9 934	199 680	6 057	-	1 036	183 781	-	4 473	-	-	-	50 187	12 310	18 567	92 509	92 103	-	-	856 835	2%
HR	10 729	42 239	-	-	-	-	9 024	30 422	-	-	6 017	906	-	-	21 578	30 608	3 125	3 401	13 111	-	171 160	0%
HU	218 371	135 260	-	-	3 133	-	-	69 542	51 027	-	50 348	164	130	83 425	13 154	289 563	856	69 742	-	-	984 715	3%
IE	27 414	13 343	-	-	-	-	-	71 743	-	4 452	-	-	-	-	50 575	189 601	-	-	-	-	357 128	1%
IT	1 727 073	1 244 043	122	42 826	152 243	2 622	74 990	894 484	25 548	-	183 488	12 916	4 269	2 702 579	110 545	54 394	396 980	82 261	13 704	-	7 725 087	21%
LT	94 470	63 225	-	-	-	-	-	12 833	-	-	176 673	23 845	10 250	186 012	24 636	61 801	-	45 818	-	-	699 563	2%
LU	2 242	6 604	-	-	-	-	-	2 474	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 973	-	-	-	-	18 293	0%
LV	66 827	29 035	-	-	405	-	-	25 055	-	-	90 735	-	-	14 408	1 175	25 606	14 454	9 873	-	-	277 573	1%
MT	3 415	3 408	-	-	-	-	-	5 724	-	-	1 170	-	-	1 754	930	6 410	-	2 434	133	-	25 378	0%
NL	39 101	-	-	-	-	-	-	551 760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	590 861	2%
PL	409 834	560 848	39 003	32 909	182 137	442 990	3 829	219 184	-	-	307 536	60 276	12 277	1 110 743	198 321	305 506	480 585	56 960	-	-	4 422 938	12%
PT	107 225	65 705	876	410	505 133	-	-	282 196	-	6 341	26 327	55	303	100 305	198 363	244 533	283 309	2 474	-	-	1 823 555	5%
RO	104 794	51 182	85 544	-	41 044	-	-	-	63 320	-	9 990	482	111	135 456	1 303	117 561	15 089	23 272	-	-	649 148	2%
SE	20 942	48 227	-	-	-	-	-	17 411	-	-	-	-	351	-	-	133 523	-	-	-	-	220 454	1%
SI	26 171	17 336	-	-	-	9 466	-	7 403	-	-	-	502	-	-	-	93 775	19 022	8 142	101	-	181 918	0%
SK	258 458	109 210	-	14 472	-	-	950	12 922	96 725	-	20 536	-	-	168 848	2 875	16 105	8 605	2 922	-	-	712 628	2%
UK	419 510	240 221	-	3 203	-	-	-	357 407	-	-	-	-	2 957	30 215	-	333 051	59 345	-	-	-	1 445 909	4%
Total	5 512 801	4 691 381	816 853	554 436	1 862 761	455 154	101 876	6 749 984	351 831	224 734	1 063 562	131 283	48 157	6 487 578	686 315	3 882 037	2 339 687	460 733	27 049	-	36 448 212	
%	15%	13%	2%	2%	5%	1%	0%	19%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	18%	2%	11%	6%	1%	0%			

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

There are relevant differences between the share of participations in each type of regions, compared across different investment priorities. In the education-related investments and some specific social inclusion investments (IP 9ii – integration of marginalised groups, 9iv – access to services, 9v – social economy, and IP 9vi – local development strategies), less developed regions report considerably higher shares of participation than what their average would lead to expect, mainly because these operations are set up to be considerably larger in these regions than in more developed regions. At the same time, two social inclusion investment priorities (IP 9i – active inclusion, 9iii – combating discrimination) see lower-than-average participation in less developed regions (20 %, and 8 % respectively, against an average overall share of 39% of participations in less developed regions).

Figure 4.3 Relative share of participations per investment priority and category of region (cumulative until 2019)



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4.3.3 Total results of ESF

This section reports the total aggregation of the common result indicators for the ESF. Table 4.9 shows the immediate results of participants upon leaving an ESF-supported operation for each MS and at EU level. The table shows the total absolute numbers of results achieved for each of the types of common result indicators. Moreover, it presents the number of disadvantaged participants that reached any positive results, and the share of disadvantaged participants with positive results compared to the total number of participants with positive results. In total 3.7 million participants found employment, 5.2 million participants gained a qualification, 0.7 million participants became engaged in job searching, and 1.7 million persons entered education. Of these results, a total of more than 3.7 million were achieved by persons with a disadvantage (roughly 33 % of the total results).

Table 4.9 Overview of the immediate result indicators, by MS and region until 2019 (ESF only)

MS	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					Disadvantaged	
	Actively Job searching	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
AT	5 528	10 366	29 868	11 178	56 940	41 094	72%
BE	6 518	93 056	100 879	158 672	359 125	110 724	31%
BG	8 057	431 239	96 407	15 264	550 967	110 913	20%
CY	-	196	1 006	3 209	4 411	300	7%
CZ	57	7 702	126 636	121 140	255 535	56 599	22%
DE	39 974	205 499	962 890	170 632	1 378 995	353 660	26%
DK	125	697	4 049	1 426	6 297	2 214	35%
EE	241	11 634	37 591	12 165	61 631	24 220	39%
ES	154 995	220 503	1 457 811	563 060	2 396 369	640 418	27%
FI	1 545	6 349	5 230	12 600	25 724	13 296	52%
FR	309 567	216 549	364 610	700 531	1 591 257	977 588	61%
GR	24 651	21 999	192 889	35 986	275 525	44 547	16%
HR	566	648	2 218	13 797	17 229	2 454	14%
HU	3 981	19 701	274 943	177 742	476 367	58 741	12%
IE	4 135	69 337	98 389	17 995	189 856	58 788	31%
IT	66 068	91 272	277 980	661 735	1 097 055	247 381	23%
LT	636	7 175	109 858	52 919	170 588	12 821	8%
LU	170	-	-	1 177	1 347	86	6%
LV	531	10 786	22 175	9 858	43 350	9 268	21%
MT	327	848	5 227	1 732	8 134	1 781	22%
NL	8 303	6 830	12 553	74 470	102 156	86 230	84%
PL	42 635	25 522	482 197	490 182	1 040 536	462 395	44%
PT	36 282	80 245	132 558	165 755	414 840	21 148	5%
RO	3 811	5 095	18 422	20 538	47 866	7 116	15%
SE	1 351	7 521	6 078	10 511	25 461	17 982	71%
SI	95	1 765	24 081	10 039	35 980	2 285	6%
SK	542	1 534	4 093	28 650	34 819	3 092	9%
UK	24 418	102 489	371 838	139 567	638 312	330 162	52%
EU28	745 109	1 656 557	5 222 476	3 682 530	11 306 672	3 697 303	33%

Region	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					Disadvantaged	
	Actively Job searching	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
Less dev	145 347	688 578	1 587 779	1 226 310	3 648 014	812 470	22%
More dev	417 928	692 033	2 195 356	1 796 381	5 101 698	2 105 561	41%
Transition	181 834	275 946	1 439 341	659 839	2 556 960	779 272	30%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

There are some interesting differences between Member States in the share of disadvantaged participants who achieved results. For some, these are only marginal shares of the total results (Cyprus – 7%, Lithuania – 8%, Luxembourg – 6%, Portugal – 5%, Slovenia – 6%, and Slovakia 9%), while in others these represent the largest part of the results achieved (Austria – 72%, France – 61%, the Netherlands – 84%, Sweden – 71%). These differences also persist at the regional level, with 22% of all results focused on disadvantaged participants in less developed regions, against 41% of the results in more developed regions.

Member States have to report on progress of longer-term results (those achieved 6 months after concluding an intervention) only in 2019 (AIR2018) and at the end of the programming period. This means that for the AIR2019 reporting of these results is not mandatory for Member States, which means this year's figures may not fully reflect the actual situation on the ground. So far, a total of 4.2 million participants are reported to have entered employment six months after leaving an ESF-supported operation, while 0.9 million participants that were already employed were able to improve their labour market situation. A total of 0.3 million participants above 54 years old entered employment six months after leaving an ESF-

supported operation, while 1.6 million disadvantaged persons entered in employment 6 months after leaving an ESF-supported operation.

Table 4.10 Overview of longer-term result indicators, by Member State until 2019 (ESF only)

MS	Longer-term result indicators (6 months after intervention)						
	All results			Above 54 years of age		Disadvantaged	
	Entered employment	Better LM position	Total	Entered employment	% of all employed	Entered employment	% of all employed
AT	29 067	3 044	32 111	2 872	10%	25 451	88%
BE	291 916	17 952	309 868	1 768	1%	64 746	22%
BG	21 310	109 269	130 579	3 688	17%	3 996	19%
CY	2 278	317	2 595	187	8%	143	6%
CZ	94 536	17 213	111 749	12 031	13%	28 340	30%
DE	97 122	103 039	200 161	3 872	4%	41 682	43%
DK	1 021	1 542	2 563	102	10%	464	45%
EE	13 900	2 224	16 124	2 818	20%	8 514	61%
ES	325 068	36 754	361 822	24 200	7%	131 178	40%
FI	24 751	19 493	44 244	1 935	8%	11 612	47%
FR	1 205 900	167 056	1 372 956	50 039	4%	647 857	54%
GR	78 283	36 005	114 288	3 382	4%	13 047	17%
HR	18 820	1 159	19 979	1 826	10%	3 097	16%
HU	81 920	45 443	127 363	7 353	9%	16 011	20%
IE	10 661	2 320	12 981	1 214	11%	5 767	54%
IT	1 070 582	39 238	1 109 820	86 949	8%	337 421	32%
LT	33 931	11 426	45 357	8 674	26%	4 376	13%
LU	2 028	-	2 028	55	3%	419	21%
LV	25 224	12 649	37 873	4 384	17%	11 283	45%
MT	1 822	2 007	3 829	132	7%	957	53%
NL	83 913	44 171	128 084	3 538	4%	76 425	91%
PL	449 235	56 817	506 052	20 455	5%	122 719	27%
PT	118 647	44 295	162 942	3 900	3%	3 908	3%
RO	25	3	28	-	0%	9	36%
SE	10 533	29 853	40 386	663	6%	9 626	91%
SI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SK	43	237	280	9	21%	10	23%
UK	138 387	70 786	209 173	10 822	8%	76 489	55%
EU28	4 230 923	874 312	5 105 235	256 868	6%	1 645 547	39%

MS	Longer-term result indicators (6 months after intervention)						
	All results			Above 54 years of age		Disadvantaged	
	Entered employment	Better LM position	Total	Entered employment	% of all employed	Entered employment	% of all employed
Less dev	993 678	330 955	1 324 633	70 823	7%	196 020	20%
More dev	2 486 205	402 687	2 888 892	151 797	6%	1 137 254	46%
Transition	751 040	140 670	891 710	34 248	5%	312 273	42%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Most results reported by Member States were recorded for TO10, mainly due to the high number of people that gained a qualification upon leaving (3.2 million). ESF support through access to employment (TO8) most often resulted in entering the labour market (2.4 million participants), which reinforces its primary objective. ESF support with attention for social inclusion (TO9) also reports most results for individuals finding a job (1.0 million). The lower aggregated achievements shown for investment in institutional capacity (TO11) must be interpreted in light of the considerably lower financial allocations with respect to the other objectives. Moreover, operations under this objective are often focused on entities and public administration organisations and the results are not best captured by counts of individuals. Instead, these interventions more often lead to positive results in entities, as well as actions such as development of new tools, change management, studies, awareness raising activities, and partnerships.

Table 4.11 Total aggregated results reported by the AIRs per type of common result indicator, by Thematic Objective

Common result indicator (immediate)	TO8	TO9	TO10	TO11
CR01 - Inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	118 066	415 333	211 638	72
CR02 - Participants in education/training upon leaving	319 387	379 876	942 522	14 772
CR03 - Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	1 289 873	556 374	3 207 476	168 753
CR04 - Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	2 425 900	955 726	299 568	1 336
Total (CR1-4)	4 153 226	2 307 309	4 661 204	184 933
CR05 - Disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	1 193 374	1 661 214	838 176	4 539
Common result indicator (longer-term)	TO8	TO9	TO10	TO11
CR06 - Participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving	2 438 784	1 282 479	509 056	604
CR07 - Participants with an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving	342 825	182 598	297 075	51 814
Total (CR6-7)	2 781 609	1 465 077	806 131	52 418
CR08 - Participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving	179 768	65 649	11 422	29
CR09 - Disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving	717 082	815 217	113 112	136

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4.3.4 Total results of ESF + YEI

This section combines the results reported for the ESF (section 4.3.3), with the results reported for the YEI (section 3.3), to show total aggregations of results. Table 4.12 below shows that the highest number of immediate results are reported in Spain, France, Germany, Poland and Italy.

Table 4.12 Overview of common result indicators, by Member States (ESF + YEI)

MS	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					All results	
	Active in Jobsearch	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
AT	5 528	10 366	29 868	11 178	56 940	41 094	72%
BE	8 399	109 364	108 030	165 705	391 498	116 011	30%
BG	10 955	431 912	110 286	29 045	582 198	116 620	20%
CY	-	270	1 670	4 582	6 522	451	7%
CZ	57	7 871	128 780	123 243	259 951	57 635	22%
DE	39 974	205 499	962 890	170 632	1 378 995	353 660	26%
DK	125	697	4 049	1 426	6 297	2 214	35%
EE	241	11 634	37 591	12 165	61 631	24 220	39%
ES	182 015	258 763	1 615 772	866 581	2 923 131	745 779	26%
FI	1 545	6 349	5 230	12 600	25 724	13 296	52%
FR	344 193	278 660	396 103	845 260	1 864 216	1 074 945	58%
GR	24 651	23 248	207 678	43 081	298 658	50 684	17%
HR	566	835	3 279	28 247	32 927	2 701	8%
HU	3 981	19 701	274 943	177 742	476 367	58 741	12%
IE	4 507	73 238	101 925	19 988	199 658	61 584	31%
IT	66 068	91 272	277 980	661 735	1 097 055	247 381	23%
LT	4 251	16 083	119 586	74 324	214 244	13 409	6%
LU	170	-	-	1 177	1 347	86	6%
LV	622	11 148	29 769	16 794	58 333	12 851	22%
MT	327	848	5 227	1 732	8 134	1 781	22%

MS	Result immediately after intervention						
	All results					All results	
	Active in Jobsearch	Entered education	Received qualification	Entered employment	Total	Any result	% of all results
NL	8 303	6 830	12 553	74 470	102 156	86 230	84%
PL	45 546	29 089	515 766	687 400	1 277 801	574 612	45%
PT	36 339	81 092	132 558	202 542	452 531	21 607	5%
RO	3 894	5 901	19 515	20 834	50 144	8 016	16%
SE	1 927	12 619	7 900	23 632	46 078	27 110	59%
SI	95	1 765	24 081	10 039	35 980	2 285	6%
SK	552	1 657	4 099	60 084	66 392	22 722	34%
UK	25 469	113 530	377 070	156 105	672 174	348 094	52%
EU28	820 300	1 810 241	5 514 198	4 502 343	12 647 082	4 085 819	32%

Not reported by region, because YEI indicators are not labelled to one type of region

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The same caveat for longer-term results applies here; Member States may not have updated these figures, as this will be only mandatory for the final implementation report due at the end of the programming period (in 2023). Still, when combining ESF and YEI, a reported total of 6.1 million participants were able to find a job within 6 months, and another 0.9 million employed participants were reported with improved positions on the labour market.

Table 4.13 Overview of the common result indicators, by Member States (ESF + YEI)

MS	Longer-term result indicators (6 months after intervention)						
	All results			Above 54 years of age		Disadvantaged	
	Entered employment	Better LM position	Total	Entered employment	% of all employed	Entered employment	% of all employed
AT	29 067	3 044	32 111	2 872	10%	25 451	88%
BE	358 193	17 952	376 145	1 768	0%	73 818	21%
BG	45 323	109 269	154 592	3 688	8%	8 149	18%
CY	3 667	1 310	4 977	187	5%	183	5%
CZ	97 028	17 213	114 241	12 031	12%	28 595	29%
DE	97 122	103 039	200 161	3 872	4%	41 682	43%
DK	1 021	1 542	2 563	102	10%	464	45%
EE	13 900	2 224	16 124	2 818	20%	8 514	61%
ES	488 144	36 754	524 898	24 200	5%	178 743	37%
FI	24 751	19 493	44 244	1 935	8%	11 612	47%
FR	1 385 297	167 301	1 552 598	50 039	4%	733 686	53%
GR	94 707	36 005	130 712	3 382	4%	15 058	16%
HR	41 256	1 159	42 415	1 826	4%	4 562	11%
HU	81 920	45 443	127 363	7 353	9%	16 011	20%
IE	11 157	2 518	13 675	1 217	11%	5 915	53%
IT	1 241 387	39 238	1 280 625	86 949	7%	337 421	27%
LT	43 089	11 426	54 515	8 674	20%	4 376	10%
LU	2 028	-	2 028	55	3%	419	21%
LV	37 755	14 374	52 129	4 384	12%	14 952	40%
MT	1 822	2 007	3 829	132	7%	957	53%
NL	83 913	44 171	128 084	3 538	4%	76 425	91%
PL	642 933	56 817	699 750	20 455	3%	253 834	39%
PT	160 545	44 295	204 840	3 900	2%	4 343	3%
RO	672	3	675	-	0%	69	10%
SE	21 836	29 853	51 689	663	3%	14 224	65%
SI	34	-	34	-	0%	-	0%
SK	28 489	237	28 726	9	0%	35 311	124%
UK	154 027	70 786	224 813	10 822	7%	86 649	56%
EU28	5 191 083	877 473	6 068 556	256 871	5%	1 981 423	38%

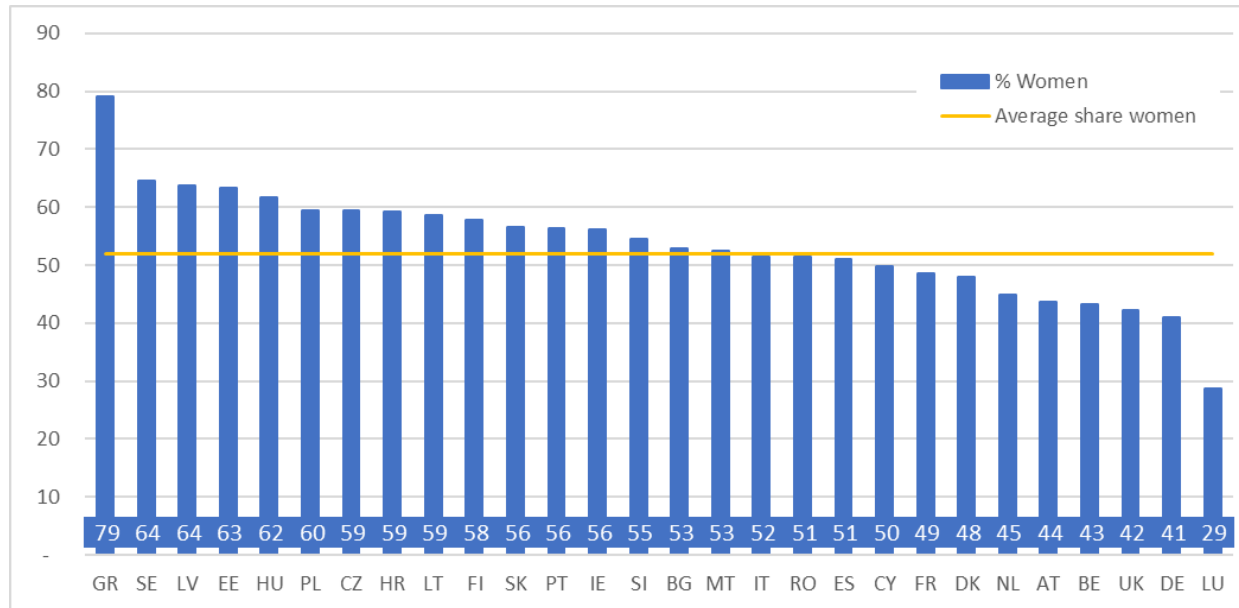
Not reported by region, because YEI indicators are not labelled to one type of region

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4.3.5 Gender equality in outputs and results

The participation of women and men in ESF interventions is relatively equally distributed when aggregated at EU level (52%, marked by the horizontal line in figure 4.5 and 4.6). There are, however, significant differences among Member States. In Greece, 78 % of participations are female, against only 26% in Luxembourg. Luxembourg indicates that its ESF projects are designed in a gender-neutral way, but that some sectors of activity are inherently gender-sensitive, such as sectors including public works and construction, which are particularly targeted by the ESF and are mainly male-dominated sectors.

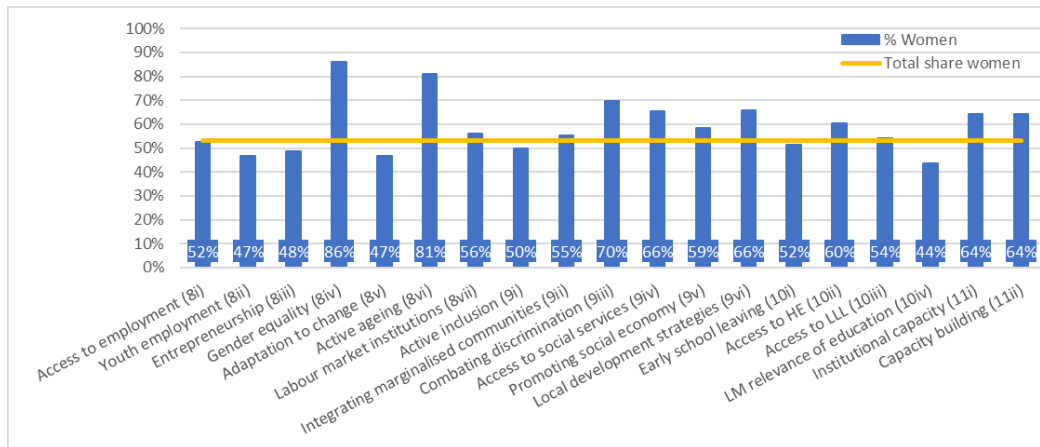
Figure 4.4 Relative share (%) of female participation across Member States (all investment priorities) ESF only



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The distribution of men and women is also not equal across the different investment priorities. As can be expected, investments in gender equality (IP8iv) and combating discrimination (IP9iii) reached an above-average share of women (86% and 70% respectively). Additionally, figure 4.6 also shows high shares of women among recorded participations in investment priorities where this is not immediately obvious, such as among active ageing measures (81%). It is worth noting, however, that this is exclusively due to Poland, where a high number of participations are recorded for active ageing investments that focus on health check-ups (almost 450 thousand). These check-ups were to a large extent focused on women (over 360 thousand participations). In other investment priorities the differences are less pronounced, such as in local development strategies (66%: IP9vi) and investments in institutional capacity (64%: thematic objective 11). There are few investment priorities where women are a minority among the participation records; from this perspective only investments focusing on the labour market relevance of education (IP10iv) stand out, with 44% of female participations. This figure is particularly influenced by the German regional programmes, where the share of women in this investment priority varies from 18%-42% across the different regions.

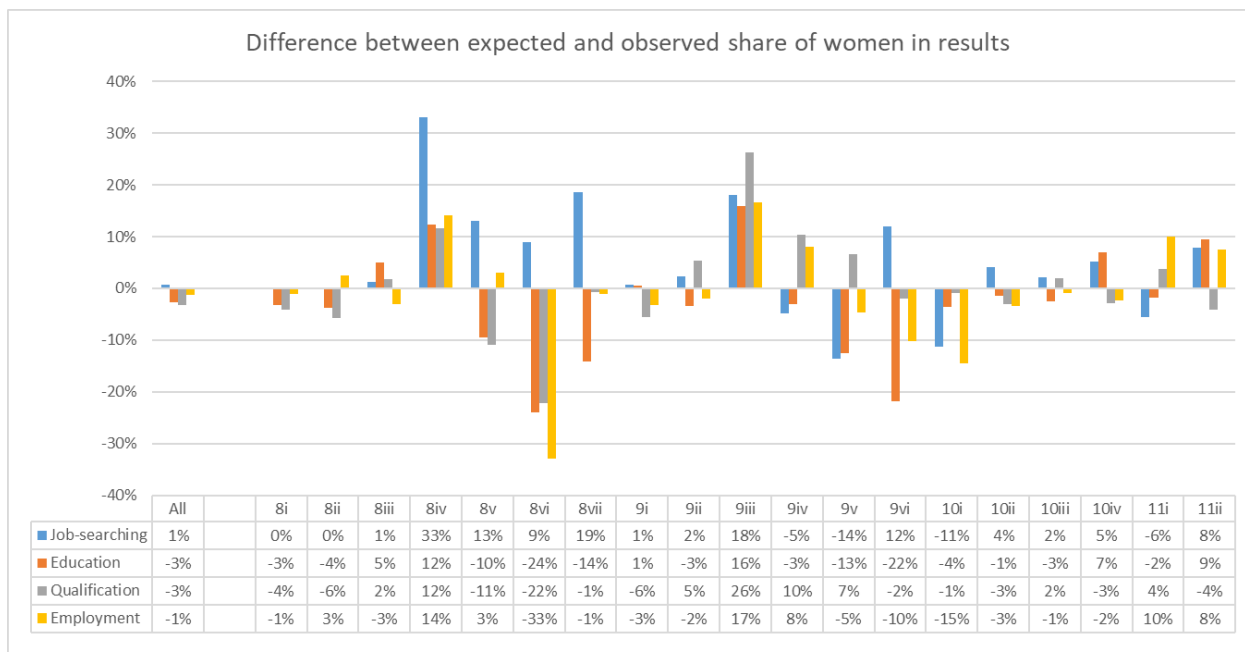
Figure 4.5 Relative share (%) of female participation – by investment priority (ESF only)



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The review also assessed the share of women among the four types of results captured by the common indicators. These were compared against the share of women in the relevant output figures and reported across the different investment priorities, as shown in figure 4.7 below.¹⁵ When comparing across all investment priorities, there is no substantial difference for the number of women that were activated into job searching. Women made up 50% of all participants that entered education or obtained a qualification on average, while women made up 53% of all reported participations (hence -3% in figure 4.7). Against a share of 51% of women that were without a job before interventions, a total of 50% of women found employment after the intervention. These differences are almost negligible, which is an important and reassuring finding. However, these mask more considerable differences across the different investment priorities and Member States which are discussed in more detail here.

Figure 4.6 Difference in percentage points between observed share of women per result and share of women in reference population – by investment priority



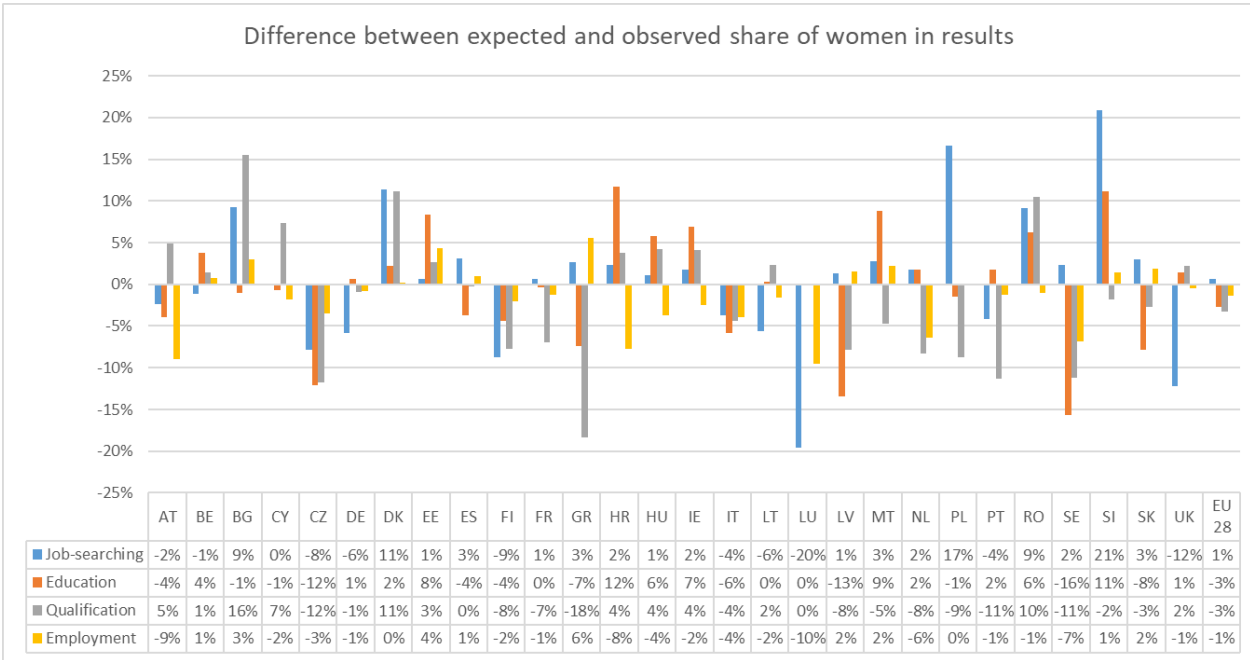
Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

¹⁵ By relevant, we mean the reference population for result indicators as defined in EC Guidance, Annex D - Practical guidance on data collection and validation, which identifies inactive people (CO03) as reference population for the common result of starting job-searching (CR01), all participations (CO01/CO03/CO05) for people entering education (CR02) or obtaining a qualification (CR03) and all unemployed and inactive participations for people (CO1/CO3) entering employment (CR4).

Most importantly, the different types of investment priorities show considerable variation. Women for instance appear highly overrepresented in the results of investments that focus on gender equality (8iv) and combating discrimination (9iii). We have already seen above that women make up substantial majorities of the total participation in these investment priorities (86% and 70% of all participations in these investment priorities), but figure 4.7 shows that its results are even further tilted towards women. In gender equality measures (IP8iv) for instance 99% of the individuals that were activated into job searching were women, while women made up 'only' 66% of the inactive participations reported (hence the reported difference of 33% for this result). The same can be observed for other types of results in these investment priorities. The considerable overrepresentation of men in the results of active ageing measures also calls for attention. While women make up the vast majority of participations of these measures (81%, mainly due to programmes in Poland, see above), the share of women that entered education or obtained a qualification is considerably lower (57% and 59% respectively). Again, the types of measures in Poland highly influence this number; most women were targeted by health check-ups, none of which were focused on changing labour market status or moving towards education / qualification. The possible results achieved among women in these Polish interventions (better diagnostic care, diseases avoided) are not captured by the common result indicators.

The same analysis was also performed for each Member States, as shown in figure 4.8. A number of Member States report considerably lower shares of women with results than what could be expected based on the recorded share of women among participations. In Czechia, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, and Sweden particularly, women represent a considerably smaller share of results than their participation figure would lead to expect. On the other hand of the scale are Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Romania and Slovenia, where women appear particularly over-represented among the results achieved compared to their participation figures. In other Member States, the picture is more diverse, with over-representation of women in one particular type of result while reporting an underrepresentation of women in other types of result. Such a mixed picture by Member States can simply be the result of different types of interventions; a programme may for instance consist of activation measures that focus particularly on women (supporting childcare in combination with career guidance), while training measures are focused particularly on unemployed men (see for instance various regional Operational Programmes in Poland). From that perspective it is re-assuring to find that there is no structural difference in the share of women across different types of results.

Figure 4.7 Difference (in percentage points) between observed share of women per result and share of women in reference population – by Member State



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

4.4 Achievement of targets

4.4.1 Comparing target achievement rates

While the absolute values presented in the previous section offer an overview on the breadth and outreach of the ESF, these do not allow for comparison (e.g. across Member States with different budget allocations or different thematic concentrations and scope of ESF interventions). This section assesses progress of output and result achievements against the final targets set in each programme. This assessment can be done with three different methods, each with their advantages and challenges.

- **Average target achievement:** The average target achievement would take the target achievement values for all indicators within a group and simply take the average. This is intuitive, and in theory can provide a good insight in the achievement rates at MS or EU level. However, due to the nature of target achievement rates (one directional, no upper limit), these are easily distorted by a small number of (extreme) outliers. Such outliers are not uncommon for target achievement rates, which makes it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions about the progress of a group of indicators. In earlier years of programming, these outliers were relatively minor, but as implementation progresses, average target achievements are increasingly distorted by values (far) above 100%, which does not allow representing the overall progress towards targets. This means that this measure is not particularly insightful in the later stages of the programming period.
- **Weighed target achievement averages.** By weighing the target achievement rates by their size, it is possible to reduce the distortion created by the most extreme outliers from the average target achievement. Remaining outliers are in fact meaningful; outliers for indicators with higher numbers (often participations) are more important than outliers for an indicator measuring a small number of participants. However, this assumption only holds true when comparing *similar types of indicators*, such as comparing the weighed target achievements of indicators only measuring individuals, or that of entities separately.
- **Median of target achievement.** The median shows essentially the 'middle' value in a series of data points. It is not distorted by outliers in the same way as the average and shows the target achievement value that half of the indicators have already reached, and the other half still needs to reach. As such, it gives a good measure of the 'typical' target achievement in a given set of indicators. In the specific context of ESF implementation, its use as a measure in the early years is not particularly insightful, as it returns 0 as long as less than half of the indicators report results. However, as the target achievements climb and more indicators report progress, it becomes increasingly relevant to use the median for cross-country comparisons to get a better sense of progress in a programme.

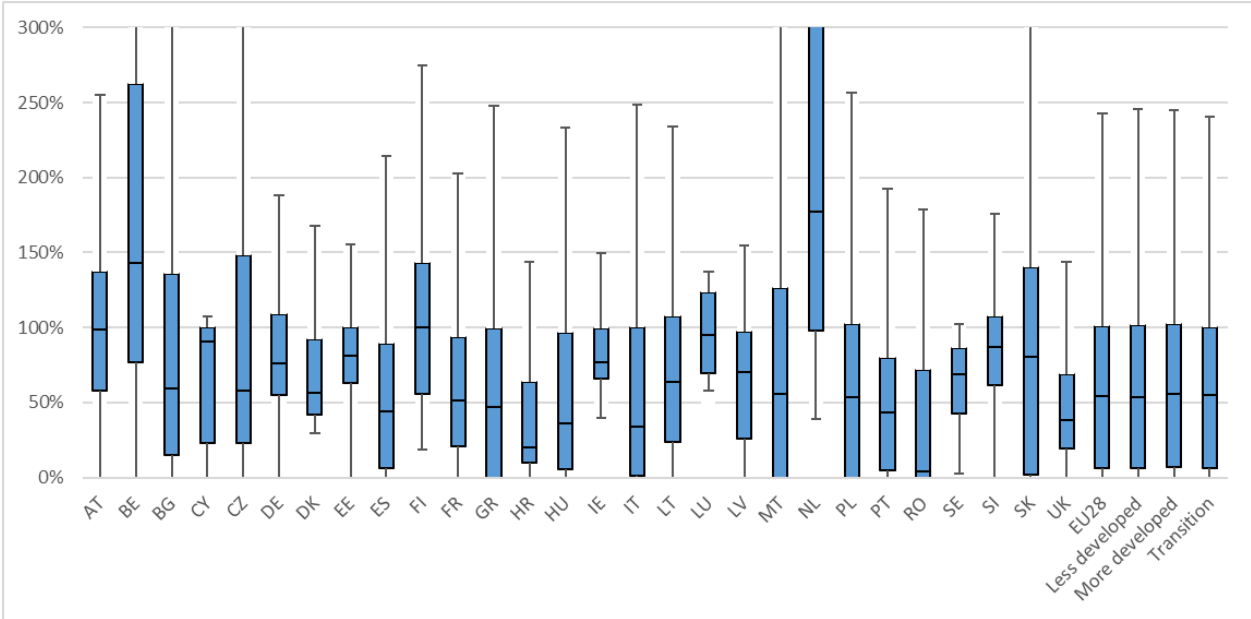
Based on the advanced implementation stage of ESF operational programmes at this stage, this year's reporting introduced the use of the median target achievement for comparisons. Whenever the weighed target achievement can be used (when comparing similar types of indicators), this continues to be done, but particularly when combining different types of indicators, this report will instead refer to the median target achievement.

4.4.2 Target achievement of output indicators

This section starts with an assessment of the **target achievement** for output indicators. Across all programmes, a total of 36 345 common output indicators and 3 715 programme specific output indicators are defined. Targets are defined for a total of 1 636 common output indicators (5%). A total of 3 652 programme specific output indicators have a target (98%). This shows that most programmes tend to define targets mainly for indicators that they defined themselves, using the common indicators mainly for allowing mandatory aggregations. In order to get a good overview of progress towards targets and compare this across the EU, it is therefore important to combine these different types of indicators together.

Figure 4.9 presents the range of output target achievement for each Member State in a graphic way, and clearly shows how only using the average would no longer provide the most adequate insight in target achievement. All Member States report target achievement of output indicators far above 100%, while also still reporting indicators at 0%; only in Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Sweden no indicator is at 0% anymore. The black line separating the two blue boxes shows the median values for each Member State, which varies from 4% in Romania, to 178% in the Netherlands and anything in between. At EU level, the median target achievement for output indicators is currently 54%; the distribution of target achievement rates across different regions looks remarkably similar. A number of Member States, and particularly Austria, Belgium, Finland and the Netherlands stand out with median values at or above 100%. This means that at least half of the output targets in these MSs were already achieved and overachieved.

Figure 4.8 Range and median of output target achievement – by Member State



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020). Whiskers show a maximum of 1.5 times interquartile range. Outliers beyond these marks exist and are not displayed. Excluding technical assistance.

While the table above gives an insightful overview of target achievement at Member State level, there are also relevant differences between the target achievement of different types of indicators. Particularly, when assessing the target achievement of similar types of indicators – regardless of how many of them – the weighed target achievement value is preferable. For this reason, table 4.14 presents the weighed target achievement rates for various types of output indicators that measure individuals. Each of the categories presented contain both common and programme-specific indicators¹⁶.

Table 4.14 Progress towards target achievement of common and programme-specific indicators measuring individual outputs (ESF)

MS	Unemployed	Inactive	Employed	Young	Old	Vulnerable groups	Professionals	Other individuals
No. Indicator	518	145	273	476	166	828	308	578
AT	89%	108%	102%	81%		117%		104%
BE	302%	73%	80%	140%	200%	230%		132%
BG	58%		86%	137%	55%	96%	40%	11%

¹⁶ Note that the indicators are presented based on a classification developed by the contractor, not by the EC. While some of the categories appear similar to the Annex I indicators, the categories used are deliberately broader, in order to also include similar types of programme-specific indicators. See Annex II of this document for an overview of how indicators were classified into these categories.

MS	Unemployed	Inactive	Employed	Young	Old	Vulnerable groups	Professionals	Other individuals
CY	100%			69%		108%		
CZ	84%	114%		77%	50%	459%	261%	75%
DE	101%	62%	69%	82%	84%	92%	55%	66%
DK								61%
EE			61%	79%		82%	102%	142%
ES	69%	47%	65%	142%		70%	0%	51%
FI	104%	186%		127%	96%	95%	67%	137%
FR	71%	81%	68%	56%	19%	146%	1%	80%
GR	72%		67%	61%		20%	70%	183%
HR	36%	0%	16%	40%	58%	34%	30%	79%
HU	32%	28%		173%		44%	146%	102%
IE	74%			57%		88%		
IT	82%	102%	41%	73%	100%	83%	85%	87%
LT	140%		86%	28%	89%	154%	95%	73%
LU			101%	123%	61%	114%		95%
LV	78%		46%	65%	78%	33%	36%	43%
MT				119%	199%	0%		70%
NL						178%		673%
PL	70%	88%	60%	113%	122%	95%	82%	40%
PT	56%		47%	66%		53%	38%	58%
RO	2 706%		7%	14%		14%	6%	43%
SE	3%		76%	43%				74%
SI			110%	78%	78%	52%	89%	87%
SK	72%		64%	145%	125%	129%	52%	145%
UK	60%	39%	68%	32%	56%	59%		47%
EU	76%	71%	56%	83%	78%	63%	58%	72%
Less	63%	70%	48%	89%	92%	51%	57%	68%
More	82%	78%	69%	78%	65%	79%	60%	78%
Trans	84%	57%	52%	69%	69%	69%	54%	70%

Empty fields mean that no target was defined in that MS / region for that type of indicator. 0% means that no progress has been achieved towards a particular target set for that particular group of indicators.

Percentages calculated as 'weighed' average target achievement; larger absolute targets have a larger impact on aggregated target achievement.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Splitting out the target achievement of different types of output indicators allows to review whether progress on indicators of particular interest is on track, regardless of any other specific indicators. The target achievement for unemployed people for instance, as shown above in table 4.14, is currently reported at 76%, with some difference between less developed regions (63%) and more developed and transition regions (82% and 84% respectively). The inverse relation is found for achieving targets of indicators that focus on age groups, with 89% of the targeted young people and 92% of the targeted old people reached in less developed regions, while this is considerably lower in more developed regions (78% and 65% respectively). The importance of targeting unemployed in the first years of ESF support is also evident from table 4.14; the target achievement of these types of indicators is higher than the target achievement of output indicators that measure progress in other areas, such as employed (56% target achieved) and professionals (58%).

Table 4.15 below shows the same for a second set of output indicators, the indicator for companies, entities and other types of organisations and projects. It shows highest target achievement rates for indicators measuring the number of companies in less developed regions (86% compared to 69% in more developed regions), while in this type of regions the target achievement of indicators that measure public purpose entities (schools, healthcare, community organisations) and public entities is behind compared to the progress of the same indicators in more developed regions (85% against 135% and 52% against 160% respectively).

Table 4.15 Progress towards target achievement of most often used indicators measuring various outputs (ESF)

MS	Companies	Public purpose entity	Public entity	Projects (not public administration)	Public administration projects	Structures	Products
No. Indicator	239	353	140	319	126	535	245
AT	78%			268%			
BE		88%	96%	137%	227%	128%	137%
BG	78%	80%	22%	136%		72%	76%
CY		97%		61%		26%	92%
CZ	299%	456%		170%		81%	35%
DE	75%	144%	100%	39%	98%	86%	84%
DK	436%						
EE		105%	100%	76%		47%	64%
ES	17%	62%		18%	50%	57%	0%
FI	105%	100%		186%			
FR	68%	20%		31%	18%	63%	2340%
GR	26%	175%	52%	37%	68%	40%	41%
HR	18%	93%	0%	51%	0%	34%	29%
HU	51%	141%	83%	36%		27%	45%
IE							92%
IT	56%		104%	13%	11%	29%	37%
LT	0%	19%	20%	106%		118%	22%
LU							
LV	0%	93%	72%			80%	
MT						96%	367%
NL	98%			39%			
PL	91%	56%	20%	48%	58%	56%	1%
PT	71%	43%		30%		102%	45%
RO	538%	3%	79%	0%	0%	15%	67%
SE				102%			
SI	54%	92%	140%	119%		54%	
SK	57%	92%	49%	5%	450%	722%	173%
UK	42%	140%	0%	14%		0%	0%
EU	73%	97%	74%	38%	69%	32%	75%
Less	86%	85%	52%	34%	253%	74%	35%
More	69%	135%	160%	50%	34%	31%	162%
Trans	64%	102%	120%	39%	210%	63%	156%

Empty fields mean that no target was defined in that Member State / region for that type of indicator. 0% means that no progress has been achieved towards a particular target set for that particular group of indicators.

Percentages calculated as 'weighed' average target achievement; larger absolute targets have a larger impact on aggregated target achievement.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

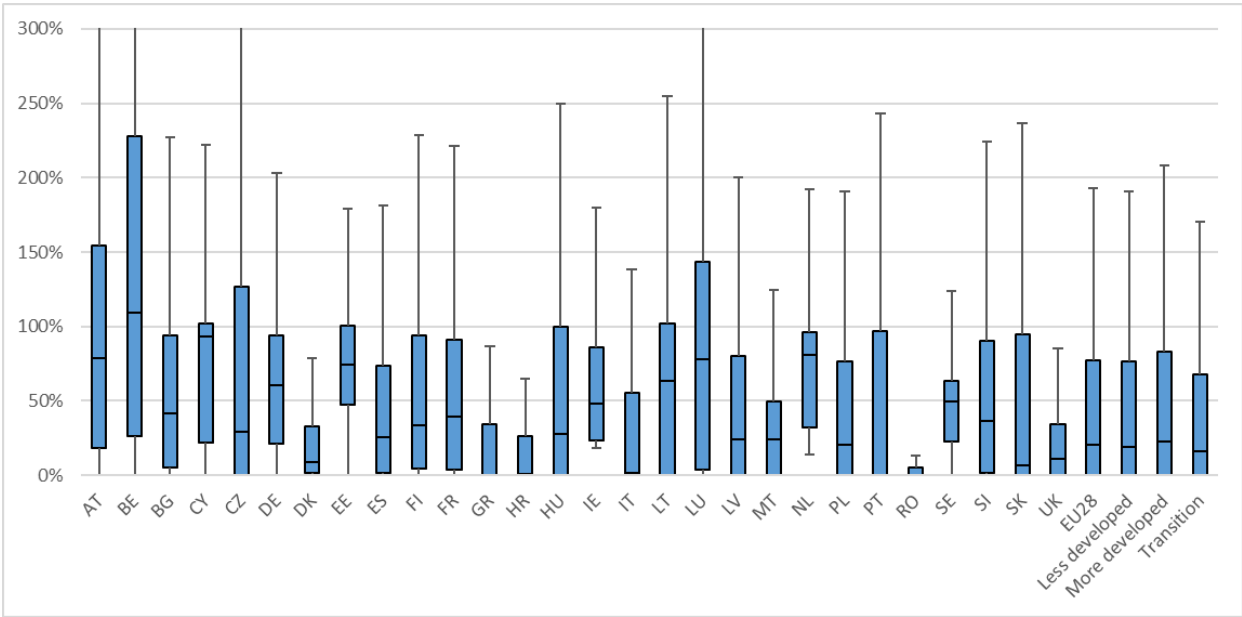
4.4.3 Target achievement of result indicators

The same assessment of progress towards the targets can be conducted for result indicators. Across all programmes, a total of 15 605 common result indicators and 3 837 programme specific indicators are defined. Targets are defined for a total of 840 of common results indicators (5%). A total of 3 645 of programme specific indicators have a target (95%). This shows that most programmes tend to define targets mainly for indicators that they defined themselves, using the common indicators mainly for mandatory aggregations. In order to get a good overview of progress towards result targets and compare this across the EU, it is therefore important to combine these different types of indicators together.

Figure 4.10 presents graphically the range of result target achievement for each Member States, and shows a considerable range of target achievement, generally from 0% towards at least 100%, and often considerably above that. Only in Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Romania and the United Kingdom not a single result indicator has reached 100% of its target. At the

same time, it is also common to still find result indicators that have reported no progress so far; only in Ireland and the Netherlands each result indicator reports at least some progress towards the target. The median target achievement value for result indicators continues at 0% in Greece, Portugal, and Romania, which means that in these Member States at least half of the result indicators does not yet report any progress. At EU level, the median target achievement for result indicators is currently 20%, with no observable differences in the range of target achievement between different types of regions. As expected, the target achievements reported for result indicators often lie below that of output indicators at this stage and remains broadly within expectation in view of the implementation rates reported in section 4.2. Progress of result indicators is often reported later than that of outputs, even for the same interventions; target achievement is therefore also likely to increase towards the target achievements of output indicators.

Figure 4.9 Range of result target achievement – by Member State



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020). Whiskers show 1.5 times interquartile range. Outliers beyond these marks exist and are not displayed. Excluding technical assistance.

While the table above gives an interesting overview of target achievement at Member State level, possible differences between different types of indicators are also investigated. To analyse this, all common and programme-specific indicators were classified into new categories and presented in the table below¹⁷. The target achievement rates reported combine both programme-specific and common indicators (the categories are defined in such a way as to allow grouping these different types together).

Table 4.16 Progress towards target achievement of most often used indicators measuring individual results (ESF) (weighed)

MS	Entered employment after leaving	Entered employment after some time	Improved position on labour market	Qualification obtained	In Education	Improved skills	Other individual result
No. Indicator	448	398	124	822	197	256	563
AT	28%		0%	58%	0%		178%
BE	57%	147%	660%	114%	348%		33%
BG	42%	115%	3450%	29%	50%	55%	34%

¹⁷ Note that the indicators are presented based on a new classification. While some of the categories appear similar to the Annex I indicators, the categories used are deliberately broader, in order to also include similar programme-specific result indicators.

MS	Entered employment after leaving	Entered employment after some time	Improved position on labour market	Qualification obtained	In Education	Improved skills	Other individual result
CY	151%			23%	93%		148%
CZ	185%	65%	151%	39%	95%	148%	79%
DE	30%	25%	83%	47%	43%	151%	49%
DK	21%	14%		12%	50%	31%	39%
EE	51%	62%		81%		97%	78%
ES	63%	35%	43%	52%	24%	40%	38%
FI	91%	69%	1%	142%	38%		8%
FR	55%	54%	46%	76%	66%	9%	98%
GR	69%	36%	0%	56%	8%	198%	62%
HR	38%	26%	6%	4%	0%	4%	54%
HU	79%	105%		69%	56%	102%	40%
IE				85%			28%
IT	17%	66%	14%	25%	34%	46%	72%
LT	166%	72%	441%	114%	45%	0%	179%
LU		188%		0%			73%
LV	72%	98%	0%	90%		74%	75%
MT	30%			54%		0%	64%
NL	90%	86%					
PL	70%	64%	13%	84%	105%	36%	28%
PT		41%		51%	100%		49%
RO	17%			8%	2%		16%
SE	23%	37%	61%		66%		63%
SI	32%			104%		96%	53%
SK	38%			23%	0%	84%	151%
UK	50%	3%	4%	79%	22%	16%	38%
EU	60%	57%	45%	54%	47%	46%	56%
Less	60%	58%	65%	51%	35%	51%	46%
More	56%	60%	47%	62%	53%	33%	82%
Trans	66%	30%	25%	50%	34%	36%	33%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The main finding from table 4.16 is the relatively similar target achievement rates for the main categories of indicators. Result indicators measuring progress towards targets such as finding a job after an intervention (57%), entering education (47%), or obtaining a qualification (54%) are at quite similar levels in terms of target achievement. This is also the case for the category 'other positive result' (56%) which contains a variety of different types of results such as number of people starting apprenticeships, people receiving a certain kind of support, or persons that improve certain aspects of their lives. Progress towards targets for these indicators shows that less developed regions are underperforming in comparison to more developed and transition regions. The progress of indicators measuring skills improvements without a qualification is slightly below average (46%), and how better performance in less developed regions (51%) than in more developed (33%) or transition regions (36%).

Table 4.17 below shows target achievement rates for grouped indicators that measure various types of positive results in organisations or other types of results. Indicators measuring positive results for institutions score relatively high (75% of targets achieved), as well as for indicators that measures the number of jobs created (94%). The median target achievement of indicators measuring positive results for companies and education providers lies somewhat between other types of indicators (41% and 55% respectively). The lowest target achievement is reported for results in public authorities (34%), which is particularly pronounced in less developed regions (26%).

Table 4.17 Progress towards target achievement of most often used indicators measuring other types of results (ESF) (weighed)

MS	Projects completed	Positive result - Authorities	Positive result - Education entities	Positive result - companies	Positive result - institutions	Positive result – Welfare services	Jobs created	Other positive result
No. Indicator	251	213	210	154	189	273	139	239
AT	52%			131%				
BE	127%			95%		93%	103%	258%
BG	41%	11%	50%	107%		139%	30%	11%
CY		100%						
CZ	0%		24%		184%	74%	22%	168%
DE	96%	100%	111%	37%	156%		125%	108%
DK		98%		0%			416%	0%
EE	62%	0%	97%					
ES	0%	0%	1%	31%	64%	94%	44%	56%
FI	50%		78%	0%				
FR	49%	118%		600%	0%	32%	19%	60%
GR	0%	9%	26%	0%	8%	0%	111%	
HR	6%	2%	18%		8%	0%		0%
HU	0%	93%		0%	5%	58%	39%	2%
IE								
IT	46%	48%	12%	43%	154%	56%	6%	10%
LT	0%	49%	16%	0%	0%	74%	95%	53%
LU								
LV	17%		11%	0%	100%	42%		832%
MT		15%	1%					349%
NL	125%							
PL	12%	19%	39%	44%	47%	51%	75%	77%
PT	54%		0%		13%	21%		36%
RO	0%	21%	0%	0%	200%	0%	0%	0%
SE	41%							
SI	70%	29%	0%		0%	0%		391%
SK	0%	81%	37%	2%	66%	14%		2%
UK	0%			19%		0%	0%	30%
EU	62%	34%	55%	41%	75%	47%	94%	62%
Less	47%	26%	70%	45%	69%	50%	82%	71%
More	48%	55%	15%	37%	108%	32%	102%	61%
Trans	93%	56%	15%	26%	169%	0%	118%	83%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

5 Assessment of unit costs

The unit costs of programmes, both within and across Member States and policy themes can be a relevant indicator for monitoring implementation of programmes. This chapter explores the development in unit costs, in order to better understand the extent to which expenditure and participations are recorded in a balanced way. The section 5.1 starts by exploring the costs per individual output, and section 5.2 further explores the costs per result.

The project selection rates allow to compare the progress in implementation across programmes from a financial point of view (see section 4.2 above). However, these do not allow to compare against the number of participations or results, as the costs of project selection are often recorded before the participations are entered. This chapter analyses and compares unit costs and does so by referring only to the declared expenditure. Nevertheless, unit costs could still not represent the full picture, since some operational programmes may record participants only after operations are fully implemented, while others do so even when operations are partly implemented. Moreover, unit costs as a measure for efficiency are not able to account for system-level interventions, for which other measures of efficiency need to be applied. As a result, it is recommended that unit costs are only used as a measure for efficiency at the final stage of implementation of programmes, when more operations are fully implemented, and findings are less distorted by different proportions of fully and partially implemented operations. Only then can unit costs be better compared and used for assessing the efficiency of programmes.

5.1 Costs per output

The results for comparing the number of individual participants registered against the total eligible expenditure declared are presented in the table below¹⁸.

Table 5.1 Eligible expenditures declared to EC per participation

MS	Total participation	Expenditure declared (€ million)	Overall unit cost	Unit costs Employment TO8 ESF (€)	Unit costs Employment TO8 YEI (€)	Unit costs Social inclusion TO9 (€)	Unit costs Education TO10 (€)	Unit costs Institutional capacity TO11 (€)
AT	196 447	304.6	1 550	6 674		1 160	1 683	
BE	1 210 636	864.3	714	776	453	1 092	457	
BG	1 271 117	745.7	587	1 841	1 293	1 029	141	1 417
CY	13 237	92.0	6 954	5 134	3 821	21 437	4 864	
CZ	465 271	1 685.0	3 622	2 628	5 139	4 552	7 044	6 347
DE	2 362 900	6 624.4	2 804	3 150		3 784	2 060	
DK	51 464	132.6	2 576	2 488		6 184	1 873	
EE	151 073	302.1	2 000	1 400		2 614	2 204	8 535
ES	5 120 112	5 060.4	988	899	2 115	772	634	
FI	266 203	507.4	1 906	1 963		2 582	1 601	
FR	4 176 609	5 235.6	1 254	1 330	1 296	1 028	1 903	
GR	856 835	2 242.3	2 617	2 380	3 118	2 477	3 885	1 007
HR	171 160	493.4	2 883	2 932	4 848	2 907	2 130	1 609
HU	984 715	2 477.7	2 516	2 549	2 766	2 359	1 640	7 471
IE	357 128	541.3	1 516	5 052	10 792	1 139	716	
IT	7 725 087	6 677.2	864	761	2 411	773	690	1 976
LT	699 563	564.7	807	1 633	1 118	586	655	648
LU	18 293	22.8	1 248	1 292		2 690	681	
LV	277 573	312.3	1 125	1 071	2 203	763	1 380	1 136
MT	25 378	55.7	2 194	1 718		2 377	2 551	1 707
NL	590 861	563.3	953	3 475		775		
PL	4 422 938	5 476.5	1 238	1 580	2 071	1 604	803	982
PT	1 823 555	4 358.9	2 390	1 002	5 661	2 211	3 157	26 414
RO	649 148	1 533.8	2 363	2 073	2 230	9 029	517	6 058
SE	220 454	645.6	2 928	6 695	3 466	7 631	1 093	

¹⁸ The total number of participants is calculated by summing common output indicators 1, 3, and 5, which present exclusive and complete types of output indicators for individuals participating in an intervention.

SI	181 918	346.6	1 905	2 675	6 370	7 420	985	2 931
SK	712 628	1 020.5	1 432	1 939	1 201	1 470	390	30 944
UK	1 445 909	2 975.2	2 058	1 754	2 518	2 173	2 271	
EU28	36 448 212	51 862	1 423	1 464	2 063	1 474	1 158	2 895
Region	Total participation	Expenditure declared (€ million)	Overall unit cost	Unit costs Employment TO8 ESF (€)	Unit costs Employment TO8 YEI (€)	Unit costs Social inclusion TO9 (€)	Unit costs Education TO10 (€)	Unit costs Institutional capacity TO11 (€)
Less dev.	14 173 523	20 693	1 460	1 801		1 613	1 104	3 704
More dev.	14 003 596	18 456	1 318	1 224		1 419	1 322	1 537
Transition	5 236 714	6 453	1 232	1 371		1 393	1 013	1 433
No region	3 034 379	6 260	2 063		2 063			

Empty fields indicate that no interventions are programmed for that thematic objective in that Member State or category of region. Note that YEI interventions are not assigned to a particular category of region.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Overall, the table shows a cost per participation of EUR 1 423, which is considerably above the unit costs that were found in the ex-post evaluation of ESF 2007-2013¹⁹. This aggregated figure does no justice to relevant differences across MS and thematic objectives. Though the variation between figures reported appears high, most of these differences are not as substantial as they seem: large differences can be the result of the ongoing nature of entering monitoring data and may vary considerably each year. No particular reasons were mentioned in these AIRs that could help to explain these relatively high figures. Some extremely high values (Portugal and Slovakia in TO11) are likely to become more balanced once more data on participations is recorded into SFC2014. Various managing authorities indicate in their AIR that the actual number of participations is higher than reported so far, often because interventions are still ongoing. Another explanation is that managing authorities received the data from intermediary bodies or project managers and are still reviewing the participation figures. The same holds true for extremely low values (for instance in Belgium or Bulgaria); it is also possible that Member States recorded the number of *participations* accurately in SFC, but still need to file declarations of expenditures.

5.2 Costs per result

A similar analysis has been performed to analyse the costs of achieving immediate individual results (finding a job, obtaining a qualification, entering education or searching jobs)²⁰. Also for this analysis the declared expenditure is compared with the immediate individual results reported. For this analysis, it is again important to note that large variations between Member States may not necessarily reflect differences between actual costs per results, but are more likely to represent differences in the extent to which costs and results are recorded at this point in time during implementation. Some Member States may already report costs before reporting results, while others may already report results while costs are still being scrutinized by audit and/or certifying authorities. The results of this analysis are presented in table 5.2 below, where the costs declared for investment priorities are compared with the *immediate* results reported.

¹⁹ The synthesis report of the ex-post evaluation of ESF 2007-2013 report an overall cost per participants of EUR 897, with EUR 1 113 for Access to Employment, EUR 681 for Human Capital & Adaptability, and EUR 1 763 for Social Inclusion.

²⁰ The total number of individual results was calculated by summing common result indicators 1-4, which all present exclusive types of results in terms of improved labour market position of individual participants that may be reached. CR05 was not included as it is not an exclusive category from common result indicators 1-4; it would introduce double counts and therefore taint the analysis. Nevertheless, the figures presented should be read with some caution, since participants could achieve more results at the same time.

Table 5.2 Eligible expenditure declared to the EC per immediate result achieved

MS	Number of individual results	Expenditure declared (€ million)	Overall unit cost	Unit costs Employment TO8 ESF (€)	Unit costs Employment TO8 YEI (€)	Unit costs Social inclusion TO9 (€)	Unit costs Education TO10 (€)	Unit costs Institutional capacity TO11 (€)
AT	56 940	304.6	5 349	11 934		3 873	6 134	
BE	391 498	864.3	2 208	2 167	2 281	3 005	1 473	
BG	582 198	745.7	1 281	12 745	2 619	3 982	247	4 650
CY	6 522	92.0	14 113	8 607	10 230	66 006	6 308	
CZ	259 951	1 685.0	6 482	3 421	6 378	53 615	352 422	8 521
DE	1 378 995	6 624.4	4 804	4 591		8 009	3 528	
DK	6 297	132.6	21 053	16 508		26 756	34 706	
EE	61 631	302.1	4 903	8 386		18 949	2 604	45 018
ES	2 923 131	5 060.4	1 731	2 550	3 443	1 956	737	
FI	25 724	507.4	19 724	13 881		25 515	32 778	
FR	1 864 216	5 235.6	2 808	2 951	2 717	2 551	3 363	
GR	298 658	2 242.3	7 508	12 259	9 130	24 901	5 871	1 206
HR	32 927	493.4	14 986	6 831	9 473	76 716	55 586	105 036
HU	476 367	2 477.7	5 201	4 182		15 149	2 957	12 393
IE	199 658	541.3	2 711	7 669	14 690	4 058	1 143	
IT	1 097 055	6 677.2	6 086	2 513		14 211	10 638	25 633
LT	214 244	564.7	2 636	1 668	1 584	8 875	4 359	1 409
LU	1 347	22.8	16 952	10 152		40 089	86 342	
LV	58 333	312.3	5 354	2 819	4 269	18 896	5 990	35 168
MT	8 134	55.7	6 846	2 876		6 634	18 250	13 739
NL	102 156	563.3	5 514	22 974		4 441		
PL	1 277 801	5 476.5	4 286	3 795	2 422	6 854	5 293	27 205
PT	452 531	4 358.9	9 632	4 867	9 869	20 348	10 265	
RO	50 144	1 533.8	30 587	17 883	2 093	546 066	61 142	11 895
SE	46 078	645.6	14 011	16 069	5 155	21 200	48 278	
SI	35 980	346.6	9 633	10 705		29 758	5 173	1 207 810
SK	66 392	1 020.5	15 371	21 742	4 154	101 394	9 006	
UK	672 174	2 975.2	4 426	3 326	6 762	8 272	3 967	
EU28	12 647 082	51 862	4 101	3 863	4 671	5 476	3 328	7 635
Region	Number of individual results	Expenditure declared (€ million)	Overall unit cost	Unit costs Employment TO8 ESF (€)	Unit costs Employment TO8 YEI (€)	Unit costs Social inclusion TO9 (€)	Unit costs Education TO10 (€)	Unit costs Institutional capacity TO11 (€)
Less dev.	3 648 014	20 693	5 672	4 944		13 346	4 554	11 265
More dev.	5 101 698	18 456	3 618	3 238		4 540	3 326	3 339
Transition	2 556 960	6 453	2 524	3 252		3 480	1 688	2 931
No region	1 340 410	6 260	4 671		4 671			

Empty fields indicate that no interventions are programmed for that thematic objective in that Member State or category of region. YEI interventions are not assigned to a category of region.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

At the EU-level, the costs for a single short-term result in the analysis amount to EUR 4 101. Behind this value there are substantially larger variations among Member States and among Thematic Objectives. These variations are influenced by the fragmented way of reporting individual short-term results in SFC, which can be expected to improve in the final years of implementation and reporting. However, a unit cost analysis of results (similar to an analysis of the unit costs per participation), can be insightful to compare the extent to which results and eligible expenditure are registered into SFC in relatively equal shares across Member States. When used for this purpose, unit costs do not necessarily tell us much about efficiency, but rather about the balance in reporting between results and financial progress.

Table 5.2 above shows how many Member States still report relatively small numbers of results in relation to their budgets, particularly in Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden and Slovakia. This is further reflected in substantial differences by region; for one reported result in less developed regions EUR 5 672 of declared expenditure is reported, against EUR 3 618 in more developed regions, and EUR 2 524 in transition regions.

6 ESF support to EU policies

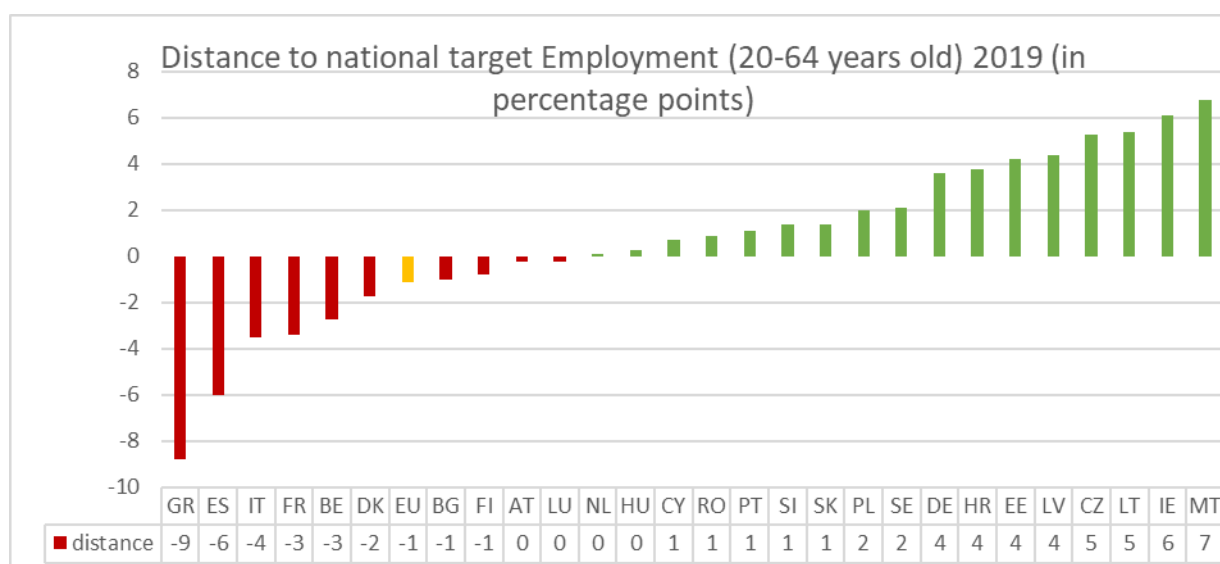
6.1 Thematic Objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

6.1.1 Objectives

The EU2020 headline target aims to bring the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64 to 75 % by 2020, including the greater participation of youth, older workers and low-skilled workers, and the better integration of migrants. By promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility under thematic objective 8 (TO8), the ESF seeks to contribute to the EU 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This section assesses the ESF contribution to this objective. As part of the EU2020 strategy, national targets have been set for individual Member States, who have the possibility of using the ESF to complement their national efforts towards meeting these targets.

When assessing performance on progress towards national targets for the employment rate (see figure 6.1), most Member States have already reached their targets. Only a small group of Member States (Greece, Spain, Italy, Belgium) is relatively still far from reaching the national targets. The current EU average lies at 1 percentage point, around which Denmark, Bulgaria, Finland, Austria and Luxembourg are very close to reaching their national targets²¹.

Figure 6.1 Headline target national Employment (20-64 years old) - 2019 – distance from national target (%) (in percentage points)



Source: Eurostat (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators>)

6.1.2 ESF interventions in thematic objective 8

Member States may decide to use the ESF to complement their national efforts towards meeting their overall targets. To provide specific support towards the national employment targets, a number of specific investment priorities are defined by the ESF Regulation, further narrowing down the objective and type of operation. Article 3 in the ESF regulation restricts operations under Thematic Objective 8 to the following categories:

- (8i). Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility;
- (8ii). Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social

²¹ For the UK no target has been included in Eurostat concerning this indicator.

exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;

- (8iii). Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises;
- (8iv). Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work;
- (8v). Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change;
- (8vi). Active and healthy ageing;
- (8vii). Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and improving the matching of labour market needs, including through actions that enhance transnational labour mobility as well as through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Most operations in investment priority 8i relate to mainstream active labour market policy (ALMP) activities such as providing individual guidance to job seekers, providing integrated approaches, vocational education and training (VET), and providing hiring incentives to employers or supporting apprenticeships / traineeships and self-employment. The programme-specific indicators selected for operations in this investment priority show a diverse range of target groups such as unemployed people in general, long-term unemployed, disadvantaged, older persons, inactive persons, women, young unemployed, low-skilled, and migrants.

Employment of young people has received a substantial level of policy attention, not least through the additional allocations under the Youth Employment Initiative. Operations under this investment priority (IP8ii) seek to improve the labour market access for young people, mainly by reaching out to non-registered young people that are not in employment.

Invest priority 8.iii consists of actions that seek to support start-ups / self-employment (financial support, guidance and training); offer career support and guidance for individuals; foster social innovation and the development of new programmes, tools and instruments. These operations focus on the unemployed (starting up their own enterprise), women, disadvantaged persons, enterprises, long-term unemployed, older workers, the inactive, young unemployed and workers.

Investment priority 8iv combines ESF investments that seek to improve equality between men and women in all areas, including access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work. These operations mainly target women, the unemployed, enterprises and employees.

Investment priority 8.v includes a wide diversity of actions addressing employers (and managers of enterprises) on the one hand and employees on the other. With regard to employers, the ESF mainly supports actions that facilitate the introduction and management of change in organisations to prevent or mitigate the consequences of economic restructuring (e.g. guidance and training support, making the diagnosis and developing restructuring / action plans for introducing more innovative, more productive and greener models of labour organisation, including safe and healthy working conditions, managing the changing demographic structure of the company).

Investments under IP8vi mainly support the development of tools and instruments for organisations, raising awareness about healthy ageing and providing incentives for companies to hire older workers. As such, these operations are directed at relatively similar target groups as those targeted by IP8v, which includes employees, older workers, employees at risk, and enterprises.

Investment priority 8vii consists of operations that seek to modernise labour market institutions such as public and private employment services and improve the matching of labour market needs. Such operations may consist of actions that enhance transnational labour mobility through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

6.1.3 Implementation of employment investments

The total allocated ESF investments under thematic objective 8 amounts to EUR 39.8 billion for ESF 2014-2020 (EU + national co-financing), of which 83.1% has been committed (for selected operations) by the end of 2019. The table below summarises key implementation figures of TO8 investments for each Member State. As already shown elsewhere in this report, the project selection rate across Member States is relatively uniform for this thematic objective, showing an overall steady pace of implementation at EU level. By the end of 2019, TO8 project selection rates in Austria, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden are slightly behind the EU average. Despite these lower-than-average project selection rates reported, the managing authorities responsible for implementation do not report particular challenges for the implementation. At the same time, in other Member States (more than) the entire budget has already been committed (Cyprus, Czechia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia).

Table 6.1 Overview Implementation TO8 – by Member State, excl. YEI

MS	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
AT	116.2	86.9	74.7%	3 376	77.2%	1 888	70.0%	56%
BE	760.5	672.6	88.4%	376 064	168.5%	134 572	122.3%	36%
BG	493.4	446.7	90.5%	141 691	66.0%	20 471	27.5%	14%
CY	27.2	35.7	131.1%	4 655	99.8%	2 777	75.2%	60%
CZ	1 547.1	1 562.5	101.0%	313 230	110.8%	240 591	127.6%	77%
DE	4 011.7	3 801.1	94.8%	653 366	77.4%	448 325	65.4%	69%
DK	187.8	159.3	84.8%	28 441	53.4%	4 287	29.7%	15%
EE	241.1	220.9	91.6%	67 287	81.2%	11 233	79.5%	17%
ES	3 744.7	3 034.4	81.0%	1 466 645	21.5%	517 287	22.8%	35%
FI	468.4	364.9	77.9%	114 508	67.6%	16 191	22.0%	14%
FR	2 846.8	2 371.6	83.3%	942 211	43.1%	424 776	38.7%	45%
GR	1 808.7	1 494.9	82.7%	335 161	37.3%	65 067	3.0%	19%
HR	430.0	375.2	87.3%	31 322	18.7%	13 442	38.1%	43%
HU	1 992.7	1 859.1	93.3%	316 675	71.8%	193 036	65.6%	61%
IE	394.0	394.0	100.0%	27 414	84.3%	18 060	23.0%	66%
IT	5 828.3	4 091.9	70.2%	2 698 390	21.2%	816 956	3.3%	30%
LT	438.7	271.3	61.8%	95 869	95.1%	93 839	101.0%	98%
LU	20.2	25.1	124.6%	8 846	94.4%	1 126	99.7%	13%
LV	119.5	124.4	104.1%	67 232	77.4%	25 536	40.7%	38%
MT	26.0	27.5	105.6%	6 823	104.0%	4 074	33.7%	60%
NL	253.5	362.2	142.9%	39 101	97.9%	5 914	98.0%	15%
PL	5 402.4	3 716.1	68.8%	1 394 085	51.8%	580 310	31.1%	42%
PT	1 745.2	1 529.3	87.6%	613 644	28.0%	126 362	0.0%	21%
RO	1 493.1	1 364.6	91.4%	280 426	0.0%	32 513	0.0%	12%
SE	680.4	453.8	66.7%	38 511	55.8%	16 045	54.3%	42%
SI	340.7	389.4	114.3%	50 023	65.1%	12 502	33.6%	25%
SK	1 581.4	1 278.7	80.9%	273 880	61.4%	24 422	0.0%	9%
UK	2 752.4	2 507.7	91.1%	572 007	47.7%	301 624	19.2%	53%
Total EU	39 752.1	33 021.7	83.1%	10 960 883	52.2%	4 153 226	28.6%	38%
Region	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
Less dev.	19 823.1	16 023.7	80.8%	4 159 936	50.6%	1 515 747	30.1%	36%
More dev.	14 568.7	12 820.6	88.0%	5 268 300	57.0%	1 991 437	28.6%	38%
Transition	5 360.3	4 177.5	77.9%	1 532 647	44.9%	646 042	21.6%	42%

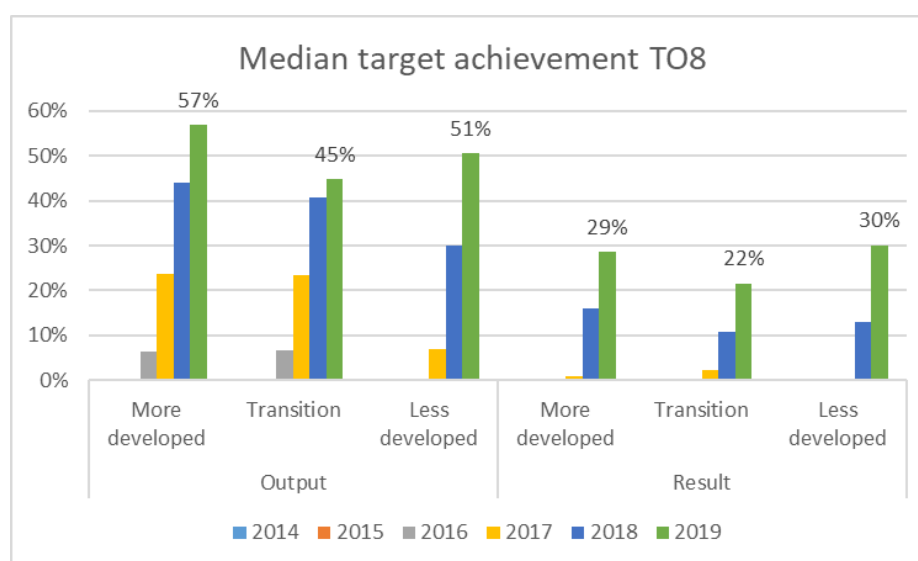
Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The achievement of output indicators largely follows the implementation rates in individual Member States (see also section 4.2). Median target achievements in Spain, Greece, Croatia, Italy and Romania are below the EU median achievement for TO8, where particularly Romania stands out with more than half of its output indicators still at 0%. Most often, these Member States point at a cascade effect of delays in the first years, which contributed to lower target achievement of output indicators. Croatia specifically indicates that it continues to require

additional strengthening of its management capacities. The target achievement of result indicators appears well underway, except in Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia. Slovakia reports that its reporting so far for common indicators is not complete due to technical issues and will be updated in next year's annual implementation report. Portugal and Romania did not report specific explanations.

Since 2015, median target achievement has been steadily increasing, with particular improvements in 2018 and 2019. The median target achievement of output indicators now reaches 57% in more developed and 51% in less developed regions. Transition regions are slightly behind with a median of 45%. Here, a small improvement from 2018 to 2019 can be particularly observed. For result indicators achievement rates are lower, though improving particularly rapidly in less developed regions, from a median still at 0% in 2017 to 30% in 2019. In more developed and transition regions the median target achievement has improved in slightly smaller steps.

Figure 6.2 Evolution of median target achievement for TO8 – by region



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Overall progress in Thematic Objective 8 can be further analysed at the level of individual investment priorities. Table 6.2 below shows that interventions that support access to employment (IP8i) combine by far the largest financial allocations under this thematic objective. It reports roughly the same project selection rate as the entire thematic objective (83.1%). A total of more than 5.5 million participations can be counted to these interventions. Because it is also responsible for 40 % of the entire budget in TO8, it is an important finding that implementation of this central investment priority is on a relatively steady track. Other investment priorities for which higher project selection rates have been reported are 8iii (Self-employment: 91.5%) and 8vi (active ageing – 86.6%). The operations with a focus on integration of youth on the labour market (IP8ii) are also steadily moving ahead (81.1%).

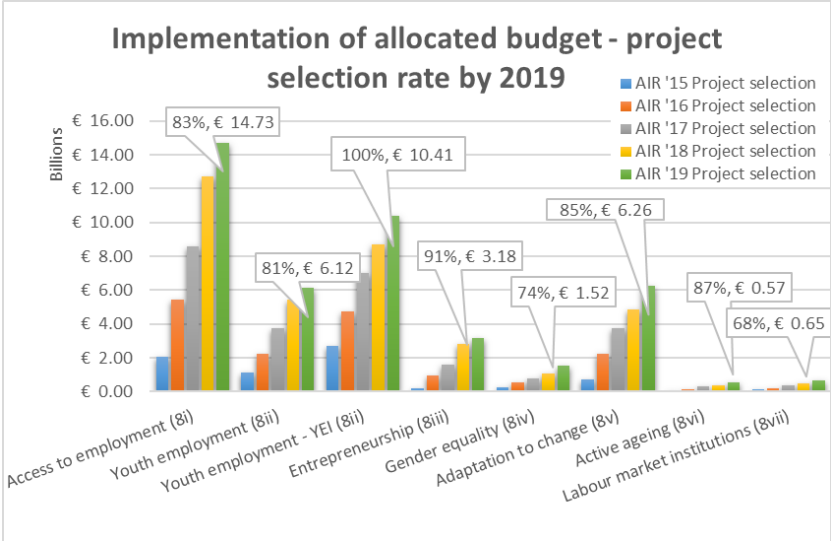
Table 6.2 Overview TO8

IP	Allocated budget (x€million)	Eligible costs (x€million)	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement
8i	17 721.7	14 729.3	83.1%	5 512 801	70.1%	2 363 091	49.3%
8ii-no YEI	7 540.8	6 118.6	81.1%	1 657 002	22.9%	799 396	22.6%
8iii	3 476.0	3 179.9	91.5%	816 853	33.7%	269 516	17.6%
8iv	2 045.0	1 515.9	74.1%	554 436	44.8%	65 853	15.8%
8v	7 358.2	6 263.8	85.1%	1 862 761	57.0%	625 284	26.2%
8vi	656.5	568.3	86.6%	455 154	63.2%	10 031	5.9%
8vii	953.8	645.9	67.7%	101 876	2.5%	20 055	0.0%
TO8	39 752.1	33 021.7	83.1%	10 960 883	52.2%	4 153 226	28.6%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Figure 6.3 and 6.4 below illustrate how implementation has developed over time and show how reported progress has made particularly large steps from 2018 onwards. The project selection rates and progress towards targets show that Member States tended to first concentrate on the larger investment priorities (IP8i – Access to employment, 8ii – Youth employment, 8iii – Self-employment, 8v – Adaptability). The implementation of smaller investment priorities, such as 8iv (Gender equality – 74%), 8vi (Active ageing – 87%), and 8vii (Modernisation of labour market institutions – 68%) started later, but is currently actively catching up.

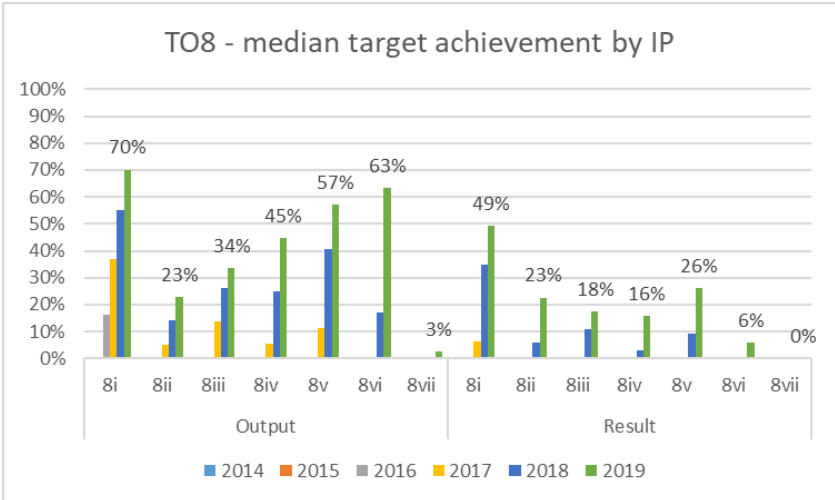
Figure 6.3 Absorption of budgets to investment priorities with employment objective (TO8)



Source: AIR 2015-2019²²

According to different metrics, such as both the costs reported (figure 6.3) and the target achievement (figure 6.4) for output and result indicators, interventions that focus on modernising labour market institutions (IP8vii) have progressed the least by the end of 2019. Often these interventions do not focus on reaching individuals, but instead defined targets that are more likely to be only reported toward the end of the programming period. However, this alone does not explain the fact that this investment priority is behind also in terms of eligible costs reported. This therefore suggests that its implementation is lagging behind compared to other investment priorities.

Figure 6.4 Development median target achievement TO8 – by investment priority



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

²² YEI presented as separate funding for IP8ii. IP 8ii-YEI includes (1) the dedicated EU budget line, (2) mirrored by the ESF share dedicated to YEI, and (3) national co-financing to this ESF share. Investments reported under IP8ii (non-YEI) are not related to YEI, and only consist of ESF funding.

So far TO8 investments have supported almost 11.0 million participations, which led to more than 4.2 million positive results. These positive results consist of people that find a job, gain a qualification or are able to improve their labour market position thanks to ESF interventions. Such results are represented in table 6.3 below, which presents the key individual results measured by common indicators, as well as a selection of programme-specific indicators. Programme-specific indicators that measure individual results following ESF interventions in TO8 tend to closely follow the common indicators, particularly in investment priorities 8i, 8ii, and 8iii, where the expected results are generally measured in common categories, such as employment / jobs created, qualifications gained, or labour market positions improved.

Investment priorities with smaller financial allocations have reported relatively lower participation and result figures for individuals so far. For these priorities, it is therefore insightful to take a closer look at progress and results as measured by programme-specific indicators. Under IP8iv (gender equality), for instance, results are measured in terms of successful projects, or the number of equality measures implemented. No less than 22 108 measures seeking to improve gender equality across nine different Member States can be counted. Interventions in investment priority 8v and 8vi (adaptation of workers and active ageing) across various Member States often measure output and results not only in terms of individuals, but also for instance the number of (small- / medium-sized) companies supported. Positive results were reported for a total of 66 590 enterprises. These can vary from concluding training sessions, developing a strategic action plan or put in place specific gender equality measures. Such results can be found across 15 Member States.

Table 6.3 Overview key result indicators in T08 (common / programme specific)

Categorising key results employment investments as measured by Common indicators	Total achieved	Number of OPs covered	Number of MSs covered
Individual results	4 153 226	152	28
Of which inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (CR01)	118 066	152	28
Of which participants in education/training upon leaving (CR02)	319 387	152	28
Of which participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (CR03)	1 289 873	152	28
Of which participants in (self-)employment, upon leaving (CR04)	2 425 900	152	28
A selection of key results in employment investments as measured by Programme-specific indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Achievements: Measures on gender equality passed	22 108	16	9
	DE, CZ, ES, FI, FR, LT, PL, SK, UK		
Entities – number of enterprises with positive results²³	66 590	53	15
	AT, BG, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GR, HU, IT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SK		
Of which defined explicitly as SME	44 248	29	6
	AT, DE, GR, LV, PL, SK		
Individual results: other positive result after intervention:	320 640	14	1
Number of people supported through preventive health examinations	PL		
Entities – number of Labour Market Institutions with positive results	795	18	7
	BG, DK, ES, GR, HR, IT, PL		

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

One specific result that is highlighted in the table is for Polish programmes, where active aging projects encouraged older workers to participate in preventive health examinations. A total of 320 640 individuals were reached across the various Polish regional programmes. In addition, investments that focus on modernising labour market institutions (IP8vii) are not adequately measured by common indicators. The number of labour market institutions with positive results (upgraded systems, key staff members trained, new tools deployed, knowledge exchanged) are a better measure of short-term results achieved. In Spain for

²³ Excluding number of enterprises in France reported for IP8vii (2014FR05SFOP001), due to unrealistically high fluctuations (4.6 million enterprises reported in 2015, 200 in 2017).

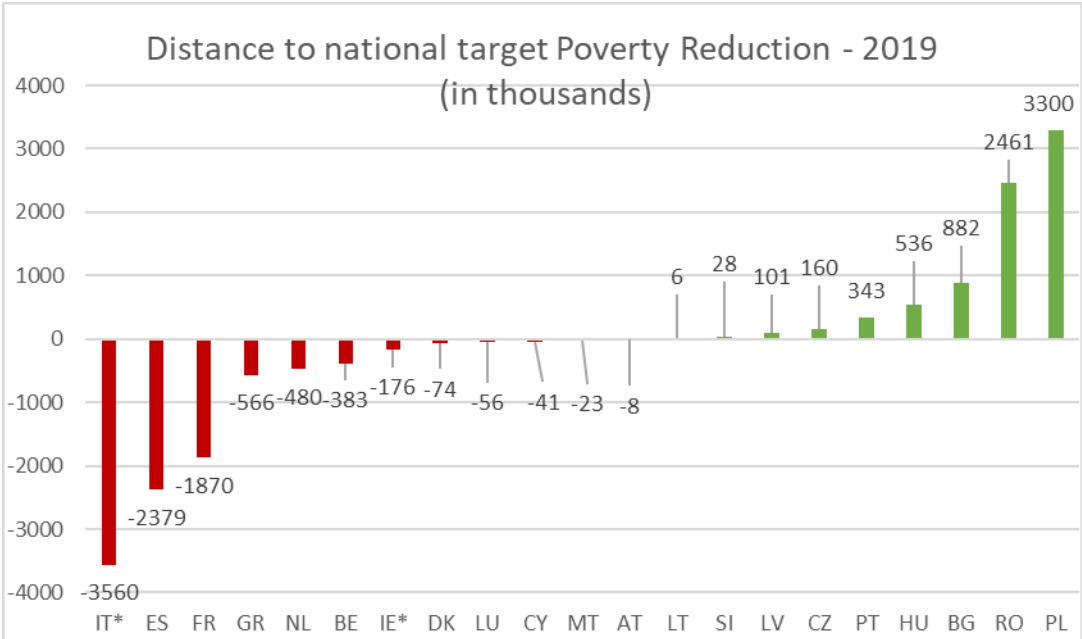
instance, the ESF supported improvements to the online portal of the public employment service, to optimise the support provided to local agents. This newly-developed portal serves as a central space for relations between its actors, while enhancing the capacities of professionals, providing them with adequate methodologies, technical assistance and support tools to boost local socio-economic support projects.

6.2 Thematic Objective 9: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty, and any discrimination

In order to reduce poverty in the EU, the EU 2020 headline target aims to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty. The flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the Social Investment Package and the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, support efforts to achieve these targets. In addition, the European Commission underlined the importance of also addressing child poverty in order to break the cycle of disadvantage at an early stage²⁴. For all these policy initiatives, the ESF is an important pillar for implementation. At least 20 % of the ESF resources should be allocated to the promotion of social inclusion. This section assesses the ESF contribution to this objective. Progress towards the headline targets has been varied, particularly as the economic and financial crisis posed challenges towards meeting these targets, as shown in figure 6.5 below.

6.2.1 Objectives

Figure 6.5 Distance to national poverty reduction target (2019, in thousands)²⁵



Source: Eurostat (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators>)

As 2020 approaches, around half of EU MSs met their target, while the other half still has some distance to cover. In Lithuania, Slovenia, Latvia, Czechia, Portugal, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland targets were met, showing that particularly in Romania and Poland the national target has been significantly overachieved. So far, Italy, Spain and France show the largest distance to target, with over 1.8 million individuals still to be lifted out of poverty. Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Czechia, Malta and Austria have not yet reached their targets either, but are considerably closer (in absolute

²⁴ Commission Recommendation of 20 February 2013. Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage (2013/112/EU).

²⁵ The score with Member States with an asterisk (*) is based on 2018, as no data is available for 2019 at the time of writing this report.

numbers)²⁶. At EU level, the aggregated target of lifting 20 million persons out of poverty remains distant. In 2018 the number of persons in poverty was for the first time reduced to below the number measured in 2008. However, with the risk of economic fallout following the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, it is expected that the number of people at risk of poverty will increase rather than continue its decreasing trend in the final years of implementation of ESF programmes.

Against this background, the need for additional efforts to ensure the effectiveness of social protection systems is clear, both to counter the effects of economic crisis, promote social inclusion and prevent poverty by activating inclusion strategies (including efficient and adequate income support, measures to tackle poverty, as well as broad access to social services). EU Member States spend varying shares of GDP on social protection, and also achieve different results in terms of reducing poverty.

6.2.2 ESF interventions in thematic objective 9

The ESF 2014-2020 is crucial to further complementing national efforts in achieving the Europe 2020 poverty headline target. In order to ensure that a sufficient share of resources is allocated to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, Article 4(2) of the ESF Regulation requests that at least 20 % of the total ESF resources in each Member State is allocated to this thematic objective. Although higher social spending is generally associated with stronger poverty reduction, important differences remain and allow sufficient room for further improvement. For this purpose, for instance, the link between social assistance and activation measures needs to be further strengthened, by developing more personalised services and efforts to improve the uptake of measures by vulnerable groups. More specifically, the ESF supports the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty through the following investment priorities:

- (9i). Active inclusion including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability;
- (9ii). Socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as the Roma;
- (9iii). Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities;
- (9iv). Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest;
- (9v). Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment;
- (9vi). Community-led local development strategies.

Most operations under investment priority 9i relate to reducing barriers to employment and integration for groups at the margins of the labour market, or those at risk of poverty and social exclusion; these groups are closely related to the investment priorities falling under TO8. Operations support for instance pathways to employment, including integrated individualised approaches (combining needs assessments / diagnosis, individual counselling, accreditation of prior learning and working experience, basic education, training, work experience places, job counselling, anti-discrimination measures and information / awareness-raising activities, hiring support for companies, job coaching / support at the workplace).

In addition to the broad category of active inclusion in IP9i, a second investment priority focuses more broadly on the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities. Operations in this investment priority address the improvement and accessibility in educational provision, as well as improving employment, social and health services, and housing, along with reducing existing segregation practices. As such, this priority seeks to combat discrimination and reduce disadvantages and poverty. Directly and indirectly, such measures also target children of marginalised communities and in poverty. The priority includes actions that seek to improve the prospects of people with a foreign / migrant

²⁶ For Germany, Estonia, Croatia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom no targets have been included in Eurostat for a comparable definition.

background, but also otherwise marginalised communities such as the Roma, by supporting measures to improve vocational training and increase labour market participation of these target groups.

Investment priority 9iii offers another form in which Member States can improve the position of vulnerable groups and promote equal opportunities. It addresses actions supporting the promotion of equal opportunities and fighting all types of discrimination by supporting entities in charge, combatting discrimination and developing awareness-raising programmes and training amongst a variety of stakeholders.

Under IP9iv, Member States can set up operations that seek to enhance access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest. These operations mostly support actions for entities (social service providers in the field of education, employment, healthcare, and others) adjusting their policies, working arrangements, and developing programmes, tools and instruments. In a limited number of cases, actions directly supported individuals.

Investment priority 9v includes interventions that seek to promote social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social economy. It does so by subsidising specific costs for running social enterprises, provision of micro credits and/or wage subsidies for employees, developing business plans, mentoring, providing legal and accounting support, and more. Management and supporting staff of social enterprises are also trained to improve their capacity for effective management of social enterprises. This should facilitate access to employment for vulnerable groups.

Finally, active inclusion is being promoted under IP9vi through supporting community-led local development strategies. Operations support the involvement of local communities with the aim of solving local unemployment, supporting SMEs and social enterprises, providing education possibilities for the disadvantaged, access to social services, community-based social work and more.

6.2.3 Implementation of social inclusion investments

Thematic Objective 9 has been allocated a total of EUR 33.3 billion (EU + national co-financing), of which 82.7% had been selected for projects by the end of 2019. While this project selection rate suggests that progress is relatively well underway, some differences appear between different Member States. In Italy and Greece, for instance, the average project selection rate (52.5% and 56.1% respectively) remained substantially below average. In Greece this is mainly because the social inclusion projects in its HRD OP which promote social entrepreneurship and integration into social enterprises have not been fully activated. The Greek managing authority already signalled these delays in 2018, and this year reiterates that more needs to be done in order to reach the 2023 targets; considerable improvement is expected in 2020. In Italy, a number of managing authorities were counting on an increase in project calls in 2019, which so far has not yet materialized. Instead, these are now expected to be reflected in the figures reported for 2020.

Table 6.4 Overview Implementation TO9 – by Member State

MS	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
AT	271.8	237.8	87.5%	82 154	133.5%	24 613	205.7%	30%
BE	717.9	649.0	90.4%	301 782	116.7%	109 716	94.2%	36%
BG	512.1	398.2	77.7%	212 634	84.1%	54 937	69.8%	26%
CY	121.6	71.4	58.7%	1 401	90.9%	455	93.3%	32%
CZ	1 050.8	920.1	87.6%	76 990	38.4%	6 536	15.7%	8%
DE	4 015.3	3 887.8	96.8%	605 784	96.8%	286 217	60.3%	47%
DK	78.3	72.7	92.8%	4 331	60.3%	1 001	12.8%	23%
EE	168.8	141.4	83.8%	27 177	85.4%	3 749	102.9%	14%
ES	2 808.2	2 701.3	96.2%	1 126 919	65.4%	444 727	25.2%	39%
FI	201.1	156.8	78.0%	40 598	110.7%	4 108	8.9%	10%
FR	3 578.9	3 391.5	94.8%	2 090 940	42.6%	843 099	38.8%	40%
GR	1 494.7	839.2	56.1%	188 254	35.6%	18 728	0.0%	10%
HR	400.2	351.1	87.7%	37 345	27.0%	1 415	0.9%	4%
HU	1 239.9	1 193.3	96.2%	171 211	60.1%	26 664	1.7%	16%
IE	297.6	297.6	100.0%	76 195	50.8%	21 392	28.4%	28%
IT	4 605.2	2 416.6	52.5%	1 120 705	44.7%	60 970	0.0%	5%
LT	283.6	222.0	78.3%	223 601	96.4%	14 759	72.2%	7%
LU	11.0	9.0	82.0%	2 474	137.4%	166	7.7%	7%
LV	299.1	233.5	78.1%	115 790	50.0%	4 677	37.5%	4%
MT	40.0	42.4	106.1%	6 894	69.6%	2 470	19.7%	36%
NL	726.3	832.2	114.6%	551 760	228.9%	96 242	66.9%	17%
PL	3 362.2	2 402.4	71.5%	599 273	44.1%	140 263	9.3%	23%
PT	1 785.9	1 463.1	81.9%	315 222	45.8%	34 250	0.0%	11%
RO	2 039.6	1 795.9	88.0%	73 903	0.0%	1 222	0.0%	2%
SE	309.5	272.4	88.0%	17 762	67.9%	6 393	62.7%	36%
SI	197.0	135.6	68.8%	7 905	86.7%	1 971	32.5%	25%
SK	563.7	570.7	101.3%	130 183	75.0%	1 887	38.6%	1%
UK	2 143.7	1 847.9	86.2%	360 364	39.5%	94 682	6.0%	26%
Total EU	33 323.9	27 553.0	82.7%	8 569 551	55.0%	2 307 309	13.5%	27%

Region	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
Less dev.	14 125.4	11 271.1	79.8%	2 645 838	52.1%	319 858	12.2%	12%
More dev.	14 352.2	12 024.9	83.8%	4 376 909	58.2%	1 368 235	20.2%	31%
Transition	4 846.4	4 257.0	87.8%	1 546 804	58.3%	619 216	1.8%	40%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

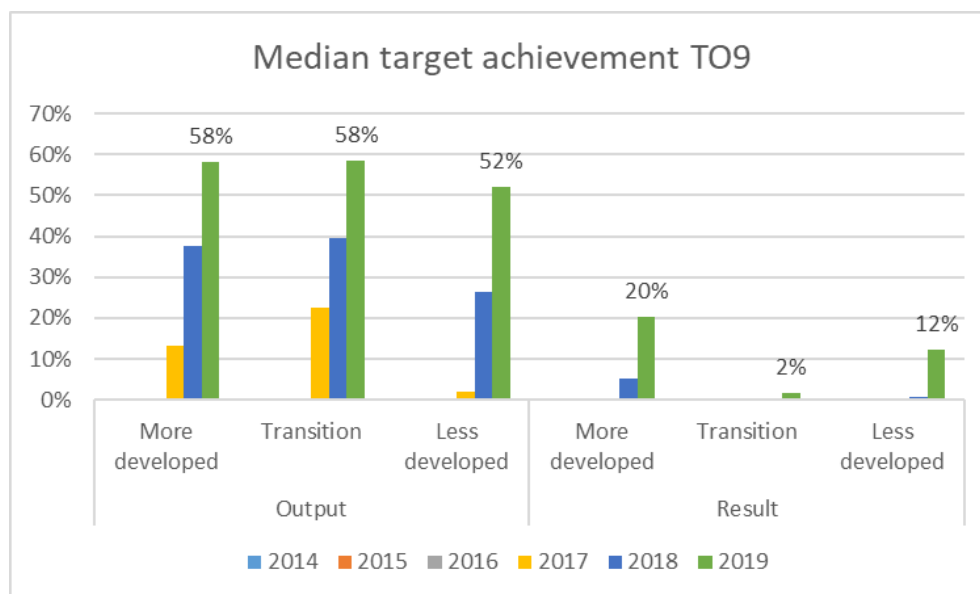
In terms of individual results achieved, less developed regions reached only around a quarter of the number of results achieved in more developed regions (0.3 million in less developed against 1.4 million in more developed regions). When looking at this data, one must take into account that the EU headline target under TO9 draws attention to the considerable effort needed in more developed regions, where particular attention to pockets of poverty continue to require policy action. However, the differences in number of participations and results are worth noting; while similar budgets are allocated and spent, considerably more participations and results are reported in more developed regions and transition regions, although relative purchasing power is higher.

The median target achievement for output indicators in less developed regions also lags slightly behind the other types of regions. In terms of the target achievement of results, the median achievement in Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Romania continues at 0%, which means that at least half of their result indicators still do not yet report any progress towards their targets. This is also reflected in the lower project selection and participation figures in these Member States. The final column of table 6.4 shows that the number of results reported so far in Czechia, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia remains low, when compared against the number of participations reached. Particularly in Member States where this is combined with a relatively low achievement rate of result indicators (Croatia, Luxembourg, Romania), this suggests that considerable improvements in results need to materialize in the final years of implementation. Luxembourg confirms there is high demand for the remaining projects in the area of social inclusion and expects increased

results. The managing authority responsible for programmes in Croatia and Romania do not explicitly indicate whether they expect increased results for the same interventions.

Figure 6.6 shows how considerable differences in target achievement in earlier years are now getting more aligned, with a median target achievement for output indicators in less developed regions (52%) approaching that of more developed and transition regions (58%). For result indicators, median target achievement continues relatively low, but can be expected to increase towards the final years. In more developed regions the first progress in the median was reported in 2018, with the median target achievement now reaching 20%. This is considerably above that of other regions.

Figure 6.6 Development median target achievement TO9 – by region



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

The progress of implementation was further analysed at the level of individual investment priorities. At this level, it is reassuring that the dominant investment priority (IP9i) also shows one of the highest project selection rates (93.6%) and produced a considerable number of observable results towards the EU poverty-reduction objectives (over 2.1 million). Investment in the area of community-led local development (IP9vi) continues as the investment priority with the lowest progress in implementation, both in terms of project selection, as well as output target achievement. However, due to its relatively small size, it has only a marginal effect on the overall figures for the overall thematic objective. Table 6.5 shows that the median result target achievement in all investment priorities except social inclusion (9i) and combating discrimination (9iii) continues at 0%, which means that at least half of the result indicators in this investment priority still do not yet report progress towards their targets.

Table 6.5 Overview TO9

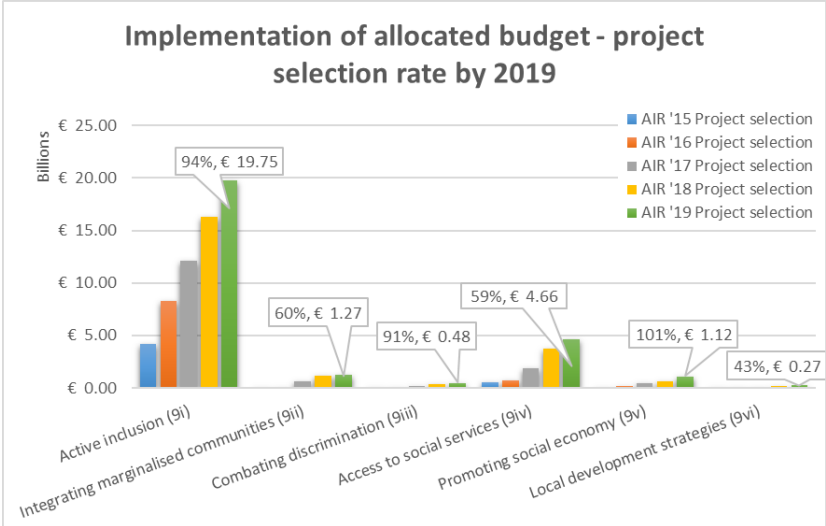
IP	Allocated budget (x€million)	Eligible costs (x€million)	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement
9i	21 088.7	19 746.4	93.6%	6 749 984	70.9%	2 137 176	30.8%
9ii	2 120.5	1 273.0	60.0%	351 831	46.8%	63 445	0.0%
9iii	527.0	482.0	91.5%	224 734	82.6%	40 029	28.6%
9iv	7 836.3	4 660.9	59.5%	1 063 562	44.4%	44 111	0.0%
9v	1 114.2	1 119.9	100.5%	131 283	19.8%	18 559	0.0%
9vi	637.3	270.9	42.5%	48 157	7.0%	3 989	0.0%
TO9	33 323.9	27 553.0	82.7%	8 569 551	55.0%	2 307 309	13.5%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Despite the overall lower progress towards result targets, the trend in project selection shows that overall implementation at the level of the thematic objective is well underway. Under

Thematic Objective 9, the implementation efforts by Member States are predominantly focused around Active inclusion (IP9i). Member States allocated a variety of interventions to this broad investment priority, also evidenced by its highest allocated budget. The investments in integrating marginalised communities (IP9ii) and local development strategies (IP9vi) continue with lower project selection rates.

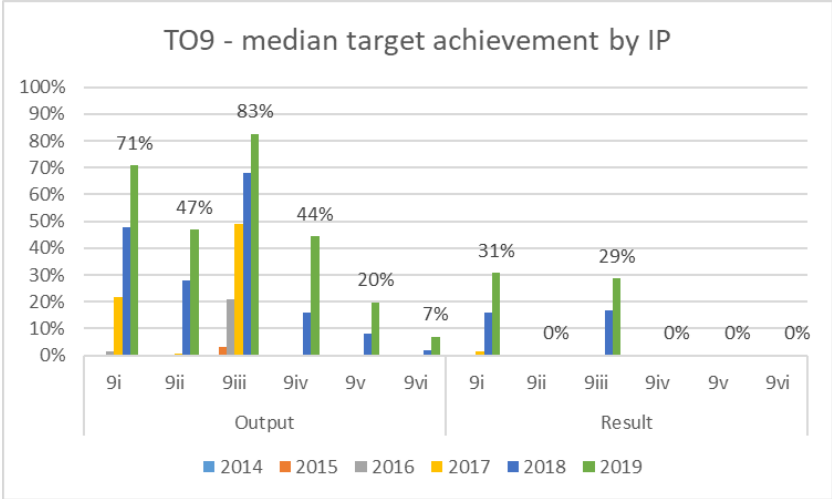
Figure 6.7 Absorption of budgets to investment priorities with social inclusion objective (TO9)



Source: AIR 2015-2019

Target achievement rates for output indicators have improved particularly since 2018, and increased further in 2019, particularly in the area of combating discrimination (9iii), active inclusion (9i), and integrating marginalised communities (9ii). This increase appears somewhat contradictory, given the below-average level of eligible costs reported for this investment priority (59%) and similarly low progress of result indicators towards targets (median target achievement 0%). However, it can be explained by some outliers in Bulgaria, Czechia, and Slovakia, where a considerable number of output indicators have started to record progress towards and beyond their targets. As already noted above, the progress towards result targets in this thematic objective continues relatively low, with at least half of indicators in four investment priorities still without any progress. Possibly, this lag in progress for result indicators is related to the more structural indicators defined for these investment priorities (welfare services, social enterprises, local development plans, etc.), where results may only be achieved some time after concluding the interventions, much unlike employment initiatives, where an effect is measured soon after concluding the intervention. Progress in this area will need to be monitored more closely in the final years of implementation.

Figure 6.8 Development median target achievement TO9 – by investment priority



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Individual background characteristics (either economic status, education, or family backgrounds) are captured by the common indicators and show for instance how investments in thematic objective 9 target specific target groups, such as low-skilled, (long-term) unemployed, elderly, disabled, and people with a migrant / foreign background. In addition, programme-specific indicators allow programmes to measure in greater detail characteristics that are more specific to certain interventions and show, for instance, how programmes also targeted prisoners and ex-offenders, drug users, people with mental disorders, individuals on specific social support programmes, children with a vulnerable position, specific ethnic minorities, and residents – and their children – from priority neighbourhoods. By the end of 2019, a total of 2.3 million individual results were recorded by the ESF common indicators for these 8.6 million participations, among which the number of participants that find employment upon leaving the intervention is the largest (slightly under 1.0 million, see table 6.6 below). In addition to this aggregation of results in common categories, which are largely oriented towards economic status of beneficiaries, TO9 investments also achieved various other types of results. These are better captured by the programme-specific indicators tailored to specific objectives in each programme and are also presented in the table below.

Table 6.6 Overview key result indicators T09 (common / programme specific)

Categorising key results social inclusion investments measured by Common indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Individual results	2 307 309	145	28
Of which inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (CR01)	415 333	145	28
Of which participants in education/training upon leaving (CR02)	379 876	145	28
Of which participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (CR03)	556 374	145	28
Of which participants in (self-)employment, upon leaving (CR04)	955 726	145	28
Categorising key figures social inclusion investments measured by Programme-specific indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Individual result: other positive result after intervention: The number of people who took advantage of new, innovative measures for the implementation of social inclusion	657 176	47	20
	AT, BE, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK		
Achievements: Capacity increased of health / social welfare	303 277	60	16
	BG, CZ, ES, FR, GR, HR, HU, IT, LV, LT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK		
Achievements: Capacity increased for childcare	23 931	20	5
	BE, BG, IT, SK, UK		
Entity: enterprise / economic operator – Social enterprises	14 598	40	11
	BG, CZ, ES, GR, HU, IT, LT, NL, PL, RO, SI		
Achievement – jobs created in social enterprises	9 385	21	5
	CY, CZ, FR, PL, UK		
Achievement – jobs preserved in social enterprises	8 661	7	2
	ES, LT		

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Typical results achieved by investments in TO9 consist for instance of broad positive effects (reported at more than 650 000), beyond standard results measured by common indicators on job-status or qualification, such as an increased quality of life, better life opportunities, reduction of dependence on certain services, or integration in communities. Such indicators are used by 20 Member States, across 47 different programmes. These ESF programmes sometimes do not further define the positive effects of interventions, for instance where participation by itself is counted as a positive result of the intervention (i.e., reaching hard-to-reach target groups).

Another typical focus of many interventions supported by TO9 investments consisted in expanding the capacity of a variety of social services, in the field of healthcare, social welfare,

or childcare, for instance. Such services in particular are an important measure to address the multi-faceted character of poverty, and more specifically of child poverty in the EU. While a specific investment priority (IP9iv) is dedicated to access to services, various interventions across other investment priorities also contribute to this objective. There are interventions with a general focus on active inclusion (IP9i), or supporting marginalised communities (IP9ii), combating discrimination (IP9iii), and community-led development (IP9vi). Each of priorities can be reached by improving the capacity of social services, and across these investment priority, TO9 investments so far contributed to increasing the capacity of such services to over 0.3 million people. Slovakia launched a project focusing on the implementation of measures for the social protection of children, as well as another that focuses on the effective re-socialisation of drug users. Latvia concentrates its operations on access to health promotion and disease prevention services, in particular for people at risk of territorial, poverty and social exclusion, at national and regional level. ESF facilitated the training of doctors, the attraction of doctors to the regions. In Greece for instance, ESF contributed to increasing the capacity of structures supporting women who are victims of violence, allowing over 90 thousand women to attend. In Bulgaria, ESF supported improving the access to services to more than 52 thousand participants (elderly and with disabilities) that are not able to make use of automated (self-service) service provisions.

Within TO9, investment priority 9v brings together projects that focus on promoting the social economy. While the common result indicators on job-status give some indication on results of these interventions, assessing the programme-specific indicators allows a deeper understanding of the ESF achievements in this area. By the end of 2019, 14 598 social enterprises have benefited from ESF support. For these 14 598 enterprises, 9 385 jobs were created, while another 8 661 jobs were preserved in such entities with support from ESF. Moreover, a total of 13 936 projects were counted that were implemented at least partially by civil society organisations. Particularly in the development of community-led development strategies (IP9vi) and interventions combating discrimination (IP9iii), further increases in the number of such projects can be expected in the final years of ESF.

6.3 Thematic Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

6.3.1 Objectives

Education is one of the main pathways to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The Europe 2020 strategy sets out a target for 'reducing the share of early leavers of education and training to less than 10 % and increasing the share of the population aged 30 to 34 having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40 %' by 2020.

In addition to the EU2020 goals on education (that remain the cornerstone of European strategy in this field), "Education and Training 2020" (ET 2020) provides complementary common strategic objectives for Member States, including a set of principles for achieving these objectives, as well as common working methods with priority areas for each periodic work cycle²⁷. This strategy framework consists of European benchmarks in the fields of: participation in early childhood education; skills in reading, mathematics and science; the rate of early leavers from education and training; education attainment in higher education; higher education graduates spending some time studying or training abroad; and the share of employed graduates. The ESF contributes to these objectives through four dedicated investment priorities.

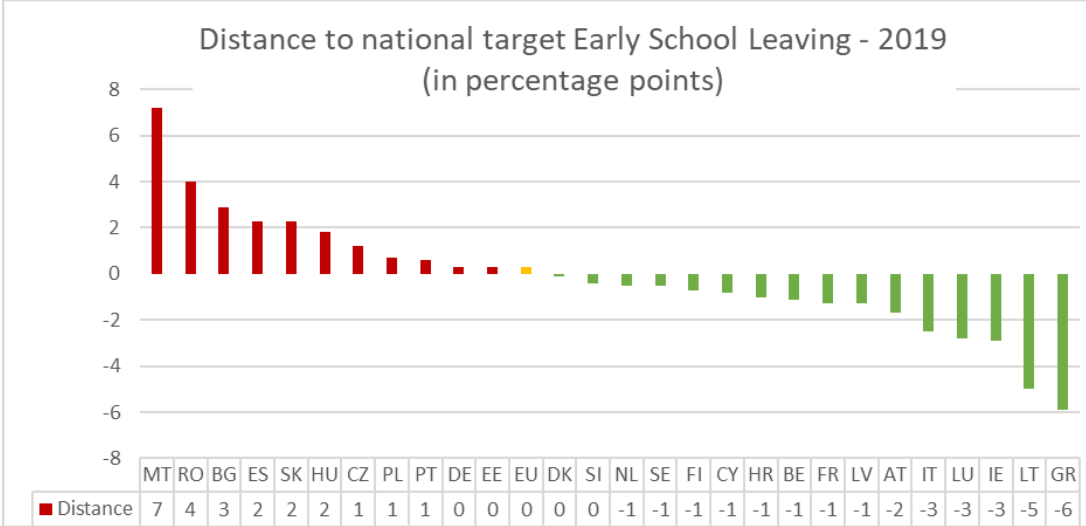
When assessing the performance of Member States in relation to early school leaving²⁸ in the field of education, the target set at the EU level for 2020 is within reach and is almost met. National targets were reached by Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, Croatia, Belgium, France, Latvia,

²⁷ It should be mentioned however that the CPR is not directly linked to the ET2020 strategy

²⁸ Early School Leaving is defined by the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with, at most, lower secondary education and who are not in further education or training;

Austria, Italy, Luxembourg, Ireland, Lithuania and Greece (see figure 6.9 below). Another group of Member States is made up of countries that are close to reaching their targets, such as Czechia, Poland, Portugal, Germany and Estonia. A third group of countries are still further away from reaching their national targets, including Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Slovakia and Hungary, which are still over 2 percentage points away from their national target²⁹.

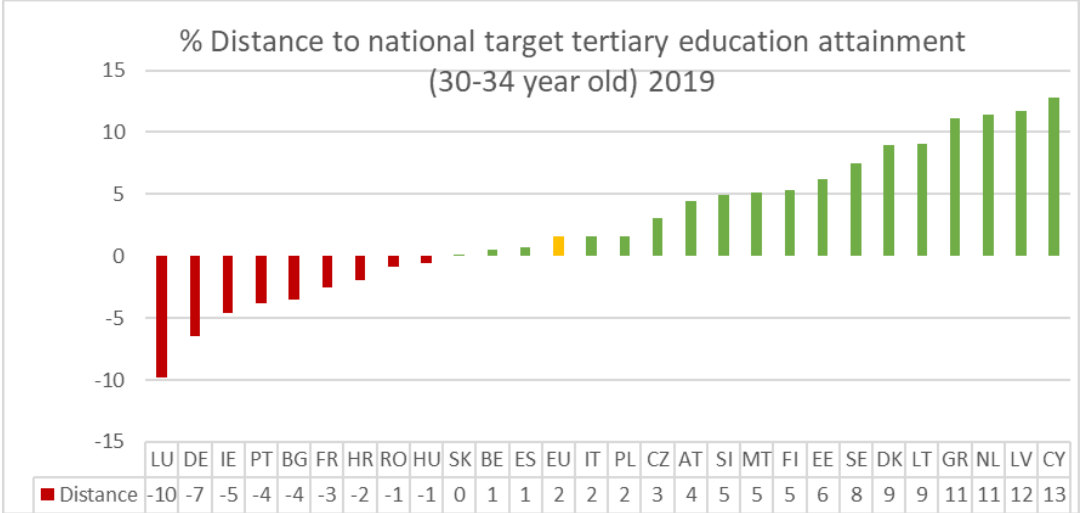
Figure 6.9 Headline target Early School Leaving – distance from national target 2019 (in percentage points)



Source: Eurostat (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators>)

Likewise, by taking a closer look at countries’ performance and national targets on tertiary educational attainment for the 30-34 age group, a majority of countries have already reached their national targets; a second group is close to reaching their national targets (Portugal, Bulgaria, France, Croatia, Romania, and Hungary). In Luxembourg, Germany, and Ireland a substantial increase in educational attainment is still needed, as they are over five percentage points away from their national target³⁰.

Figure 6.10 Headline target tertiary education attainment (30-34-year-old) 2019 – distance from national target (in percentage points)



Source: Eurostat (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators>)

²⁹ For the United Kingdom no target has been included in Eurostat concerning this target
³⁰ For the UK no target has been included in Eurostat concerning this target. Also note that DE's national target includes post-secondary non-tertiary (ISCED 4) graduates, who however are not included in the attainment rate measured for 2016; LU set the highest national target in the EU (66%), also reflecting the high share of tertiary educated people in its young population, regardless of their place of study (its attainment rate in 2016 neared 55%).

6.3.2 ESF interventions in thematic objective 10

National efforts to reach the EU headline targets are substantially complemented by ESF funding, which is recognised as one of the crucial implementation mechanisms for the EU2020 objectives. The ESF 2014-2020 concentrates investments in education into the following four investment priorities:

- (10i). Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training;
- (10ii). Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups;
- (10iii). Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways, including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences;
- (10iv). Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes.

Investment priority 10i combines various types of actions and operations with the objective of reducing and preventing early school-leaving. This also includes projects that promote equal access to good quality early-childhood education, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways to support reintegration. The overwhelming majority of targets and programme-specific indicators consist of young people in education. Other frequently targeted groups are schools, low-skilled individuals and school personnel.

The second headline target of Europe 2020 addresses the share of population that is enrolled in tertiary education. Investments towards this target are categorised under IP10ii. The objective of this priority is to improve the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups. As such, it brings together various aspects in the sphere of education, but also elements that may be targeted under Thematic Objective 9, under fighting against discrimination and promoting equal opportunities.

Where IP10i focuses on general education and IP10ii on higher education, IP10iii includes operations that seek to improve quality and access to lifelong learning, including all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings. It contributes to upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways, including career guidance and validation of acquired competences.

Finally, IP10iv brings together operations that seek to improve the overall education and training systems, improve the transition from education to work, and strengthen vocational education and training systems and their quality. This is being carried out through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes. Target groups defined by the programme-specific indicators range from schools, low-skilled individuals and school personnel and also include enterprises (employers, companies, and organisations).

6.3.3 Implementation of education and training investments

A total of EUR 37.8 billion has been allocated to thematic objective 10 (EU + national co-financing), which makes it the second largest thematic objective of the ESF, only slightly lower than TO8. Table 6.7 below shows that implementation for TO10 is relatively high across all regions, with a project selection rate of 85.6% in less developed and 94.9% in more developed regions. In transition regions more costs are already reported than the overall

budget (103.7%). In terms of participation and target achievement rates, no substantial differences can be observed. For the first time since the start of the programming period all Member States that programmed TO10 interventions now report participations. Differences persist, however, between individual Member States. When considering the share of project selection costs (225.7%) reported by Cyprus, its participation figures remain relatively low. In its AIR, Cyprus indicates that it is due to lower than expected interest from employees, unemployed and employers in vocational training programmes. In Romania, despite a considerable increase in participation figures in 2019, at least half of output indicators do not yet report progress. Here, implementation continues to be impacted by staffing challenges at the Ministry of Education. In addition, the limited capacities of potential beneficiaries to develop robust project proposals has reduced the number of applications. Progress towards results targets reached a median achievement of 26.4%, but also remains relatively low in Denmark, Croatia, Italy, Luxembourg, and Romania. In Denmark, this is explained by a lower-than-expected demand for long-term education courses at the start of the programme, which led to lower than expected outputs until 2019. These projects are still ongoing and did not yet report results.

Table 6.7 Overview Implementation TO10 – by Member State

MS	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
AT	435.6	347.3	79.7%	110 917	116.2%	30 439	78.6%	27%
BE	626.1	527.2	84.2%	369 935	147.9%	114 837	110.8%	31%
BG	359.0	224.7	62.6%	803 780	39.0%	460 401	36.3%	57%
CY	13.3	30.0	225.7%	1 529	26.6%	1 179	95.7%	77%
CZ	1 322.3	1 144.1	86.5%	59 889	49.8%	1 197	33.0%	2%
DE	4 004.3	3 800.4	94.9%	1 103 750	66.0%	644 453	54.8%	58%
DK	126.1	120.9	95.9%	18 692	60.2%	1 009	2.0%	5%
EE	239.0	216.5	90.6%	54 689	81.3%	46 285	74.5%	85%
ES	3 316.9	4 670.6	140.8%	1 668 801	51.2%	1 434 355	32.3%	86%
FI	332.8	310.0	93.1%	111 097	119.2%	5 425	63.6%	5%
FR	2 797.0	2 808.6	100.4%	571 385	65.2%	323 382	46.4%	57%
GR	1 246.5	1 067.9	85.7%	173 573	75.5%	114 862	24.5%	66%
HR	529.4	290.0	54.8%	55 311	21.6%	2 119	0.0%	4%
HU	1 474.3	1 411.0	95.7%	386 998	29.9%	214 624	7.6%	55%
IE	241.1	241.1	100.0%	240 176	78.8%	150 404	89.0%	63%
IT	4 896.3	4 475.6	91.4%	3 264 498	54.6%	211 732	6.1%	6%
LT	533.2	427.0	80.1%	272 449	66.7%	40 919	44.7%	15%
LU	7.2	9.5	133.0%	6 973	79.3%	55	0.0%	1%
LV	297.2	240.7	81.0%	55 643	77.8%	12 818	10.0%	23%
MT	47.4	45.8	96.6%	9 094	19.5%	1 271	17.6%	14%
NL								
PL	4 703.7	3 940.1	83.8%	2 095 155	77.2%	317 906	30.2%	15%
PT	4 790.1	4 105.3	85.7%	826 510	63.1%	254 228	5.6%	31%
RO	991.5	486.3	49.0%	269 409	0.0%	2 278	0.0%	1%
SE	382.1	293.6	76.8%	133 523	76.0%	3 023	21.5%	2%
SI	266.1	249.0	93.6%	112 797	99.4%	21 487	73.5%	19%
SK	419.1	284.2	67.8%	196 433	80.2%	8 510	15.0%	4%
UK	3 437.5	2 845.0	82.8%	422 611	35.5%	242 006	11.1%	57%
Total EU	37 835.1	34 612.6	91.5%	13 395 617	64.0%	4 661 204	26.4%	35%
Region	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
Less dev.	19 073.5	16 335.8	85.6%	7 060 847	67.6%	1 711 505	23.4%	24%
More dev.	13 428.0	12 744.0	94.9%	4 203 704	61.3%	1 670 806	27.8%	40%
Transition	5 333.5	5 532.7	103.7%	2 131 066	65.9%	1 278 893	28.4%	60%

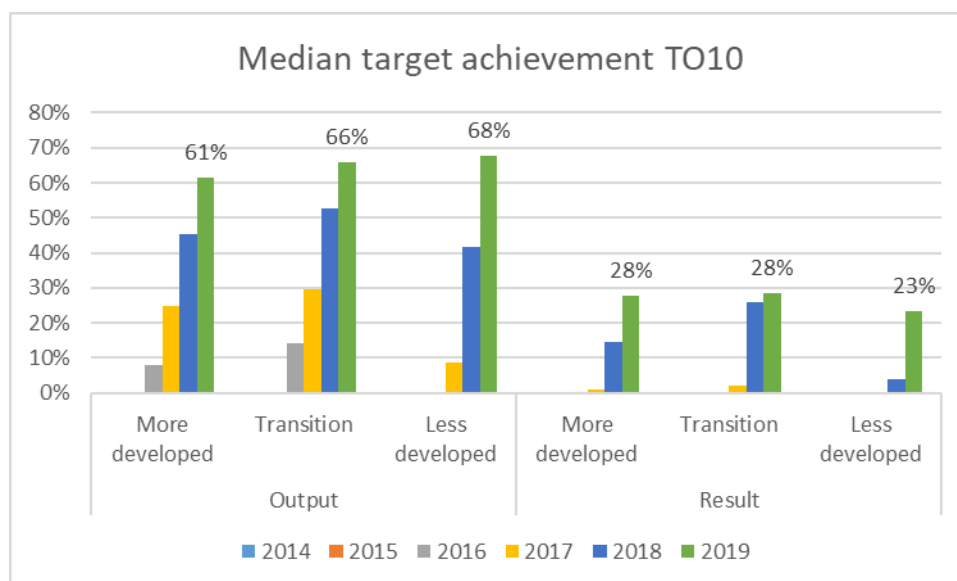
Empty fields indicate that no interventions are programmed for the thematic objective in that Member State.

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Investments in thematic objective 10 have led to considerable increases in target achievement of output indicators, as shown by the median values reported across different regions in figure 6.11. Unlike most other thematic objectives, median output target achievement has been steadily increasing since 2016, and has now reached 61% in more

developed regions, 68% in less developed regions, and 66% in transition regions. The median achievement rate of result indicators is also relatively uniform, between 23-28%. Figure 6.11 also shows how less developed regions have improved substantially in comparison to 2018.

Figure 6.11 Evolution of median target achievement under TO10 –by region



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Table 6.8 below summarises the progress for each of the four investment priorities under TO10, in terms of the eligible costs reported, individuals and short-term individual results achieved, and progress towards targets set for output and result indicators. Operations focusing on the quality of higher education (IP10ii), access to lifelong learning (IP10iii) and improving labour market relevance (IP10iv) show relatively similar project selection rates (84-88% respectively). Reported costs selected for investment in early school leaving (IP10i) have already exceed the allocated amount (103.5%). A total of 6.5 million participations were reported for these interventions (under IP10i), which covers roughly half of all participations of the thematic objective. These interventions also exceed considerably the median target achievement rates of other investment priorities. This underlines the ESF contribution to the EU headline target of early school leaving, and the advanced state of implementation suggests that the ESF has significantly contributed to achieving this objective. As support to the quality of higher education (IP10ii), implementation continues at a level comparable to other investment priorities, but at the same time has reached considerably lower numbers of participations and individual results, even when accounting for the lower budget dedicated to such investments. To some extent these are a reflection of the more structural nature of operations, which do not necessarily reach and count individuals, but focus on education providers and count the number of curricula and structural changes. Such broader achievements are not fully captured in quantitative indicators, even if these are tailored programme-specific indicators. However, the achievement rate of results indicators (which are tailored to the specificity of its interventions) is also comparatively low (a median target achievement of 1.0% is reported, compared to 26.4% for the entire thematic objective).

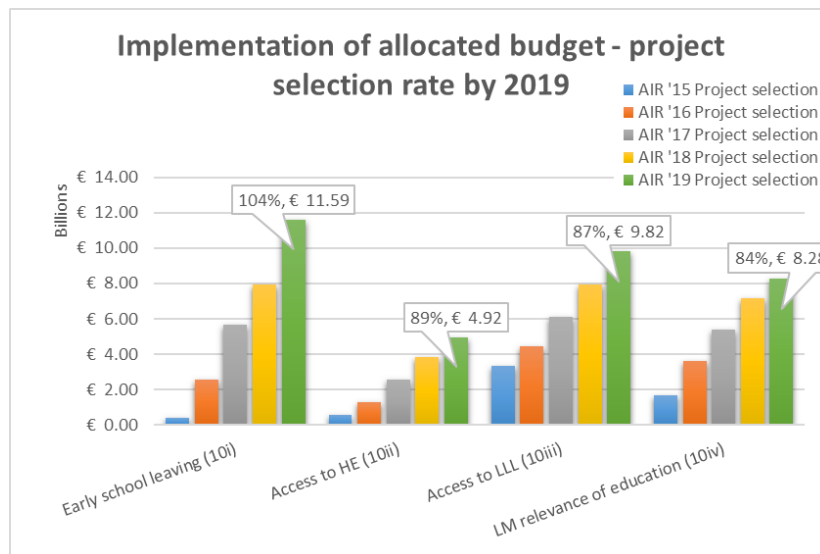
Table 6.8 Overview TO10

IP	Allocated budget (x€million)	Eligible costs (x€million)	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement
10i	11 196.8	11 588.7	103.5%	6 487 578	87.4%	1 396 614	39.1%
10ii	5 541.7	4 915.7	88.7%	686 315	44.9%	143 721	1.0%
10iii	11 234.0	9 824.0	87.4%	3 882 037	62.0%	1 992 872	33.7%
10iv	9 862.6	8 284.1	84.0%	2 339 687	49.3%	1 127 997	16.8%
TO10	37 835.1	34 612.6	91.5%	13 395 617	64.0%	4 661 204	26.4%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Figure 6.12 below shows how the progress of project selection over time has been remarkably stable for TO10 investments. For each investment priority a relatively stable progress is reported; only for early school leaving (IP10i) a big step was reported from 2018 to 2019, possibly in relation to the upcoming EU2020 target.

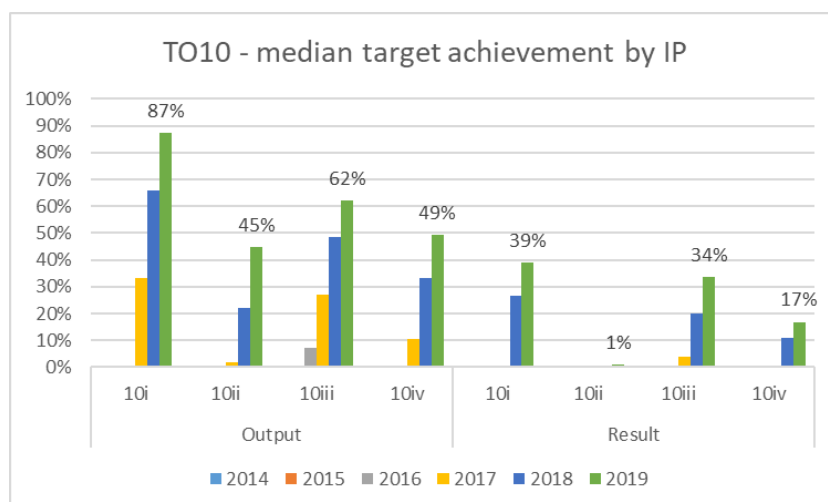
Figure 6.12 Absorption of budgets to investment priorities with education objectives (TO10)



Source: AIR 2015-2019

Progress towards the indicator targets is less uniform when comparing investment priorities and shows particular big improvements since 2018. The median target achievement for output indicators already reached 87% for early school leaving, which means that half of the indicators in this investment priority report a target achievement above 87%. This is the highest median target achievement reported for any investment priority. Major improvements in the target achievement of output indicators can also be observed in other TO10 investment priorities. As expected, the target achievement for result indicators is lower than that of output indicators and still has considerable scope of improvement in the coming years.

Figure 6.13 Development median target achievement TO10 - by investment priority



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

In total, 13.4 million participations are reported for all TO10 operations, of which 4.7 million have reached an individual short-term result. For operations that seek to reduce early school leaving (IP10i) and increase access to lifelong learning (IP10iii) the common indicators for individual outputs and results provide a rather accurate picture of the results of these investments. At the end of 2019, 3.2 million participants gained a qualification with support of ESF investments in TO10, while another 0.9 million participants were in education / training upon leaving the intervention. As could be expected for operations that focus on education,

these results are much higher than, for instance, the number of participants that engaged in job searching or entered employment (which are nonetheless not negligible). In addition to these figures, a relevant result that is recorded in various programmes across TO10 investments is related to improved skills (without necessarily leading to a qualification, see table 6.9 below). Moreover, the number of children supported into some sort of pre-primary education is another relevant indicator for progress under this thematic objective, currently reaching 158 564 children, supported by 21 OP in five Member States. Within the scope of combating early school leaving, the increased capacity of community learning centres is a relevant programme-specific indicator that illustrates the broader scope of these interventions as well.

Table 6.9 Overview key result indicators T010 (common / programme specific)

Categorising key results education investments measured by Common indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Individual results	4 661 204	147	27
Of which inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (CR01)	211 638	147	27
Of which participants in education/training upon leaving (CR02)	942 522	147	27
Of which participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (CR03)	3 207 476	147	27
Of which participants in (self-)employment, upon leaving (CR04)	299 568	147	27
Categorising key figures education investments measured by Programme-specific indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Individuals – number of persons with skills improved after intervention	2 658 433	33	12
	BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FR, IT, LV, PL, SI, SK, UK		
Individuals – number of children supported into pre-primary education	158 564	21	5
	GR, HR, PL, PT, RO		
Entities – Education providers reached (outputs)	151 915	43	18
	BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK		
Entities – Positive result for education providers	82 584	43	18
	BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, GR, HR, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK		
Achievements: Capacity increased for community learning centres	55 754	5	5
	CZ, HR, PL, PT, RO		
Projects – Number of successful projects	1 504	19	13
	BE, BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, LV, PL, RO, SE, SK		

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

As already pointed out above, the more structural objectives of investments in access to higher education (IP10ii) and increasing the labour market relevance of education (IP10iv) are best measured by more specific indicators, defined by programmes themselves. From this perspective, for instance, TO10 investments reached 151 915 education providers, while a total of 82 584 positive results were recorded for education providers. The type and breadth of such 'positive results' vary substantially across programmes and consist for instance in the number of education providers that use new teaching approaches (Bulgaria, Slovakia), cooperation agreements (Germany), or the number of providers that start using new ICT equipment / laboratories (Croatia, Poland). In other programmes reaching an education provider is already considered a result; in many cases no follow-up indicators measure the scope of change achieved. A good example of this is represented by education providers that participate in knowledge exchanges with labour market experts. Even though participation may not result in an immediate measurable result, on the longer run education providers can improve the labour market relevance of their courses because of their participation in such events. Likewise, the indicators counting positive results in education providers are often not accompanied by output indicators that track the actual number of education providers reached.

6.4 Thematic Objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

6.4.1 Objectives

Good public administration significantly impacts the economic environment. Consequently, reforming public administrations has also been defined as a key priority for the successful implementation of the EU2020 Strategy towards smart and sustainable growth. The Annual Growth Surveys, the Economic Adjustment Programmes and other frameworks of Financial Assistance in EU Member States highlight the need to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, as well as the transparency and quality of public administrations and the judiciary.

"Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration" is included as a separate thematic objective (thematic objective 11 or "TO11") in the Common Provisions Regulation for the 2014-2020 programming period (Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, Art.9). Both the ESF and ERDF contribute to TO11, but their role is quite different. The ERDF has a relatively narrow scope on infrastructure, while the ESF focuses more on the (staff of the) institutions and procedures.

To contribute to these objectives, two specific investment priorities have been defined within the ESF:

- (11i). Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
- (11ii). Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels.

6.4.2 ESF interventions in thematic objective 11

Under TO11, Member States programme a variety of operations that contribute to institutional capacity. Operations can target different levels of government, and in the majority of cases these consist of training measures. Under IP11i, measures aim at adapting structures, streamlining processes and implementing evidence-based public policies, preparing strategic planning with programme budgeting, simplifying legislation and reducing administrative burden, strengthening the capacity of public authorities and institutions for transparent and effective implementation of public procurement as well as improving the efficiency of the judiciary.

While IP11i mainly consists of capacity building of public institutions, IP11ii has a considerably broader scope and brings together operations that seek to build capacity of different types of stakeholders, in various thematic fields such as employment, social inclusion or education policies. This also includes support for sectoral and territorial pacts to engage in reform.

6.4.3 Implementation of institutional capacity investments

A total amount of EUR 4.5 billion is allocated to this Thematic Objective (EU + national share), which makes it considerably smaller in scope than the other TOs. At EU level, the project selection rate in this area is also behind that of other ESF thematic objectives and stands at 82.4% at the time of analysis. As shown in table 6.10 at this moment the United Kingdom stands out, as it has not recorded any eligible costs so far. The small scope of interventions needs to be taken into account, as well as the fact that the scope of its TO11 investments were only approved in September 2018. So far, no operations were approved, but preparations for implementation are reported in the AIRs. Project selection rates are also substantially below the EU average in France (55.3%) and Croatia (45.7%). In France, TO11 investments are programmed only for its overseas territories (Guyane, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Mayotte). While considerable progress is already reported in Guyane and Martinique, implementation in Guadeloupe and Mayotte does not show substantial progress by the end of 2019, not only in terms of project selection rates, but also as measured by common indicators and target achievement. No particular explanations are provided by Guadeloupe, whereas the managing authority in Mayotte indicates that they are currently

focusing on exploring the possibilities to find co-financing for possible projects in 2020. Croatia indicated that the preparation and publication of calls and contracting started with a major delay mainly due to the ex-ante conditionality related to the adoption of the Public Administration Development Strategy for the period 2015-2020.

Table 6.10 Overview Implementation TO11 – by Member State

MS	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
AT								
BE								
BG	237.0	174.2	73.5%	49 730	40.9%	15 158	32.8%	30%
CY	13.1	15.5	118.2%	0	50.0%	0	49.8%	
CZ	163.3	148.8	91.1%	9 681	29.3%	7 211	9.2%	74%
DE								
DK								
EE	33.4	32.4	97.1%	1 920	77.8%	364	55.1%	19%
ES								
FI								
FR	23.8	13.2	55.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
GR	324.3	233.2	71.9%	92 103	40.8%	76 868	0.0%	83%
HR	210.7	96.3	45.7%	16 512	17.1%	253	0.0%	2%
HU	892.5	926.8	103.9%	69 742	11.8%	42 043	84.6%	60%
IE								
IT	889.8	533.4	59.9%	95 965	19.4%	7 397	6.4%	8%
LT	126.4	116.0	91.8%	45 818	28.9%	21 071	0.0%	46%
LU								
LV	20.9	19.9	95.2%	9 873	87.8%	319	69.4%	3%
MT	11.0	15.7	142.4%	2 567	48.1%	319	22.3%	12%
NL								
PL	227.0	145.8	64.2%	56 960	0.7%	2 057	0.0%	4%
PT	259.8	199.3	76.7%	2 474	5.9%	0	15.7%	0%
RO	625.1	576.5	92.2%	23 272	50.0%	11 853	0.0%	51%
SE								
SI	78.6	82.1	104.4%	8 243	112.5%	20	66.7%	0%
SK	287.8	356.8	124.0%	2 922	101.7%	0	0.0%	0%
UK	49.6	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Total EU	4 474.1	3 685.7	82.4%	487 782	34.2%	184 933	0.0%	38%
Region	Allocated budget	Eligible costs	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement	Average success rate
	(x€ million)							
Less dev.	3 605.7	2 991.7	83.0%	306 902	33.3%	100 904	0.0%	33%
More dev.	724.3	592.5	81.8%	154 683	35.7%	71 220	0.0%	46%
Transition	144.2	101.5	70.4%	26 197	35.7%	12 809	0.0%	49%

Empty fields indicate that no interventions are programmed for the thematic objective in that Member State.

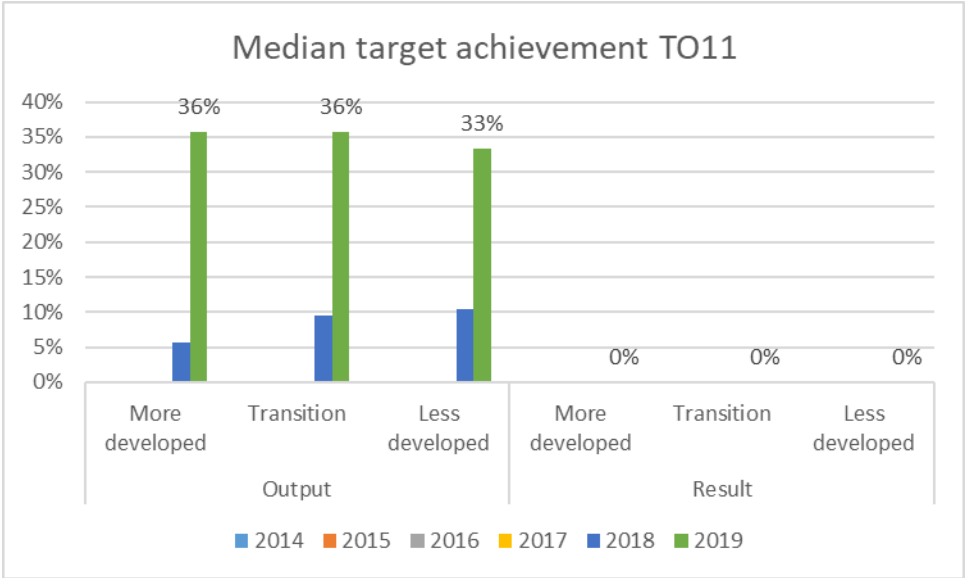
Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

So far, no participations, nor individual results were reported for Cyprus, France, and the United Kingdom. For Portugal and Slovakia no individual results were reported yet. In Slovakia, this should be temporary, as it does already count individual results among its programme-specific indicators (individual employees, public administration staff as well as judges were targeted and reached positive results under the programme). For Portugal no individual results are reported for programme-specific indicators either; instead, the first results reported concern the number of institutions where capacity development activities were conducted. As suggested by the relatively low target achievement for these indicators (15.7%), this consists of only the first steps; more results are to be expected in the final years of implementation.

Figure 6.14 shows how the output and result indicators at EU level have started to edge towards their targets; since 2017 the first progress can be observed for output indicators with targets. Differences between regions are relatively small, however it is worth remembering that almost all investments are conducted in less developed regions. For result indicators, no substantial progress towards targets can be observed. A median value at 0% means that currently at least half of all result indicators in TO11 do not report progress towards their

targets. This is somewhat remarkable, given that the reported project selection rate at EU level is already 82.4%. As already observed for TO10, possibly the more structural nature of interventions, and the expected results may suggest that progress towards such objectives cannot be observed until the very end of the programming period.

Figure 6.14 Development median target achievement TO11 – by region



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

A substantial difference can be observed in progress achieved by investments in the institutional capacity of public administrations (IP11i), compared to capacity building of stakeholders (IP11ii). The latter has reported considerably less progress so far, with only 38.8% of the total allocated amounts reported as selected eligible costs so far. This is also reflected in the lower number of participations and results achieved.

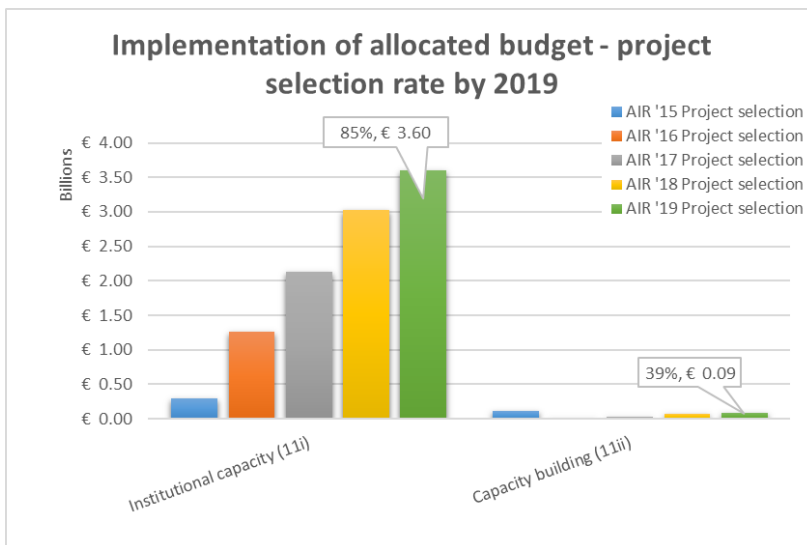
Table 6.11 Summative factsheet on progress of TO11

IP	Allocated budget (x€million)	Eligible costs (x€million)	% project selection	Participations	Median output achievement	Individual results	Median result achievement
11i	4 251.3	3 599.4	84.7%	460 733	35.7%	183 635	0.0%
11ii	222.8	86.4	38.8%	27 049	18.6%	1 298	0.0%
TO11	4 474.1	3 685.7	82.4%	487 782	34.2%	184 933	0.0%

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

While the differences in progress between the two investment priorities under TO11 are substantial in relative terms, it is important to also consider the difference in scope; investments in public administrations (IP11i) are much more substantial than other investments. Progress in this area is therefore an important finding. In fact, as figure 6.15 shows below, the actual costs reported have been increasing steadily every year since 2016.

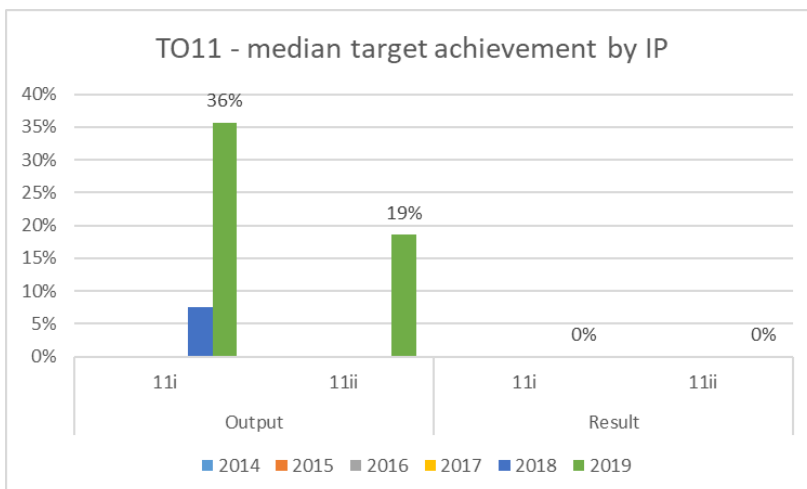
Figure 6.15 Absorption of budgets to investment priorities with institutional capacity objectives (TO11)



Source: AIR 2015-2019

Progress measured against the targets set for output and result indicators face a slight delay, like in other thematic objectives. Since 2018, considerable progress towards targets have been reported when measured by the median of target achievement of output indicators. For result indicators, at least half of all indicators still reports no progress towards their objectives. This will require continued attention towards the final years of implementation.

Figure 6.16 Development median target achievement TO11 by investment priority



Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

As the example of Slovakia already showed above, when determining progress of implementation in absolute numbers, it is important not to limit the analysis to common indicators. Individuals are not the main units targeted by these operations, and more attention is needed for other types of absolute outputs and results. In terms of results for instance, programmes often report on (the reduction of) administrative time required for certain operations, or specific positive results for organisations, public administrations, judiciary, civil society organisations. These are operationalised by measuring the number of institutions that implemented certain IT systems, revised and / or simplified procedures, increased regulatory scrutiny, etc.

Table 6.12 Overview key result indicators T011 (common / programme specific)

Categorising key results institutional capacity measured by Common indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Individual results	184 933	54	17
Of which inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving (CR01)	72	54	17
Of which participants in education/training upon leaving (CR02)	14 772	54	17
Of which participants gaining a qualification upon leaving (CR03)	168 753	54	17
Of which participants in (self-)employment, upon leaving (CR04)	1 336	54	17
Categorising key figures institutional capacity measured by Programme-specific indicators	Total achieved	Number of OP covered	Number of MS covered
Entities – Positive result for Authorities / Institutions / Organisations	8 754	27	16
	BG, CY, CZ, EE, GR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK		
	2 300	14	11
Of which Positive result for national public authorities	BG, CY, EE, GR, IT, LT, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK		
	482	8	8
Of which Positive result for judiciary	HR, IT, LT, LV, PL, RO, SI, SK		
	2 935	9	7
Of which Positive result for local / regional public authorities	BG, EE, HU, IT, LT, PL, RO		
	211	4	4
Of which Positive result for Civil society organisations	HR, PL, RO, SI		
	2 826	14	8
Of which other institutions / organisations	CZ, GR, HR, IT, LT, PL, PT, SK		

Source: SFC2014, AIR 2019 (data extracted on December 1, 2020)

Programme-specific indicators that measure positive results for organisations (public and private) aggregate to a total of 8 754 organisations that recorded positive results. Though such programme-specific indicators that measure results for institutions are indeed a better measure of success of the interventions than individual results, these are difficult to aggregate or even to compare. The introduction of the nation-wide rollout of a major IT improvement in all municipal authorities cannot easily be compared to the improved function of a specific public department or passing of a certain law. Comprehensive evaluations by member States at the end of the programming period will be necessary to assess the implementation of such widely different operations.

7 Conclusions

7.1 Scope of ESF / YEI

The ESF 2014-2020 has an overall budget of EUR 120.5 billion, of which EUR 84.2 billion is financed by the European Union. The largest share of the budget is earmarked to support European employment objectives under Thematic Objective 8 (EUR 39.8 billion focused on ESF interventions in TO8, and another EUR 5.98 billion topping up the dedicated YEI fund with ESF matching funds and national co-financing), followed by education and training under Thematic Objective 10 (EUR 37.8 billion), and social inclusion under Thematic Objective 9 (EUR 33.3 billion). Finally, EUR 4.5 billion is allocated to institutional capacity building under Thematic Objective 11, while the remaining EUR 5.1 billion is allocated to technical assistance.

The European Commission also reserved a dedicated budget to combat youth unemployment under the Youth Employment Initiative. In June 2017, the European Parliament and Council approved the European Commission's proposal to increase the YEI dedicated budget to EUR 4.47 billion, further topped up by a matching share of ESF funding and national ESF contributions. As such, by the end of 2019, a total of EUR 8.9 billion of the EU budget is available for YEI interventions, a total of EUR 10.4 billion if national co-financing is included.

This additional budget for the YEI facilitated a substantial increase in budget allocations to investments in employment objectives (Thematic Objective 8). In response to local priorities, Member States without YEI programmes also reprogrammed their OPs and re-allocated ESF investments from social inclusion (Thematic Objective 9) and education investments (Thematic Objective 9) towards employment objectives. In Spain and Greece in particular, the increases in YEI funding also permitted a broader reprogramming effort of ESF funds, initially targeted for youth employment. In response to the economic fall-out of COVID-19 restrictions, Member States were given increased flexibility to transfer resources between ERDF, CF and ESF in 2020-2021. The first example of this was observed in Slovakia; it can be expected that other Member States will revise their OPs to use this increased flexibility as well, possibly increasing the share of the budget reserved for employment objectives in the coming years.

7.2 Progress in implementation

A year after progress towards the milestones (defined in the performance framework targets) were reviewed, implementation of ESF/YEI programmes have been steadily increasing. The number of operations continues to grow, towards 37.9 million at the end of 2019³¹. Whilst the initial years of implementation showed considerable differences between different types of regions, the number of participations from more and less developed regions is now relatively balanced. These totals include a total of 3.0 million participations that are supported by the YEI and focus on enhancing youth employment. Overall, participants benefitting from ESF / YEI have different backgrounds, but most participants (40 %) were unemployed and 45 % were below 25 years old. Finally, with regards to the education level, a considerable level of participants had qualifications at ISCED 1/2 level (49 %)³². The participation of (wo)men is relatively balanced at EU level, but varies between Member States, depending on the local needs and types of interventions.

In addition to participants, common outputs registered are also the number of projects and entities. A total of 82 962 projects that targeted social partners or non-governmental organisations were supported, while 40 105 supported projects were dedicated to the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment. Another 51 733 projects

³¹ Background characteristics (labour market status, age, education) are available for 36.4 million of the 37.9 million participations. While Member States have the obligation to try to obtain as many of the necessary background variables on participations as possible, the Regulation does not allow to exclude individuals that object to share sensitive information. For this reason, the reporting does not contain background information for all 37.9 million participations.

³² Note that these categories are not mutually exclusive.

targeted public administration / public services at national, regional or local level. Finally, the ESF supported a total of 733 100 SMEs between 2014-2019.

The substantial numbers of participation reached with ESF / YEI helped 4.5 million participants find a job, while another 5.5 million participants gained a qualification, 0.8 million are engaged in job-searching and 1.8 million are in education / training. Additionally, a total of 4.1 million disadvantaged participants achieved one of these positive results.

7.3 ESF support to EU policies

This report jointly analysed the objectives established in the Operational Programmes and types of operations funded, from the perspective of the national situation and strategies (as reported in the AIRs) and EU level strategies and headline targets.

Thematic objective 8 - employment

Operations that promote sustainable and quality employment (Thematic Objective 8) supported almost 11.0 million participants, which led to more than 4.1 million positive results. These positive results refer to people that either found a job, gained a qualification or otherwise were able to improve their labour market position thanks to ESF interventions.

Interventions that support access to employment (IP8i) are most common and among the most advanced in implementation, both in terms of project selection rate (83.1 %), number of participations (5.5 million) and the number results for individuals (2.4 million) already achieved. As it receives more than 40 % of the entire budget dedicated to employment objectives, it is reassuring to find that implementation of this important investment priority continues to proceed towards its targets. The operations with a focus on youth integration in the labour market (IP8ii) are also moving ahead steadily, with YEI operations still slightly ahead of the implementation of ESF-funded employment measures for young persons.

Thematic objective 9 – social inclusion

Operations in the field of social inclusion are designed to contribute to the EU2020 headline target of reducing poverty in the EU. For the most part, these operations are designed around active inclusion (IP9i). Member States allocated a variety of interventions to this broad investment priority, evidenced by its position as highest allocated budget within this thematic objective. Individual background characteristics (either economic status, education, or family background) show for instance how social inclusion investments target various specific groups, such as low-skilled, (long-term) unemployed, elderly, disabled, and people with a migrant / foreign background. Programme-specific indicators show that a certain level of attention is put on prisoners and ex-offenders, drug users, people with mental disorders, individuals on specific social support programmes, ethnic minorities, and residents in marginalised neighbourhoods. Such investments supported 8.6 million participations, which led to 2.3 million positive results, such as finding a job, gaining a qualification or other improvements in terms of one's position on the labour market. This is a substantial figure in view of the headline target to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Investments under the investment priority on active inclusion (IP9i) also show one of the highest project selection rates, with on average 93.6% of the total allocation to this investment priority already reported as costs. The project selection rates for smaller investment priorities in TO9 are considerably lower, varying from 42.5% for community-led local development strategies (IP9vi), access to healthcare and social services (59.5% - IP9iv) and 60.0% for marginalised communities (IP9ii). Overall, the project selection rate for TO9 interventions reached 82.7%.

Progress towards the targets defined for output indicators is advancing consistently, with at the end of 2019 at least half of all indicators achieving 55% of their defined output targets. On the other hand, it usually takes longer for progress towards results indicators to materialize. As a consequence, the median result target achievement of result targets in TO9 lies at 13.5%, whereas for social inclusion (IP9i), the major investment priority in this area, a median of 30.8% is already reported for result target achievement.

Thematic objective 10 – education and training

In the field of education and training, the implementation of the key investment priorities is improving considerably. In total, 13.4 million participants are recorded for all operations in the field of education, of which 4.7 million have reached an individual short-term result. More than 3.2 million participants gained a qualification with support of ESF investments with an education objective, while another 0.9 million participants were in education / training upon leaving the intervention. As could be expected for operations that focus on education, these results are higher than the results related to the number of participants that engaged in job searching or entered employment. In addition to these figures, a relevant result recorded in various programmes across education investments is related to improved skills (not necessarily leading to a qualification), which is recorded by almost 2.7 million participants.

The project selection rates reported for education investments are consistently high across investment priorities. More eligible costs were reported than the allocated investments in early school leaving operations (project selection rate of 103.5%), while also in other investment priorities the project selection rates edge towards 90%. Despite similar levels of funding, output and result, target achievement in interventions that focus on increasing access to higher education are lower than in other investment priorities. No particular reason for this can be found in the AIR2019, but it is relevant to observe in view of the persisting gaps towards the EU2020 targets for participation in higher education.

Thematic objective 11 – institutional capacity

Institutional capacity investments receive the lowest budget allocation with an overall EUR 4.5 billion. The implementation of these investments moves relatively in line with the other thematic objectives and reported a total of 82.4 % of the allocated amounts as eligible costs. In terms of individual results, such interventions mainly contributed to public officials gaining a certain type of qualification (168 753), but most meaningful results in this area are procedural in kind, such as shorter time required for certain operations, or specific positive results for organisations, public administrations, the judiciary, and civil society organisations. Good examples for this are, for instance, the number of institutions that implemented certain IT systems, revised and / or simplified procedures, and increased regulatory scrutiny. Despite continuous progress of implementation there remains considerable scope for improvement, particularly in terms of the target achievement recorded for result indicators. So far, less than half of all indicators in this thematic objective report any progress towards their targets.

Overall assessment

While progress has been considerably uneven between less developed regions and more developed regions in the initial years, these differences have almost entirely disappeared. There are still a number of Member States that face challenges in meeting their targets for spending, as well as output and result indicators, most notably Croatia and Romania, and to a lesser extent in Greece and the United Kingdom. Overall, implementation is well underway and individual indicators are moving towards their targets across the EU. Moreover, investments in employment and education objectives have led to considerable improvements in achieving results targets, as measured by the median target achievement rates. Like in 2007-2013, investments in the area of Institutional Capacity (TO11) continue to show the least progress towards results targets. To some extent, the specific target groups and specific nature of interventions may play a role in this, though normally such targets should already be designed bearing such specificities in mind. It will be necessary to continue to monitor progress towards the targets and objectives in this area more closely.

Additional attention will also be necessary in monitoring the relation between costs reported and participation and results. As shown in chapter 5, the unit costs per participation and results continue to be considerably higher in less developed regions, which are not easily justified by enduring differences in implementation. In fact, the persisting differences in purchasing power between less developed regions and elsewhere should lead to the exact opposite.

The results presented in this report show a stable implementation, allowing the 187 Operational Programmes across the EU to continue investing in promoting sustainable employment, social inclusion, education, and institutional capacity. After concluding the

challenging work surrounding the Performance Review in 2018, managing authorities have been able to focus their attention on the implementation of the remaining activities and operations in 2019. This puts ESF / YEI programmes in a good place to also respond rapidly and adequately to the changing priorities in 2020 as a response of the severe economic consequences of the COVID-19 restrictions. As the data in this report only includes progress until the end of 2019, no further conclusions can be drawn in this regard; this will have to be shown in managing authorities' reports for 2020, expected in 2021.

Annex I: Sources of data

Versions of AIR 2019

CCI	AIR version	Status	Status date	OP version used for reference	Report approval date
2014AT05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	23-10-2020	3.0	25-9-2020
2014BE05M9OP001	2019.0	Admissible	17-7-2020	5.1	15-7-2020
2014BE05M9OP002	2019.0	Admissible	20-11-2020	5.0	24-9-2020
2014BE05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-7-2020	3.1	9-6-2020
2014BE05SFOP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	28-9-2020	5.1	10-9-2020
2014BG05M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	17-9-2020	3.0	17-7-2020
2014BG05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	20-7-2020	3.0	1-6-2020
2014BG05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	8-7-2020	3.1	18-6-2020
2014CY05M9OP001	2019.1	Accepted by EC	28-9-2020	4.2	
2014CZ05M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	13-7-2020	3.0	18-5-2020
2014CZ05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	15-6-2020	3.0	13-2-2020
2014CZ16M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	1-7-2020	6.0	13-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP001	2019.0	Admissible	17-6-2020	2.0	27-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP002	2019.1	Admissible	1-9-2020	2.0	
2014DE05SFOP003	2019.1	Accepted by EC	20-7-2020	1.3	
2014DE05SFOP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	23-6-2020	4.0	8-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	31-8-2020	2.0	27-7-2020
2014DE05SFOP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	4-11-2020	2.0	1-7-2020
2014DE05SFOP007	2019.1	Accepted by EC	28-7-2020	2.0	22-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP008	2019.0	Accepted by EC	14-8-2020	1.2	19-6-2020
2014DE05SFOP009	2019.0	Accepted by EC	4-7-2020	2.0	27-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP010	2019.0	Admissible	16-6-2020	2.0	27-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP011	2019.0	Accepted by EC	21-7-2020	2.0	8-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP012	2019.2	Accepted by EC	21-9-2020	3.0	12-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP013	2019.0	Accepted by EC	8-7-2020	2.0	22-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP014	2019.0	Accepted by EC	4-7-2020	2.1	26-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP015	2019.0	Accepted by EC	3-7-2020	2.0	22-5-2020
2014DE05SFOP016	2019.3	Accepted by EC	3-11-2020	2.0	
2014DE16M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	7-11-2020	5.1	25-9-2020
2014DK05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	6.0	26-8-2020
2014EE16M3OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	28-7-2020	5.0	27-5-2020
2014ES05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	6.0	24-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-9-2020	2.0	24-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	16-10-2020	3.1	21-9-2020
2014ES05SFOP003	2019.0	Accepted by EC	28-10-2020	2.0	29-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-10-2020	3.0	20-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	2.1	28-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	3.0	22-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP007	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-9-2020	2.0	28-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP008	2019.0	Accepted by EC	21-9-2020	2.1	30-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP009	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	2.1	31-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP010	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-10-2020	3.0	22-9-2020
2014ES05SFOP011	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-10-2020	2.1	28-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP012	2019.0	Accepted by EC	18-11-2020	4.0	22-9-2020
2014ES05SFOP014	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-9-2020	3.1	29-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP015	2019.0	Accepted by EC	14-10-2020	3.0	20-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP016	2019.0	Accepted by EC	21-9-2020	4.0	31-7-2020

2014ES05SFOP017	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-9-2020	2.0	23-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP018	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-9-2020	3.0	16-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP019	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-10-2020	1.2	21-9-2020
2014ES05SFOP020	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-10-2020	2.0	3-8-2020
2014ES05SFOP021	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-10-2020	2.0	17-7-2020
2014ES05SFOP022	2019.0	Accepted by EC	25-9-2020	3.1	3-8-2020
2014ES05SFTA001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	10-8-2020	3.0	31-7-2020
2014FI05M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	6-7-2020	5.0	14-5-2020
2014FI16M2OP001	2019.1	Accepted by EC	15-10-2020	5.0	
2014FR05M0OP001	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	23-10-2020	5.2	19-6-2020
2014FR05M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-11-2020	3.1	30-9-2020
2014FR05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	20-11-2020	4.0	19-10-2020
2014FR05M9OP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	11-11-2020	4.0	25-9-2020
2014FR05SFOP001	2019.0	Admissible	27-11-2020	5.0	23-11-2020
2014FR05SFOP003	2019.0	In draft – not sent	5-11-2020	4.1	29-09-2020
2014FR05SFOP004	2019.0	Admissible	6-11-2020	4.1	22-10-2020
2014FR05SFOP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-10-2020	4.1	4-9-2020
2014FR16M0OP001	2019.1	Accepted by EC	9-10-2020	5.2	
2014FR16M0OP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	27-8-2020	3.0	30-7-2020
2014FR16M0OP003	2019.1	Accepted by EC	23-11-2020	5.2	
2014FR16M0OP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	10-11-2020	6.0	25-9-2020
2014FR16M0OP005	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	19-10-2020	5.1	4-8-2020
2014FR16M0OP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	24-11-2020	6.0	7-10-2020
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2014FR16M0OP015	2019.0	Accepted by EC	10-11-2020	10.0	25-9-2020
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2014FR16M2OP008	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-9-2020	2.1	19-7-2020
2014FR16M2OP009	2019.1	Accepted by EC	22-10-2020	5.1	
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2014FR16M2OP011	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-10-2020	4.1	28-9-2020
2014FR16M2OP012	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	6-11-2020	4.1	25-9-2020
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2014GR16M2OP013	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	5-11-2020	4.0	21-9-2020
2014GR16M2OP014	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	5-11-2020	4.1	28-9-2020
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2014HU16M0OP001	2019.1	Admissible	19-10-2020	5.0	26-6-2020
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2014HU16M2OP002	2019.2	Returned for modification by EC	9-10-2020	4.0	15-6-2020
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2014IT05M2OP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	16-9-2020	5.0	22-7-2020
2014IT05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	23-11-2020	3.0	8-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	7-9-2020	5.0	17-7-2020
2014IT05SFOP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	27-10-2020	4.0	30-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP003	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-8-2020	3.0	10-7-2020
2014IT05SFOP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	10-11-2020	2.0	17-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	15-10-2020	3.0	29-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	24-9-2020	2.0	13-8-2020
2014IT05SFOP007	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-7-2020	5.0	23-7-2020
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2014IT05SFOP011	2019.0	Accepted by EC	17-11-2020	4.0	31-7-2020
2014IT05SFOP012	2019.0	Accepted by EC	3-9-2020	2.0	30-6-2020
2014IT05SFOP013	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-10-2020	2.2	2-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP014	2019.2	Accepted by EC	19-10-2020	3.0	29-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP015	2019.0	Accepted by EC	29-7-2020	3.0	19-6-2020
2014IT05SFOP016	2019.0	Accepted by EC	12-10-2020	5.0	29-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP017	2019.0	Accepted by EC	19-10-2020	3.0	11-9-2020
2014IT05SFOP018	2019.0	Accepted by EC	23-7-2020	2.0	20-6-2020
2014IT05SFOP020	2019.1	Accepted by EC	23-9-2020	2.0	28-8-2020
2014IT05SFOP021	2019.0	Accepted by EC	4-11-2020	2.0	5-8-2020
2014IT16M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-10-2020	4.1	30-9-2020
2014IT16M2OP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	23-10-2020	4.0	28-9-2020
2014IT16M2OP003	2019.0	Accepted by EC	27-10-2020	3.0	28-9-2020
2014IT16M2OP004	2019.1	Accepted by EC	30-9-2020	4.0	
2014IT16M2OP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	28-10-2020	4.0	30-9-2020
2014IT16M2OP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	11-11-2020	3.0	30-9-2020
2014LT16MAOP001	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	16-11-2020	6.2	17-9-2020

2014LU05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	16-7-2020	3.0	3-7-2020
2014LV16MAOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-6-2020	5.0	19-5-2020
2014MT05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-10-2020	2.0	16-6-2020
2014NL05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	30-7-2020	3.0	10-7-2020
2014PL05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	4-11-2020	4.1	17-9-2020
2014PL16M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	15-10-2020	11.0	9-9-2020
2014PL16M2OP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	14-10-2020	3.1	22-9-2020
2014PL16M2OP003	2019.0	Accepted by EC	27-7-2020	2.0	23-6-2020
2014PL16M2OP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	21-8-2020	2.0	3-8-2020
2014PL16M2OP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	5-8-2020	4.0	10-7-2020
2014PL16M2OP006	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-7-2020	2.0	27-5-2020
2014PL16M2OP007	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-7-2020	3.0	22-5-2020
2014PL16M2OP008	2019.0	Accepted by EC	19-10-2020	4.1	2-9-2020
2014PL16M2OP009	2019.0	Accepted by EC	13-7-2020	4.1	27-5-2020
2014PL16M2OP010	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-7-2020	3.1	25-5-2020
2014PL16M2OP011	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-8-2020	2.0	15-7-2020
2014PL16M2OP012	2019.0	Accepted by EC	21-8-2020	4.0	16-7-2020
2014PL16M2OP013	2019.0	Accepted by EC	22-7-2020	3.0	1-6-2020
2014PL16M2OP014	2019.0	Accepted by EC	3-8-2020	3.0	17-7-2020
2014PL16M2OP015	2019.0	Accepted by EC	20-7-2020	5.0	27-5-2020
2014PL16M2OP016	2019.1	Accepted by EC	20-7-2020	3.1	27-5-2020
2014PT05M9OP001	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	30-11-2020	5.0	7-8-2020
2014PT05SFOP001	2019.1	Accepted by EC	23-11-2020	2.3	22-9-2020
2014PT16M2OP001	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	18-11-2020	5.0	29-9-2020
2014PT16M2OP002	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	18-11-2020	7.0	24-9-2020
2014PT16M2OP003	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	24-11-2020	5.0	22-9-2020
2014PT16M2OP004	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	17-11-2020	7.2	2-7-2020
2014PT16M2OP005	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	6-11-2020	5.0	17-9-2020
2014PT16M2OP006	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	24-11-2020	6.1	8-7-2020
2014PT16M2OP007	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	23-11-2020	5.0	17-7-2020
2014PT16M3OP001	2019.0	Returned for modification by EC	20-11-2020	7.1	25-9-2020
2014RO05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-11-2020	7.1	16-9-2020
2014RO05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	26-11-2020	2.0	21-9-2020
2014SE05M9OP001	2019.1	Accepted by EC	12-11-2020	4.0	
2014SE16M2OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	31-7-2020	3.0	23-4-2020
2014SI16MAOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	20-11-2020	4.1	29-9-2020
2014SK05M0OP001	2019.0	Admissible	5-10-2020	5.0	28-9-2020
2014SK05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	31-8-2020	2.0	12-8-2020
2014UK05M9OP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	1-10-2020	3.2	14-8-2020
2014UK05M9OP002	2019.0	Admissible	2-10-2020	4.0	14-5-2020
2014UK05SFOP001	2019.0	Accepted by EC	3-11-2020	3.1	9-9-2020
2014UK05SFOP002	2019.0	Accepted by EC	3-11-2020	2.0	9-9-2020
2014UK05SFOP004	2019.0	Accepted by EC	29-7-2020	3.2	15-7-2020
2014UK05SFOP005	2019.0	Accepted by EC	17-6-2020	3.1	29-5-2020

Annex II – reference guide

Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities

Thematic Objective 8: promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

- (8i / intervention field 102). Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility;
- (8ii / intervention field 103). Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;
- (8iii / intervention field 104). Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative micro, small and medium sized enterprises;
- (8iv / intervention field 105). Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work;
- (8v / intervention field 106). Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change;
- (8vi / intervention field 107). Active and healthy ageing;
- (8vii / intervention field 108). Modernisation of labour market institutions, such as public and private employment services, and improving the matching of labour market needs, including through actions that enhance transnational labour mobility as well as through mobility schemes and better cooperation between institutions and relevant stakeholders.

Thematic Objective 9: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

- (9i / invention field 109). Active inclusion including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability;
- (9ii / invention field 110). Socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as the Roma;
- (9iii / invention field 111). Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities;
- (9iv / invention field 112). Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest;
- (9v / invention field 113). Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment;
- (9vi / invention field 114). Community-led local development strategies.

Thematic Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning

- (10i / intervention field 115). Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training
- (10ii / intervention field 116). Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups
- (10iii / intervention field 117). Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways, including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

- (10iv / intervention field 118). Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes

Thematic Objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

- (11i / intervention field 119). Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
- (11ii / intervention field 120). Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at the national, regional and local levels.

Common output indicators ESF

- CO01 Unemployed, including long-term unemployed
- CO02 of which Long-term unemployed
- CO03 Inactive
- CO04 of which not in education or training
- CO05 Employed, including self-employed
- CO06 Below 25 years of age
- CO07 Above 54 years of age
- CO08 Above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including Long-term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training
- CO09 With primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)
- CO10 With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary Education (ISCED 4)
- CO11 With tertiary education (ISCED 5-8)
- CO12 Participants who live in jobless households
- CO13 Participants who live in jobless households with dependent children
- CO14 Participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children
- CO15 Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities
- CO16 Participants with disabilities
- CO17 Other disadvantaged
- CO18 Homeless or affected by housing exclusion
- CO19 From rural areas
- CO20 Number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations
- CO21 Number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment;
- CO22 Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level
- CO23 Number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)

Common result indicators ESF

- CR01 - Inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving
- CR02 - Participants in education/training upon leaving
- CR03 - Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving
- CR04 - Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving

- CR05 - Disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving
- CR06- Participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving
- CR07 - Participants with an improved labour market situation 6 months after leaving
- CR08 - Participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving
- CR09 - Disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, 6 months after leaving

Common result indicators YEI

- YEI-CR01 – Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention
- YEI-CR02 – Unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving
- YEI-CR03 – Unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self- employment, upon leaving
- YEI-CR04 – Long-term unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention
- YEI-CR05 – Long-term unemployed participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving
- YEI-CR06 – Long -term unemployed participants who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving
- YEI-CR07 – Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention
- YEI-CR08 – Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving
- YEI-CR09 – Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gain a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving
- YEI-CR10 – Participants in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months after leaving
- YEI-CR11 – Participants in employment six months after leaving
- YEI-CR12 – Participants in self-employment six months after leaving

Classification output indicators

The classification provided below is the result of post-coding and classification of all output indicators by the FGB consortium. It offer a classification of all types of common and programme-specific output indicators into specific categories. Each of these categories were grouped into broader categories, based on how frequent these are used.

Classification of output indicator	Broader category
1.0.1 - Individual: unspecified	Other
1.1.1 - Individual - demographic: Women	Other
1.1.2 - Individual - demographic: children	Young
1.1.3 - Individual - demographic: young	Young
1.1.3.1 - Individual - demographic: young (below 25)	Young
1.1.4 - Individual - demographic: old	Old
1.1.4.1 - Individual - demographic: old (above 54)	Old
1.2.1 - Individual - economic situation: Unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Unemployed
1.2.1.1 - Individual - economic situation: Long-term Unemployed	Unemployed
1.2.2 - Individual - economic situation: Employed (including self-employed)	Employed
1.2.2.1 - Individual - economic situation: threatened by losing job	Vulnerable

1.2.3 - Individual - economic situation: Inactive	Inactive
1.2.3.1 - Individual - economic situation: inactive, not in education or training	Inactive
1.2.4 - Individual - economic situation: threatened by poverty	Vulnerable
1.3.1 - Individual - Vulnerable: disadvantaged / vulnerable groups (unspecified)	Vulnerable
1.3.1.1 - Individual - Vulnerable: Low-skilled / Low qualification	Vulnerable
1.3.1.2 - Individual - Vulnerable: Migrants, foreign background, marginalised communities	Vulnerable
1.3.1.3 - Individual - Vulnerable: Participants with disabilities	Vulnerable
1.3.1.4 - Individual - Vulnerable: Vulnerable family situation	Vulnerable
1.3.1.5 - Individual - Vulnerable: participant from rural area	Vulnerable
1.3.1.6 - Individual - Vulnerable: criminal background / history	Vulnerable
1.4.1 - Individual - education: in education (unspecified)	Young
1.4.1.1 - Individual - education: in HE	Young
1.4.1.2 - Individual - education: in VET	Young
1.5.1 - Individual - other: with qualifications	Other
1.5.1.1 - Individual - other: with HE qualifications	Other
1.6.1 - Individual - by occupation: public administration staff	Professionals
1.6.2 - Individual - by occupation: Staff in education providers (teachers / managers)	Professionals
1.6.3 - Individual - by occupation: professionals (healthcare and other)	Professionals
1.6.4 - Individual - by occupation: Labour market institution staff	Professionals
2.1 Entity: institution / organisation	Public purpose entity
2.1.1 Entities - Public authorities	Public entity
2.1.1.1 Entities - Local / regional public authorities	Public entity
2.1.1.2 Entities - Judiciary	Public entity
2.1.2 - Entity: education provider (unspecified)	Public purpose entity
2.1.2.1 - Entity: school - childcare	Public purpose entity
2.1.2.2 - Entity: school - primary / secondary	Public purpose entity
2.1.2.3 - Entity: school - VET	Public purpose entity
2.1.2.4 - Entity: school - HE	Public purpose entity
2.1.3 - Entity: Healthcare organizational unit (centre, team, etc.)	Public purpose entity
2.1.4 Entities - Civil society organisations	Public purpose entity
2.1.5 Entities - communities	Public purpose entity
2.2 - Entity: enterprise / economic operator	Company
2.2.1 - Entity: enterprise / economic operator - SME	Company
2.2.2 - Entity: enterprise / economic operator - Social enterprises	Company
2.2.1 - Entity: enterprise / economic operator - SME	Company
3.1.1 - Projects: number of actions	Projects
3.2.1.1 - Projects: (partially) implemented by civil society	Projects
3.2.1.2 - projects: dedicated at social innovation	Projects
3.2.1.2.1 Projects: dedicated at fighting discrimination	Projects
3.2.1.2.2 - Projects: dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Projects
3.2.1.3 - Projects: targeting public sector	Public administration project
3.2.1.3.1 - Projects: targeting education sector	Projects
3.2.1.3.2 - Projects: targeting PES / capacity to support	Public administration project
3.2.1.4 - Projects: targeting private sector	Projects
3.3.1 - Projects: other	Projects
4.1.1 - Products: number of awareness / communication campaigns	Products
4.2.1 - Products: number of curricula / education programmes / qualifications / educational methods, tools, material developed	Products
4.3.1 - Products: number of good practices exchanged	Products
4.4.1 - Products: number of studies / evaluations	Products
4.5.1 - Products: number of innovative products / tools	Products
4.6.1 - Products: number of instruments developed	Products

4.6.2 - Products: number of registers / databases developed	Products
4.6.3 - Products: number of standards / guidelines developed	Products
4.7.1 - Products: number of local development strategies	Products
4.8.1 - Products: other	Products
5.1.1 - Structures: number of networks / partnerships	Structures
5.2.1 - Structures: number of structures	Structures
6.1.1 - Type: number of health programmes supported	Projects
6.2.1 - Type: number of jobs supported	Projects
6.3.1 - Type: number of scholarships	Projects
6.4.1 - Type: number of start-ups	Projects
7.1.1 - other counts	Projects

Classification result indicators

The classification provided below is the result of post-coding and classification of all result indicators by the FGB consortium. It offer a classification of all types of common and programme-specific result indicators into specific categories. Each of these categories were grouped into broader categories, based on how frequent these are used.

Classification of result indicator	Broader category
R.1.1 Individual result: in education after intervention	In education
R.1.1.1 Individual result: in education some time after intervention	In education
R.1.1.2 Individual result: Early school leaving (inversed target achievement)	In education
R.1.2 Individual result: in employment after intervention	Entered employment after leaving
R.1.2.1 Individual result: in employment some time after intervention	Entered employment after some time
R.1.3 Individual result: improved labour market position after intervention	Improved position on labour market
R.1.3.1 Individual result: improved labour market position some time after intervention	Improved position on labour market
R.1.3.2 Individual result: People at risk of poverty (inversed target achievement)	Other individual result
R.1.4 Individual result: other positive result after intervention	Other individual result
R.1.4.1 Individual result: other positive result some time after intervention	Other individual result
R.1.4.2 Individual result: Other negative result (inversed target achievement)	Other individual result
R.1.5 Individual result: job searching after intervention	Other individual result
R.1.5.2 Individual result: Persons inactive (inversed target achievement)	Other individual result
R.1.6 Individual result: qualification obtained after intervention	Qualification obtained
R.1.6.1 Individual result: qualification obtained some time after intervention	Qualification obtained
R.1.7 Individual result: skills improved after intervention	Improved skills
R.1.7.1 Individual result: skills improved some time after intervention	Improved skills
R.1.8 Individual result: individual activated (any of various positive results)	Other individual result
R.1.8.1 Individual result: individual activated some time after intervention (any of various positive results)	Other individual result
R.1.9 Individual result: number of people that preserved their job after intervention	Jobs created
R.1.9.1 individual result: number of people that preserved their job some time after intervention	Other individual result
R.1.10 Individual result: intervention completed	Other individual result
R.2.1 Entities - Positive result for Institutions / Organisations	Positive result - institutions
R.2.1.1 Entities – Positive result for public authorities	Positive result - Authorities
R.2.1.1.1 Entities – Positive result for local / regional public authorities	Positive result - Authorities
R.2.1.1.2 Entities – Positive result for judiciary	Positive result - Authorities
R.2.1.3 Entities: Positive result for education providers	Positive result - Education entities

R.2.2 Entities - Positive result for Civil society organisations	Positive result - institutions
R.2.2.1 Entities: positive result for communities	Positive result - institutions
R.2.3 Entities - Positive result for Enterprises	Positive result - Companies
R.2.3.1 Entities – Positive result for SME	Positive result - Companies
R.2.3.2 Entities – Positive result for social enterprises	Positive result - Companies
R.3.1 Achievements: Jobs created	Jobs created
R.3.2 Achievements - Improvement in service LM institution	Positive result - Authorities
R.3.3 Achievements: Educational programmes improved	Positive result - Education entities
R.3.4 Achievements: Student achievements improved	Positive result - Education entities
R.3.5 Achievements: Measures on gender equality	Other positive result
R.3.7 Achievements: Access to health / social welfare services	Positive result – Welfare services
R.3.7.1 Achievements: Access to childcare places	Positive result – Welfare services
R.3.8 Achievements: Number of partnerships	Other positive result
R.3.9 Achievements: other achievements	Other positive result
R.3.9.1 Achievements: other achievements (inversed target achievement)	Other positive result
R.4.1 General: Awareness	Other positive result
R.4.2 General: Satisfaction scores	Other positive result
R.4.3 General: Administrative time required (inverse)	Other positive result
R.4.4 General: number of projects completed	Projects completed
R.4.5 General: Budget spending	Other positive result
R.4.6 General: other administrative achievements	Other positive result

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