



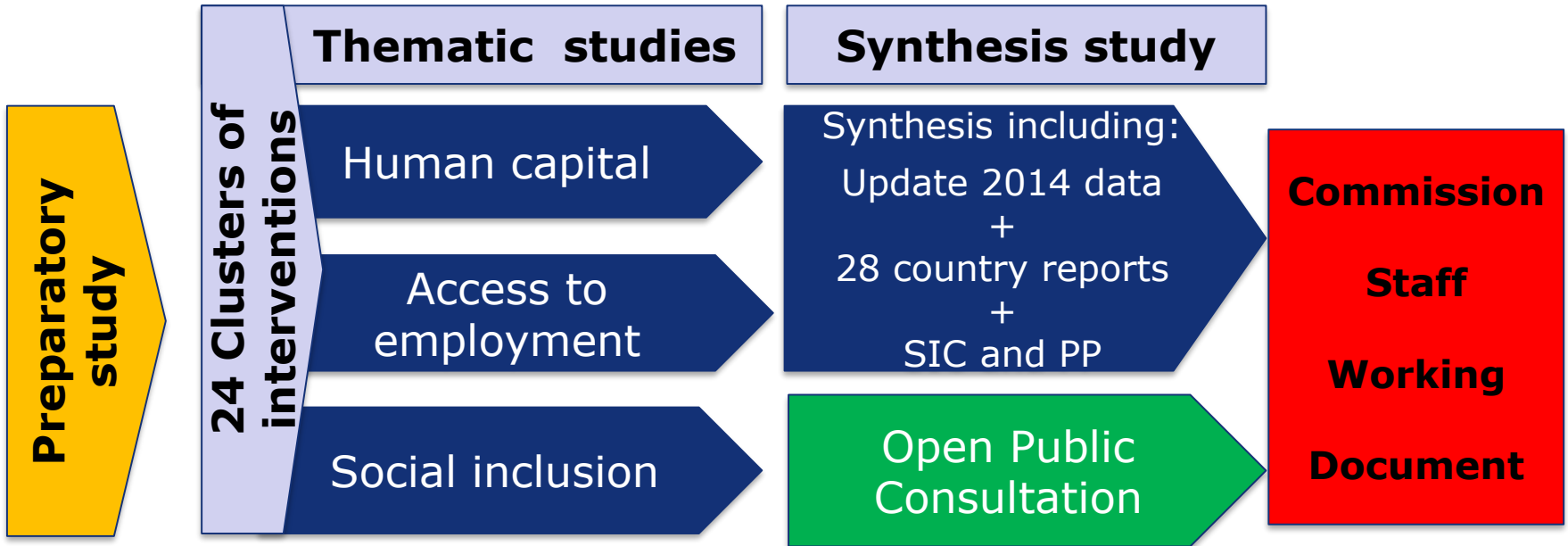
ESF 2007-2013 Results of Ex-Post Evaluation

Impact of the EU investments on Lithuanian economy, people and quality of life, 23 February 2017

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ESF Evaluation





Evaluation questions

Art. 49.3 of Council Regulation 1083/2006

- ✓ *Extent to which the resources were used*
- ✓ *Effectiveness*
- ✓ *Efficiency*
- ✓ *Socio-economic impact*

Additional criteria:

- ✓ *Community Added Value*
- ✓ *Gender sensitivity*
- ✓ *Sustainability*
- ✓ *Lessons Learned*

Key messages

The 2007-2013 ESF was implemented in challenging times, the flexibility in existing programmes mitigated negative effects of economic and financial crisis

The programmes have been effective in helping people and supporting systems

The ESF helped EU cohesion and has been instrumental in supporting EU strategic objectives, national policies and related CSRs



European
Commission

ESF 2007-2013

77 billion EUR of EU budget



**Support MS Policies on the basis of the
Employment guidelines and Country
Specific Recommendations**



**Increasing
Adaptability of
workers**



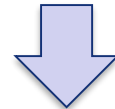
**Enhancing
Human Capital**



**Social
Inclusion of
disadvantaged**



**Enhancing
Access to
Employment**



**Strengthening
Institutional
Capacity and
Promoting
Partnerships**

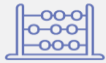


Where and how ESF 2007-2013 was spent

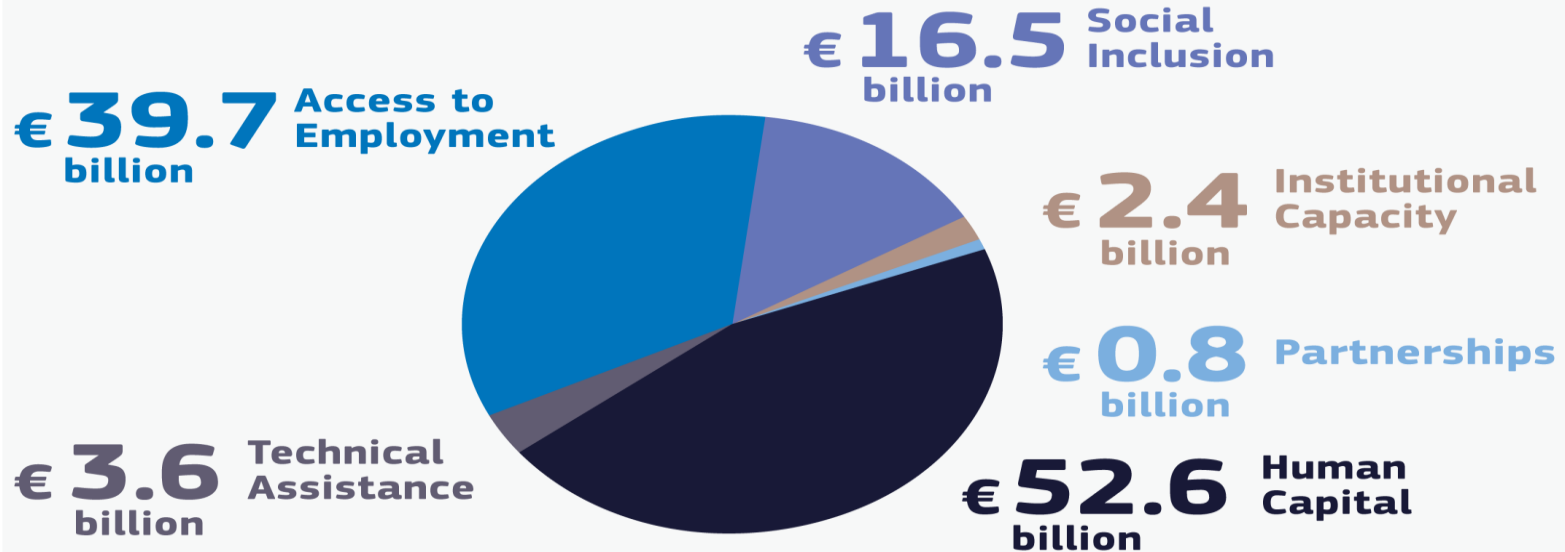
- **69% of EU allocation for Convergence regions**
- **45% of total ESF invested in Human Capital** priorities (including adaptability), 34% to Access to employment and 14% to Social Inclusion:
 - ✓ Proportion of expenditure on human capital higher in Convergence regions (51%)
 - ✓ Proportion of expenditure on access to employment and social inclusion higher in RCE areas (58%)



Where and how ESF 2007-2013 was spent



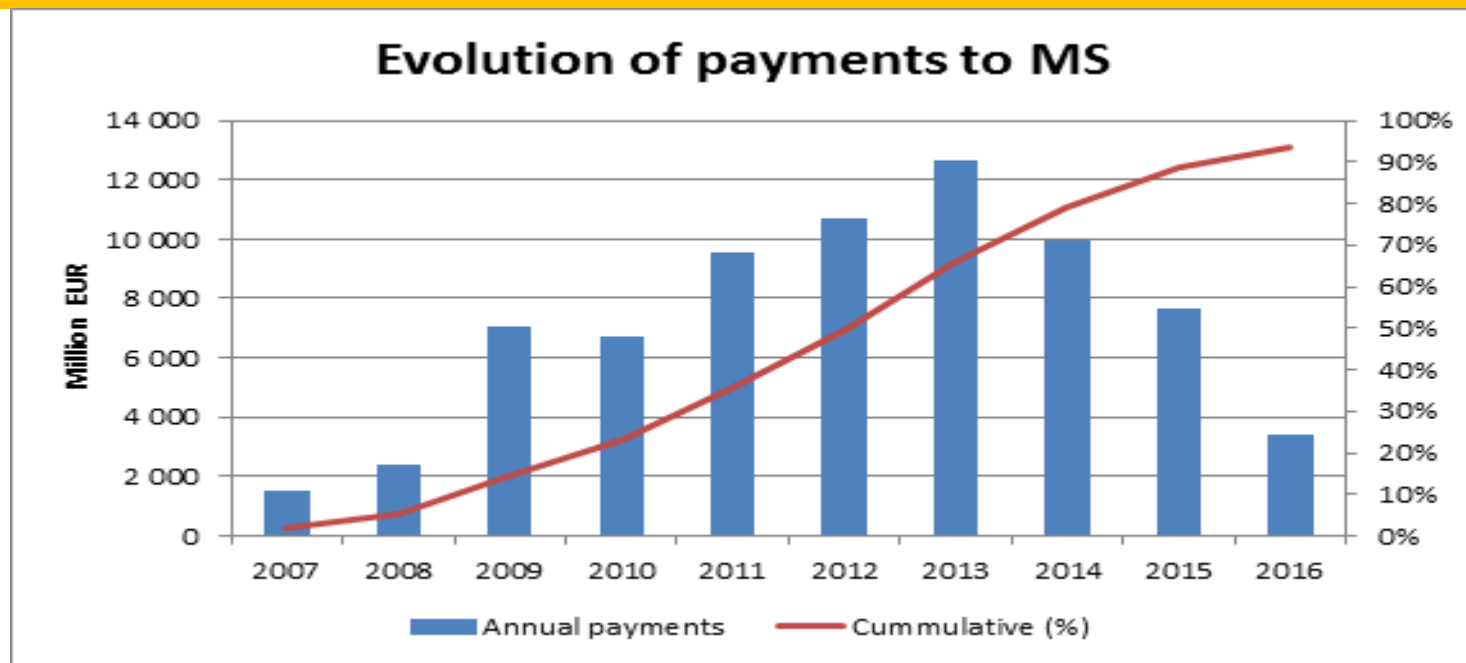
TOTAL BUDGET: €115.6 billion



Key achievements of ESF

- Financial implementation is on track (79,3% of total allocation at the end of 2014 vs 90,7% in May 2016), while there are considerable differences accross Member States
- Macro economic simulations show that HC investments (incl. on infrastructure) had positive impacts on GDP (0,25%) and productivity

Financial execution as of December 2016

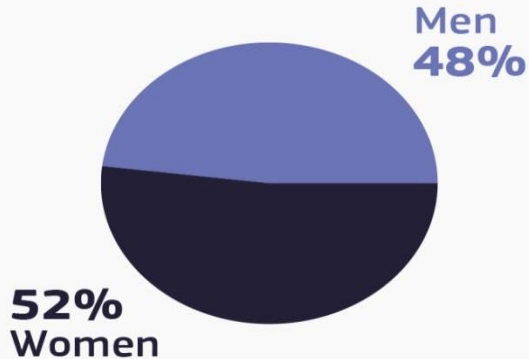


Key achievements of ESF-Participations

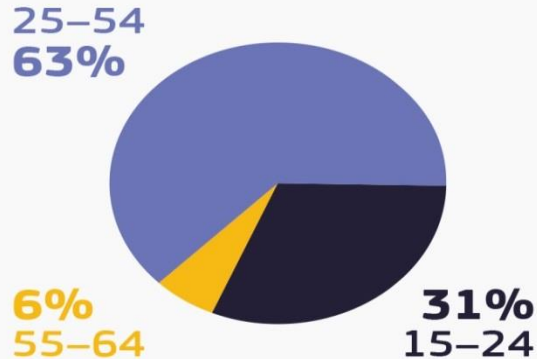


PARTICIPATIONS: 98.700.000

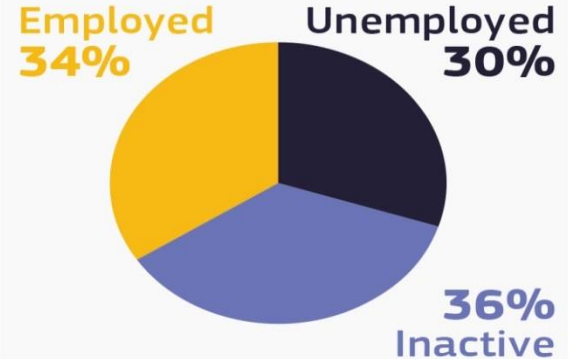
Gender



Age



Employment status



Key achievements of ESF-Results



MAIN RESULTS

9.424.004

Participants entering employment

8.702.446

Participants gaining qualification

13.673.737

Other positive results*

i.e. improved skills and competences, increased chances in the labour market, continued education, etc

Products developed

i.e. online administrative services

109.267

Entities supported

i.e. associations, organisations, networks

276.072



Limitations with data and evaluations

- **Priority Axis in the OP not matching priorities of the ESF Regulation**
- **Data problems despite improvements related to Annex XXIII:**
 - ✓ **Data on participations, not participants**
 - ✓ **Sometimes indirect participants reported**
 - ✓ **Disadvantaged groups underreported**
 - ✓ **Incomplete reporting on socio-economic characteristics**
 - ✓ **Data reported only at priority level**
- **Lack of common definitions and common results indicators**
- **Evaluations from MS providing little evidence on impacts**



Key findings

- **Strong alignment** of ESF to EU and national challenges and priorities and **matching of OP and CSR**
- **Implementation has progressed adequately** in terms of absorption and reaching mostly targets set by MS
- **ESF has reached most relevant target groups** of participants (low skilled, inactive, youth), but
 - Decreasing relative share of unemployed, migrants, minorities
 - Relative share of youth and older workers remained constant
- **Balanced participation of women** (51.4 %), with most programmes applying gender equality as a horizontal principle, but few specific actions and results not measured by gender



Key findings

- **ESF interventions generally effective** in all policy fields, though comparatively more in individual than in system results (longer time to bear fruit):
 - **63% result targets achieved or exceeded by 2014**
 - 30m results/68.9m related participations: **44% results ratio** by 2014
- Average cost per participant is below **900 € but it hides a wide variety of costs**
- Public consultation points to management and control systems, reporting, and audit as the more **burdensome areas**, WP 12 of REGIO also flags high burden in project selection and implementation



Weak evidence on sustainability of results, varies considerably

- Scarcity of follow-up data on participants measuring sustainability of effects
- Where it exists, there is considerable variety for individuals, ranging from 20-91 % depending on the nature of intervention and target group
- Mixed results were found for actions on systems, with the exception of investment in LLL systems
- Sustainability of systems dependent on conversion of new working methods in lasting networks, sharing of lessons learned and mainstreaming of approaches



ESF 2007-2013 EU value added

- **Volume:** additional resources to support EU and national employment policies
 - Help weather the effects of the crisis
- **Scope:** Extension of support to new target groups and offering of more tailored services
 - Disabled; Young; Unemployed with low qualifications
- **Role:** test and implement innovative activities and reforms to employment and social services, education and training systems
- **Process:** support administrative capacity building
 - PES (Public Employment Services)
 - Educational institutions and Healthcare



Lessons learned

Policy choices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Continue aligning ESF with EU/national priorities➤ Flexibility to adjust to emerging needs
Programming:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Robust definition of objectives, targets and results➤ Apply more evidence-based programming
Target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Ensure coverage of disadvantaged groups➤ Continue focus on young and old and balanced representation by gender
Programme Implementation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Promote customisation to the needs of specific target groups➤ Improve capacity building➤ Further simplify procedures and continue reducing administrative burden
Monitoring systems:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Higher standardisation of programme indicators➤ Improve use of longitudinal and micro-data➤ Capture effects other than employment and qualifications – "soft results"
Evaluation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ More robust impact evaluations➤ Reintroduce final evaluations/timing of evaluations



Changes in the 2014-20 regulations

- **Alignment** of ESF with EU priorities – CSRs: thematic objectives in line with Europe 2020 + thematic ex ante conditionalities
- Enhanced **flexibility** to adjust programmes
- **Coordination** with other ESIF: Partnership agreements + multifund Ops
- Programmes have to set **specific objectives** translated into clear indicators of **results** with **targets** and **benchmarks**
- Regular **reporting** of **results (broken-down by gender) and outputs** and a **performance framework** linked to a **performance reserve**

Changes in the 2014-20 regulations

- Use of **SCOs expanded** (increased legal certainty and mandatory uptake)
- **YEI** integrated into ESF
- **20% ESF in SI** – coverage of disadvantaged
- **Impact evaluation** for each of the specific objectives
- **Timing of evaluations:** summary report of MS evaluations by December 2022



Lessons requiring attention from COM on 2014-2020 and post 2020

- Encourage MS to report on **"soft results"**
- Increase uptake of **simplification**
- Continue building **MS evaluation capacity**
- Better capture the results of **capacity building activities** of the programme
- Support and promote use of **FEIs**
- Streamlining application of the **single audit principle**
- Consider the recommendations of the **High Level Group on simplification**

Thank you!

For more information on ESF:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=701&langId=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/news/index_en.htm#all|1