



# **National Seminar 22 January 2016**

## **Investing in Slovak children with support from the EU funds**

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# Making the **best** of EU funds in a challenging context

- **Increase at-risk-of poverty among children during economic crisis (from 16.7% in 2008 to 21.9% in 2012) with gradual improvement to 19.2% (2014)**
- **Material deprivation among children still high at 24.8% (vs. EU average of 21.1%)**
- **Risk highest among households with three or more children and households with single parents**
- **The risk of poverty rate for children living in jobless households at 94.4%, the highest level in the EU (2013)**



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## The situation in Slovakia

- **Participation in early childhood education still low (77.1% vs. EU average of 93.9%)**
- **Early school leaving rate worsening (6.7% in 2014)**
- **Pupils' school outcomes declining (socioeconomic background plays a strong role)**
- **Overrepresentation of Roma in special-needs education**
- **Youth unemployment still high (25.4% in Nov 2015)**



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## New opportunities: Structural and Investment Funds in 2014-2020

European Regional  
Development Fund  
**incl. Interreg**  
**€197 billion**

European Social Fund  
**€86 billion**

Cohesion Fund  
**€63 billion**

European Agricultural  
Fund for Rural  
Development  
**€99 billion**

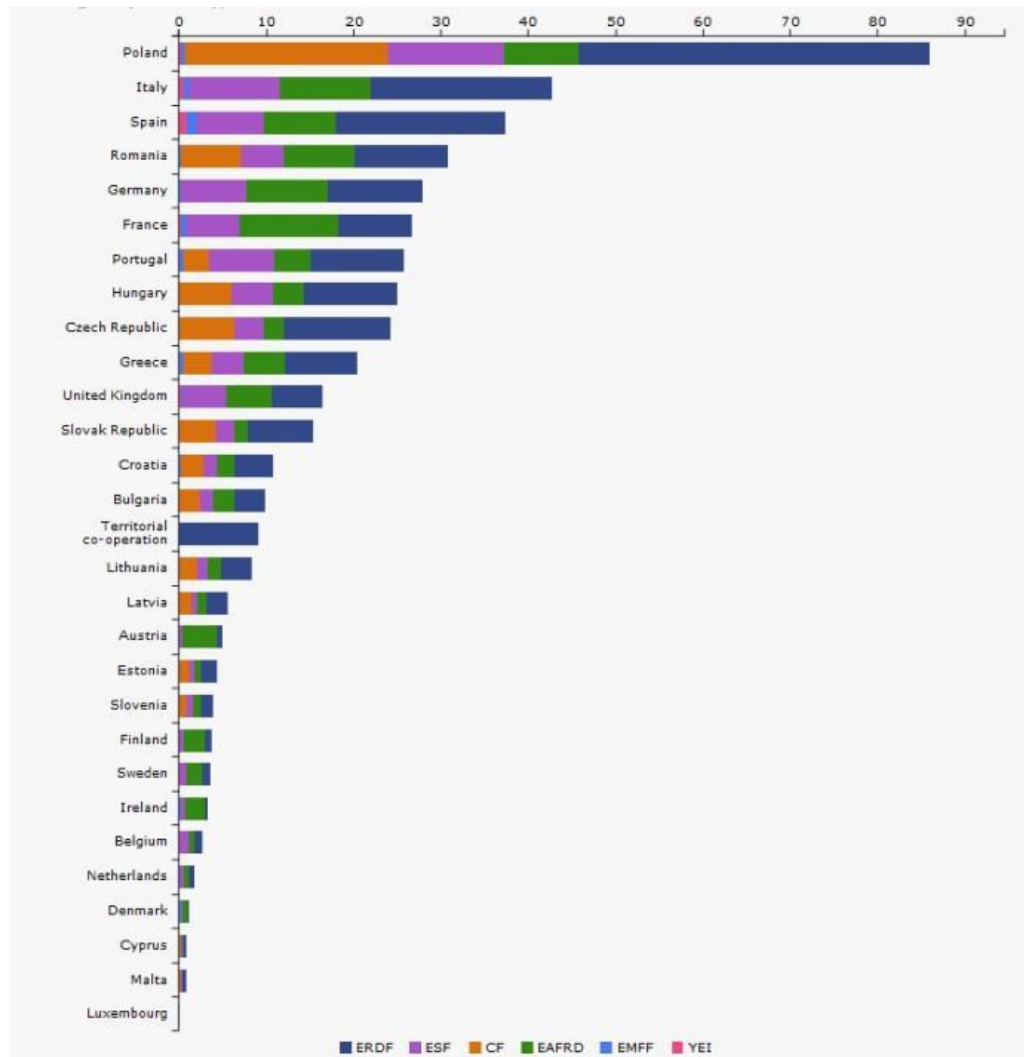
European Maritime &  
Fisheries Fund  
**€5.7 billion**

Youth Employment  
Initiative  
**€3.2 billion**



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# Total EU contribution 2014-2020: €454bn





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## **Slovakia's ESIF budget for 2014-2020: €15.3bn**

- **European Regional Development Fund: €7.4bn (48%)**
- **Cohesion Fund: €4.2bn (27.2%)**
- **European Social Fund: €2.2bn (14.1%)**
- **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: €1.5bn (10.1%)**
- **Youth Employment Initiative: €72m (0.5%)**
- **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund: €15.8m (0.1%)**



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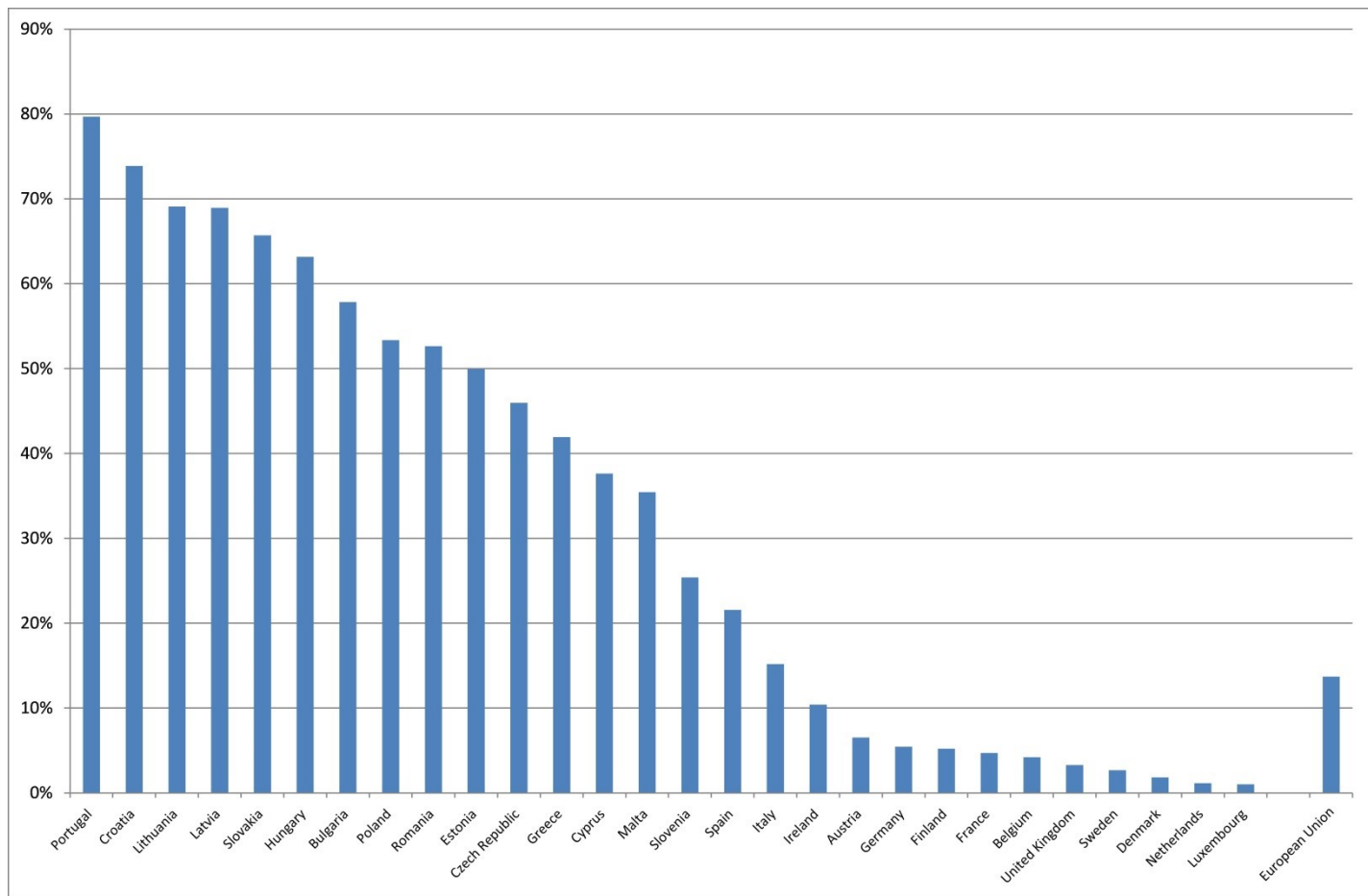
## ESF Minimum Share

- For the first time in the history of cohesion policy a minimum share for the ESF is set at 23.1% for 2014-2020
- Based on national ESF shares for 2007-2013 and MS employment levels
- As a result of the programming phase of the ESF 2014-20, the actual ESF share is now 24.8% or over 86 billion euros, i.e. well above the minimum (22.8% or €2.2bn in SK)



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# Proportion of ESIF in public investment







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# ESIF- how does it work?

## Shared management



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★ Member States



programming

agreeing on priorities, setting budgets,  
defining actions (7-year cycle)

monitoring  
implementation

reimbursing  
expenditure

accountable  
for the budget

delivery of  
planned actions

selection of  
concrete projects

payments to  
project organisers



## Partnership

Civil society



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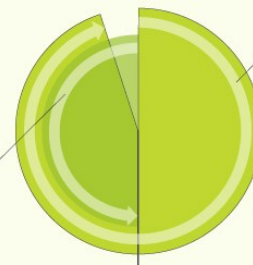
Social partners

joint  
decision  
making



## Co-financing

**National co-funding**  
( + private contribution  
in some cases )



**EU-share**

**50% > 85%**



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# Focus of investments – 11 thematic objectives



1 . Research and Innovation



2 . Information and  
Communication technologies



3 . Competitiveness of SMEs



4 . Low-carbon economy



5 . Combating climate  
change



6 . Environment and resource  
efficiency



7 . Sustainable transport



8 . Employment and Mobility



9 . Social inclusion



10 . Better education,  
training



11 . Better public administration



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## **New generation of programmes – not just money!**

- **Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)**

- ESIF support implementation of relevant CSRs

- **Improved conditions for effective investment**

- "Ex-ante conditionalities" – 75% fulfilled, 740 action plans

- **Focus on results and performance**

- Concentration of resources
- Expected achievements

- **Simplification**

- Increased impact through reduced administrative burden

- **Partnership**

- Cooperation with social partners and civil society (Code of Conduct)



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## 2/3 of CSRs relevant for ESIF programmes

The CSR themes addressed include:

- Health and long-term care
- **Labour market participation including childcare**
- **Education and skills**
- **Poverty and social inclusion**
- Business environment and access to finance
- Research and Innovation
- Transport sector reform and investment
- Shadow economy & corruption
- Public administration capacity

**90% of 2014-20 ESF investments in Slovakia linked to CSRs' implementation**



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# Simplification

- Common Eligibility Rules
- E-Governance/E-Cohesion
- Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)
  - Flat rates defined in the Regulations
  - Legal certainty by ex ante approval of SCOs methodologies (ESF)
  - Possibility to use SCO methodologies from other EU or National policies
- Joint Action Plans
- High Level Group to examine ways to increase simplification for rest of this period and the next one



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# Expected achievements: EU

## Employment, social inclusion and education (EUR 120 billion):

- Improved job finding chances of 10 million unemployed people
- 41.7 million people will benefit from improved health services
- 6.8 million young people will be able to use new or improved childcare or education facilities in 15 Member States



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# Expected achievements: Slovakia

- **Improve education and training at all levels (€0.73bn):** capacities and quality of early childhood education and care, better learning outcomes of pupils, inclusive education and vocational education. This will benefit over **100,000 pupils and students**
- **Social inclusion (€1.4bn):** help people in difficulty and those from disadvantaged groups to integrate into society. Support will be given, among others, to **150 municipalities with the most deprived Roma communities**
- **Employment (€1.26bn):** help people to find or keep jobs. **250,000 jobless persons**, in particular low-skilled and long-term unemployed, should see their chances on the labour market improved with strong emphasis on combating youth unemployment



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# Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)

... supports young unemployed in regions with high unemployment rate of youth:

- Total budget of €6.4 billion (EUR 3.2 billion YEI specific allocation and €3.2 billion ESF matching funds)
- €72 million for Slovakia, plus €122 million from ESF allocation
- 3.1 million unemployed/inactive participants to complete a YEI action
- 1.6 million unemployed/inactive participants to receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship
- 1.3 million unemployed or inactive participants to take part in education/training, gain a qualification, or find employment, including self-employment





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# European Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived

**€3.8 billion** (2014-2020) for non-financial  
emergency assistance through partner organisations,  
**€55 million for Slovakia**

Children among possible target group

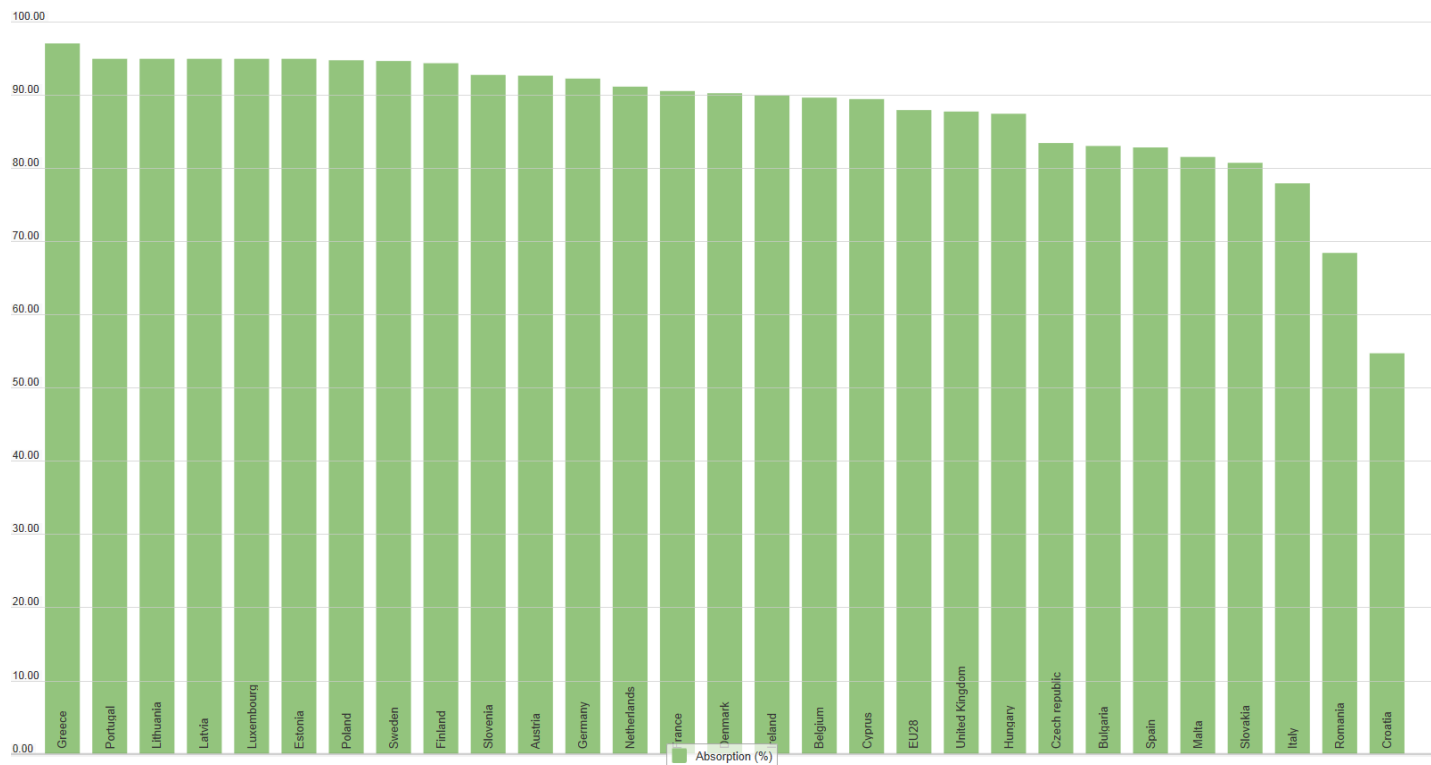
Possibility to provide shelter, clothing, food, books,  
health awareness raising activities, and social  
inclusion activities adapted to children's needs



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# Absorption 2007-2013 (Cohesion Policy)

 Total Percentage of Available Funds Paid Out by the Commission 2007-2013  
Based on 2007-2013 Funds Absorption Rate  
EU Cohesion policy - percentage of funds paid compared to available budget.





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## Reasons for low absorption in 2007-2013

- **lack of administrative capacity of beneficiaries, management and audit**
- **lack of quality project proposals**
- **interruptions and suspensions of payments**
- **late implementation**
- **political delays and high staff turnover**
- **complex programming architecture**



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*Examples of what can be supported  
concretely?*

*See also*

*[www.europa.eu/epic](http://www.europa.eu/epic)*



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# Examples of EU funded projects

## EU Budget for Results

*A selection of EU funded projects*

This is a collection of **612 projects** funded by the EU Budget. The project results focus on improving the lives of people in Europe and everywhere in the world. The projects relate to fields from employment, regional development, research and education to environment, humanitarian aid, energy and many others.

Project map      Project list

Keywords      Funding areas      Advanced search

REGIONAL POLICY InfoRegio

European Commission > Regional Policy > Projects

Policy    Funding    What's new    In your country    **Projects**    Information sources

### Projects

Search the InfoRegio website

Keywords: [ ]  
 Country: [ all countries / all regions ]  
 Region: [ no country selected ]  
 Themes: [ all themes ]  
 Type: [ all types ]  
 Period: 2007-2013  
 Publication date: [ ]

Search

Maps (Projects)

Major projects 2007-2013



<https://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/>

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

European Commission > Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion > European Social Fund > Projects

ABOUT THE ESF    ACTIVITIES    SUPPORT IN YOUR COUNTRY    MORE INFO

### PROJECTS

The ESF is funding tens of thousands of projects across the Union that make a real difference to the lives of millions of individuals. Here you can find some examples.

See results as: Map    List    All themes

Related info

ESF project data base (2000-2006)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/EN/projects/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/EN/projects/)

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=46>



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## **Supporting parents' access to the labour market**

Target extra support especially for lone parents, second earners and after parental leave

Tailored made active labour market policies

Individual support: individual contracts, quality case handlers, lifelong learning

Subsidised employment, social economy

Flexible working arrangements

Improve access to early childhood education and care



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# Early childhood education and care: Improving both access and quality

## Widening access

- Increase supply especially in remote areas
- Address obstacles in access for disadvantaged children (targeted measures, removing financial barriers, free meals, mediators..)

## Improving quality

- Staff professionalization
- Development of age-appropriate curriculum or pedagogical framework
- Establishment of legal framework of quality assurance mechanisms
- Develop joint services combining ECEC, health, social and parenting support
- Supporting new approaches through social innovation



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# Empowering children through quality services

## **Integrated intervention in early childhood:**

- Services combining childcare, education, health prevention and parenting support

## **Providing a healthy living environment:**

- Social housing, debt management services for families
- Public playgrounds, cultural and play activities

## **A more preventive approach to child protection:**

- Prevention of abandonment
- Parenting support programmes (home visits)
- Quality alternative care settings for children removed from their families (small size, community-based, foster parents, staff training)





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## To conclude...

Continuity with 2014-2020 and new opportunities

Importance of integrated interventions, bringing together various funds

Role of Social Innovation under ESF: developing new approaches

***Thank you for your attention***