

Cohesion Policy and Romania

⌘ In 2014-2020, Romania will manage **six operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy: four programmes funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund, and two programmes funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) including the Youth Employment Initiative.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between ≥ 75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head ≥ 90 % of EU-27 average)

How much will be invested in Romania in 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Romania has been allocated around **€ 23 billion** in total for Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€ 15.06 billion** for the less developed regions (all except Bucharest);
- **€ 441.3 million** for more developed regions (Bucharest);
- **€ 6.93 billion** under the Cohesion Fund;
- **€ 453 million** for European Territorial Cooperation;
- **€ 106 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, ESF will represent **€ 4.8 billion**.

What are the main investment priorities for Romania?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 are set out in the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission.

In order to reach a modern and competitive economy and strengthen the regional and urban development, Romania identified in the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission five challenges to be tackled through Cohesion Policy:

- People and society, through improved employment, social inclusion and education policies, contributing to reach the national EU2020 targets – increase the employment rate to 70 %, reduce the number of people at risk of poverty with 580 000 by 2020, reduce the early school leavers down to 11.3 % and increase the tertiary education participation to 26.7%;
- Infrastructure, especially in transport, through improved accessibility of the less developed regions in Romania and connectivity with the international market, a more sustainable transport mix, improved traffic safety and travel time and a more sustainable urban transport;
- Economic competitiveness, through a more compact and modern R&D environment focused on businesses' needs and Romania's competitive sectors, and transformation of the traditional sectors through innovation and market development, targeting the increase of the GDP to be invested in R&D with 1.5 % by 2020;
- Resources, through the shift towards a low-carbon economy, including energy efficiency in the built-environment, promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and resource efficiency and protecting the environment, contributing to the national EU 2020 targets: reduce the green house emission and energy intensity with 19 % and increase the share of renewable energy to 24 %;
- Administration and government, through optimising the institutional environment and improving the quality of public services by the administration and the judiciary.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 19.7 billion.

Romania has been a Member State of the European Union since 2007. The country has needed time to adapt to implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy investments. Nonetheless, Cohesion Policy funding has been an important driver for reforms in Romania, a role which will further increase in 2014-2020.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, EU Cohesion Policy investments have helped Romania so far, among other achievements, to:

- Create more than 8 151 jobs among which 617 research jobs;
- Grant direct investment aid to 1 253 SMEs;
- Improve basic transport infrastructure and accessibility, including construction of 124 140 km of motorway and rehabilitation of 923 km of national roads;
- Support the upgrade of 400 health, social and education infrastructures and services to European standards;
- Provide training, counselling and other type of individual support to over 850 000 people;
- Co-finance 42 major projects to connect the population throughout the country to basic water services and 12 projects to improve the waste management in different regions.

Cohesion policy success stories 2007-2013

ERDF projects

- **European Research Centre on Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics (ELI – NP)**

[ELI-NP's objective](#) is to create a European centre for high-level research on ultra-high laser and laser-matter interaction. The ELI-NP research site will attract researchers, students, private and business sectors from across the world to study extreme light applications for the benefit of society. The site should also put Europe on the map of nuclear physics research using high-tech laser technology. ELI-NP is part of a research consortium that brings together 40 partners from 13 Member States. ELI-NP is based in Bucharest-Ifov region, but the project ELI includes two other independent research facilities: one in Hungary and another one in the Czech Republic. By 2018, ELI-NP will employ 262 researchers including 36 support staff. The research site is scheduled to be operational by 2015.

Total cost (phase 1): €220 million (ERDF contribution: €150 million)

- **New research centre for the study of advanced materials, surfaces and interfaces**

[CetRESav](#) is a new Euro-regional centre at the National Institute for Materials Physics in Bucharest. New research possibilities provided by this centre will open additional opportunities for studying new materials and phenomena with applications in electronics, biophysics, magneto-chemistry, biology. The centre established two new laboratories, modernised five existing laboratories, and acquired necessary equipment. Around 24 new positions were created for highly qualified specialists (physicists, chemists, engineers).

Total cost: €12 million (ERDF contribution: €8 million)

- **Creation of green, modern and sustainable transport in Cluj-Napoca**

ERDF co-financed the investment in modern and sustainable transport infrastructure in [Cluj-Napoca](#), an important city in Romania. By modernising 25 km of tram line, the efficiency and safety of public transport has been increased. Furthermore, a bicycles self-service network with 60 km of lanes enhanced the sustainable mobility in Cluj-Napoca metropolitan area.

Total cost: €30 million (ERDF contribution: €25 million)

ESF projects

- **Career Caravan**

ESF co-financed a '[career caravan](#)' that visited 42 schools in four Romanian regions. The caravan provided information, personalised guidance and counselling to 12 000 upper secondary education students preparing to move to higher education or to the active life.

Total cost: €4.6 million (ESF contribution: €4 million)

- **Local governance: better training, more effectiveness**

A series of training sessions on human resources, financial, project and process management was key to streamlining local public services in [Vaslui County Council](#). Thanks to this training project targeting local public administration staff, the effectiveness of the County Council's work could be considerably improved.

Total cost: €700 000 (ESF contribution: €595 000)

- **A strategy for sustainable local development**

In Ghizela, a commune in Timiș County in western Romania, public services have received a boost thanks to a [sustainable development strategy](#) targeting local administration staff. The strategy aimed at improving the quality of policy and decision-making by embedding these in a sustainable framework taking the needs of all members of society into account.

Total cost: €252 000 (ESF contribution: €214 000)

- **Safe drinking water and wastewater disposal for population in Cluj and Sălaj counties**

The project represents the development and upgrading of the [water and wastewater systems in Cluj and Sălaj counties](#) in the North-West part of Romania. It consists of investments for improving drinking water treatment and distribution as well as wastewater collection and treatment for 500.000 inhabitants. This will reduce health risks for the population and raise the quality of the environment.

Total cost: € 196 million (Cohesion Fund contribution: € 145 million)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Romania

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)