SUMMARY OF

 THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS INVESTMENTS FOR 2014-2020

After the implementation of the operational programmes for the European Union (hereinafter – the EU) investment, the EU Member States must submit to the European Commission (hereinafter – the EC) final reports on the implementation of the operational programmes. The reports shall review the implementation of the operational programmes taking into account the main achievements of financial and common and program-specific monitoring indicators, changes in the circumstances of implementation, and analyse the benefits of the achieved results for public needs and the development of the national economy.

**The final report** for the2014-2020 Operational Programme for the EU Funds Investments (hereinafter referred to as the Operational Programme) submitted by Lithuania to the Commission **covers the entire 2014-2020 financing period.**

**PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME BY SECTOR**

EUR 1,284 million was invested in **the development of sustainable transport and core network infrastructure,** and 183 projects were implemented: reconstruction of the breakwaters, implementation of environmental measures, improvement of the Livintai-Gaižiūnai railway line, enabling faster transportation, promoting mobility and development of intermodal transport. **Sustainable mobility and environmentally friendly transport** contributed to the reduction of CO2, the promotion of diverse urban mobility, measures to mitigate the environmental impact, with EUR 101 million invested and 145 projects completed. Through the financial instrument (hereinafter – the FI), EUR 0.9 million was invested in a venture capital company in the field of mobility services and transport technologies.

**In the field of energy**, EUR 544 million was invested (227 projects implemented) in renewable energy resources (hereinafter – RES), energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, solar power plants, replacement of boilers with RES technologies in households, biofuel cogeneration facilities, renovation of buildings, street lighting, heating networks, energy independence, integration into European energy: liquefied gas terminal, electricity interconnections with Sweden, Poland, upgrading of natural gas and electricity transmission systems. EUR 22 million was invested in the form of FIs for the renovation of public buildings and streetlights. Through 3 FI, EUR 314 million was invested (EUR 1.3 billion of private funds raised) in the renovation of multi-apartment buildings, ensuring their higher efficiency class by encouraging their use of RES. In order to renovate municipal public buildings, EUR 13 million was invested through the FI (EUR 13.9 million raised).

**In the field of environment**, EUR 974 million was invested (434 projects implemented) in the development of infrastructure mitigating the effects of climate change, improvement of water status and air quality, restoration/preservation of biodiversity, efficiency of water supply and wastewater management, raising awareness of natural/cultural heritage, municipal and radioactive waste management – a high-efficiency CHP plant was installed in Vilnius for EUR 66 million. EUR 29 million was invested in the form of FI in increasing the accessibility of drinking water supply and wastewater collection management, improving their quality and protecting the environment from the harmful effects of wastewater.

**In the education sector**, EUR 723 million was invested in projects aimed at improving education and training infrastructure, increasing opportunities for Lifelong Learning, improving access to and quality of education and studies, and enhancing the attractiveness of vocational training.

**In the field of public governance**, investments of EUR 100 million (177 projects implemented) ensured high-quality monitoring of the implementation of Lithuania’s strategic goals and objectives, the establishment of an evidence-based management competence centre under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the results of which will be used by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, ministries and other public administration institutions to make systemic decisions, and the development of the information technology tool MIGRIS, which allows to improve the quality of migration services.

**In the field of regional development**, EUR 481 million was invested and 1008 projects were implemented. Investments brought unused, abandoned infrastructure into use, public spaces were modernized, and the living environment in multi-apartment districts was improved. EUR 25 million was invested in the implementation of **community-led local development strategies** and 669 local action projects were implemented. At the event for the most successfully implemented projects of local action groups in 2014-2020, 13 projects were awarded, which implemented activities in the areas of socio-cultural services, employment and community promotion.

 EUR 869 million was invested in research and development and innovation (hereinafter – **R&D****&I),** and 1792 projects were implemented. The investments created R&D&I infrastructure, tested models of research and business cooperation, encouraged R&D&I activities in the private sector and in the commercialisation of knowledge and technology transfer between research and business sectors.

EUR 935 million was invested in **the business sector** and 9000 projects were implemented. Investments contributed to higher productivity of enterprises, export development, job creation, creation of additional RES capacity, increased number of tourists, better engaged and more viable social business, and a more skilled labour force. In order to help growing companies raise capital, promote innovation and competitiveness, EUR 194.2 million was invested through the FI.

 **In R&D&I and business areas**, to combat **COVID-19**, EUR 246 million (1512 projects) was invested in research, production of COVID-19-relevant products, and deployment of e-commerce models in companies.

**In the field of information society**, 41 projects were implemented for EUR 193 million. The investment expanded broadband internet connection – coverage of Lithuania by high-speed internet connection increased from 50% to 88%, the protection of Lithuania’s information resources was strengthened – a secure network and cyber-attack prevention system was developed, internet accessibility was improved, the supply and quality of public/administrative e-services was developed.

**In the area of employment**, EUR 521 million was invested. The focus is on the long-term and low-skilled unemployed, people with disabilities, young people not in employment, education or training. Active labour market policies (ALMP) measures, measures to promote and motivate employment, rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, financial incentives for employers hiring people experiencing difficulties in the labour market were provided. In order to promote employment, EUR 24.6 million was invested through the FI to create jobs in start-ups. Investments contributed to employment and unemployment reduction of the population – in 2023, the unemployment rate in Lithuania decreased by 5% compared to 2013, while the employment rate increased by 7.5% (State Data Agency).

 **In the area of social inclusion**, a national reform took place, moving from institutional care to family and community-based services for persons with disabilities and children deprived of parental care. The aim was to reform all childcare institutions, and institutional care for persons with disabilities was restructured. During the transition, service infrastructure in the regions was developed and new forms of services for target groups were created (EUR 111 million was invested).

**In the field of health**, investments were made in geriatrics, children's health, prevention/treatment of addiction, circulatory and oncological diseases, and contributed to solving the multimorbidity of the population, chronic non-infectious and socially related health conditions. For EUR 324 million, 530 projects were implemented, which encouraged the improvement of the quality/accessibility of health infrastructure, the improvement of the qualification of specialists, the improvement of health literacy of target groups, disease prevention, and the development of innovative and effective service delivery models. Investments improved the quality and accessibility of healthcare for the Lithuanian population.

**In the field of culture**, EUR 291 million was invested, 259 projects were implemented, which increased the relevance of cultural and natural heritage, the attendance/recognition of their objects, improved the image of tourism in Lithuania, and increased the interest of residents in heritage. EUR 2.8 million was invested through the FI to renovate/adapt heritage sites. EUR 21 million was invested in the area of COVID-19 and 103 projects were implemented, creating conditions that increase competition, sales and added value for CCI companies, thus increasing the share of the circular and digital economy in Lithuania.

**EFFICIENT USE OF INVESTMENTS**

The 2014-2020 period has been successfully completed with the effective investment of EU structural funds and the achievement of most of the planned indicators. During the implementation of the activities provided for in the Operational Programme, regular monitoring of risky projects was carried out and the risk of investment of funds was managed.

In total, EUR 8,212 million was allocated to the objectives of the 2014-2020 Operational Programme. EUR 9 674 million (118% of the allocated funds) were contracted for the implementation of projects contributing to the objectives pursued. It should be noted that, following an assessment of potential savings in projects and planned unused funds, contracts were concluded for a higher amount than the funds allocated (over-contracted) in order to have a reserve of eligible expenditure so that all funds earmarked for the Operational Programme would be invested. With over-contracting, EUR 9,190 million of expenditure (121% of the allocated funds) was declared to the Commission.

**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

* The improved research infrastructure employed 946 researchers as full-time equivalents (370 planned).
* The upgraded open access R&D infrastructure was used by over 12,000 external users from entities (3,000 planned).
* 183 patent applications were submitted from research and study institutions that received investments (34 planned).
* The additional number of households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps reached 274 thousand (254 thousand planned).
* The share of the population who regularly use the internet increased by 24 percentage points and reached 89% (87% planned).
* The share of the population who use public and administrative services provided electronically increased by 37 percentage points and reached 74 % (63% planned).
* The level of entrepreneurship increased: the number of companies and individuals per 1 thousand inhabitants increased by 48 and reached 116 (48 planned).
* The efficiency of renewable energy use was increased in more than 9.5 thousand households (6 thousand planned).
* About 1.2 thousand km of district heating supply networks was modernized (1 thousand km planned).
* 189 new environmentally friendly public transport vehicles were purchased (120 planned).
* 1.1 thousand m3 of radioactive waste was managed (300 m3 planned).
* 406,000 additional residents benefited from improved water supply services (290,000 planned).
* In order to ensure a better conservation status of habitats, support was granted to 6.2 thousand ha of habitats (1.2 thousand ha planned).
* 227 km of roads were reconstructed or upgraded (201 km planned).
* 289 traffic safety and environmental measures were put in place (173 planned).
* 50 km of distribution pipelines were fully constructed.
* 11.3 km2 of open spaces were created or renovated in urban areas (6 km2 planned).
* More than 3.3 thousand new jobs were created in newly established companies (1.8 thousand planned).
* Service provision infrastructure was improved in approximately 360 public healthcare institutions (240 planned).
* Nearly 1.9 thousand social housing units were newly constructed or purchased (1.8 thousand planned).
* The share of children in foster care receiving social care services in the community increased by 36 percentage points and reached 98 % (73 % planned).
* Approximately 19 thousand socially vulnerable persons participated in European Social Fund (hereinafter – ESF) activities for social integration (13 thousand planned).
* Over 2.5 thousand new pre-school and pre-primary education places were established with European Regional Development Fund funds (2 thousand planned).
* A targeted benefit to improve access to studies was granted to more than 1,800 students from socially sensitive, socially excluded and underrepresented groups (1,000 planned).
* Over 106,000 employed persons participated in ESF training leading to qualifications or competences (65,000 planned).
* Under the Operational Programme, 59 ESF-funded public administrations implemented measures to improve performance management (32 planned).
* Under the Operational Programme, 114 public administrations implemented measures with the ESF funds to improve the quality of services and/or maintenance (45 planned).

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