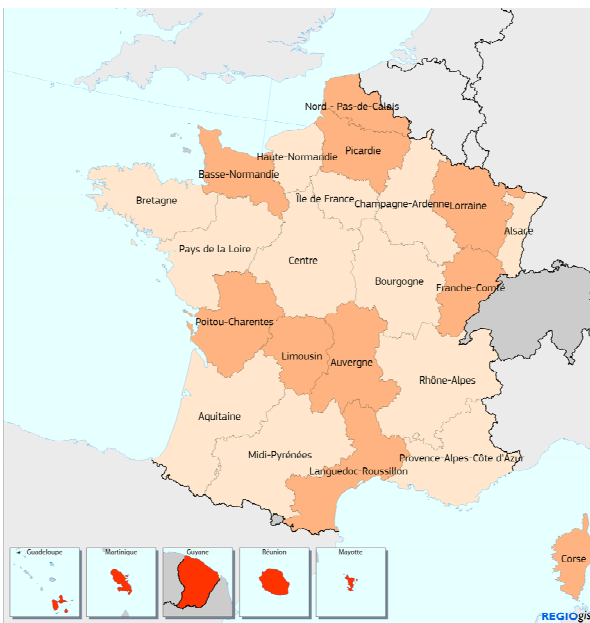


Cohesion Policy and France

In 2014-2020, France will manage a total of **41 operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, 27 programmes will receive funding from both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). Seven of the remaining fourteen operational programmes will receive funding from the ERDF, while seven programmes will receive funding from the ESF.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

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

How much will the EU invest in France from 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, France has been allocated around **€15.9 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€3.41 billion** for less developed regions (Outermost Regions Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane, Réunion and Mayotte)
- **€4.25 billion** for transition regions (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Picardie, Basse-Normandie, Lorraine, Franche-Comté, Poitou-Charentes, Limousin, Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillon and Corsica)
- **€6.35 billion** for more developed regions (Haute-Normandie, Ile-de-France, Champagne-Ardenne, Alsace, Bretagne, Pays de la Loire, Centre, Bourgogne, Rhône-Alpes, Aquitaine, Midi-Pyrénées, and Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur)
- **€1.09 billion** for European Territorial Cooperation
- **€443.3 million** special allocation for the Outermost Regions
- **€310.2 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative

Of this, ESF in France represents a minimum of **€6 billion**. The actual share will be set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for France?

Priorities for France are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. These priorities are expected to include:

- Increase private R&I investment in general and in knowledge intensity in particular.
- Enhance business innovation and competitiveness, especially SMEs and enhance the transfer from research to business.
- Develop the e-economy, in particular e-services and IT applications.
- Promote entrepreneurship, access to finance and advanced business services for SMEs.
- Increase the employment rate through measures to improve the adaptability of workers and actions in favour of the most vulnerable groups.
- Promote the adaptability of workers and fight against unemployment through enhanced functioning of the public employment service and a greater investment in human capital.
- Increase the employment rate of specific groups and maintain the link to the employment of people at risk of poverty and exclusion.
- Stimulate higher energy efficiency, especially in industry, transport and buildings.
- Increase energy production from renewable sources.
- Improve risk prevention and management and improve performance on Natura 2000 and biodiversity.
- For the outermost regions: develop endogenous potential and promote diversification, improve accessibility, protect the environment and in particular water resources, improve the inclusion of young people and vulnerable groups in the labour market, improve services to the population including social and educational services, improve administrative capacity.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 14.3 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, the ERDF has helped France to:

- create around 27 000 jobs;
- support over 4 500 RTD projects;
- connect an additional 840 000 people to broadband internet;
- improve urban transport for more than 440 000 people;
- reinforce flood protection for almost 2 million people.

The ESF provides investment for a wide variety of projects such as enhancing the employability and up-skilling of young people and the long-term unemployed, combating poverty, promoting gender equality, increasing the participation of women, and developing new healthcare technologies.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● **New outpost of the Louvre museum built on the site of a disused coal mine**

The Louvre in Paris is one of the world's largest and most visited museums. Its new satellite branch in Lens (Nord-Pas-de-Calais) is a symbol of regeneration in a depressed, post-industrial town. Opened in December 2012, the [Lens-Louvre museum](#) has already created 120 permanent jobs and aims to attract around 700 000 visitors each year.

Total cost: €172.2 million (ERDF contribution: €35 million)

- **Digital working for Gironde**

This project involves setting up a [digital communications network for residents in dead spots in Gironde](#), as well as companies in business parks and local public authorities. It brings 2 Mb/s high-speed internet coverage to 100 % of dead spots in 515 communes, and provides superfast cabling and internet access to 60 local business parks, ensuring digital e-inclusion for all.

Total cost: € 51.9 million (ERDF contribution: € 30 million)

- **Robotic surgery start-up builds international business in Languedoc-Roussillon**

The Montpellier-based company [Medtech](#) develops robots capable of assisting surgeons in difficult operations requiring immense precision. These robots are now used by leading neurosurgeons in several hospitals in Europe, North America and Asia. Medtech secured funding of €4.5 million through the EU's JEREMIE programme (*Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises*). The company is continuing its ambitious growth and is targeting a 50 % increase in sales in 2014 to €3 million.

Total cost: €22 million (ERDF contribution: €4.5 million)

ESF projects

- **La Boîte à papiers in Limoges**

In Limousin (West of Massif central in France), the company ['La boîte à papiers'](#) develops waste collection and recycling activities. In parallel, it helps people in social difficulties rebuild their lives and make a living with their job. In one year, the company offered opportunities to 51 persons in the framework of a 'Contrat d'insertion' (integration contract).

Total cost: € 406 600 (ESF contribution: € 213 000)

- **Second chance for school leavers in Midi-Pyrénées**

The Midi-Pyrénées region of France has created a ['Second Chance School'](#) to help unemployed early school leavers find their feet in the job market. The project encourages participants to reconsider their professional and social situation, by providing them with a pathway to employment, combining professional and social support. Each student is individually guided by a coach throughout the training programme. 1 200 young people have participated in the project since it was launched in 2003. Seven out of ten have gone on to find a job or obtain a vocational qualification.

Total budget: € 1.8 million (ESF contribution: € 500 000)

- **Women, equality and employment: the fight against double discrimination**

Women from other countries who are looking for a job have to face two problems: combating both the stereotypes linked to their nationality as well as those linked to their gender. [FETE \(Women, Equality, Employment\)](#) helps women in this situation in the Burgundy region to find jobs, and fights against discrimination in recruitment. To date, 320 people who have been supported by the organisation have been employed and 125 women have successfully completed a training programme.

Total budget: € 180 000 (ESF contribution: € 72 000)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in France

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](#)