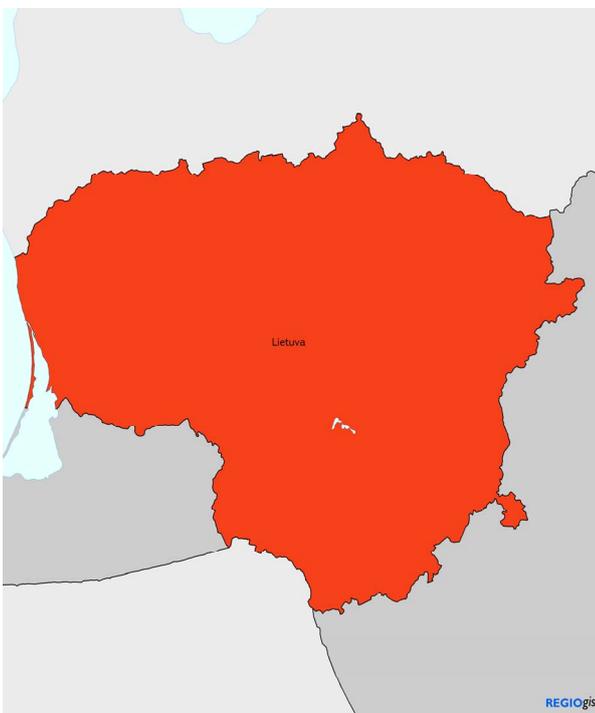


Cohesion Policy and Lithuania

⋄ In 2014-2020, Lithuania will manage **one multi-fund operational programme** for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund (ESF) covering all thematic objectives under EU Cohesion Policy.



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 the EU invest in Lithuania in 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Lithuania has been allocated around **€6.82 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€4.63 billion** for less developed regions (the entire country is classified as a less developed region)
- **€2.05 billion** under the Cohesion Fund
- **€113.8 million** for European Territorial Cooperation
- **€31.8 million** under the Youth Employment Initiative

Of this, ESF in Lithuania will represent a minimum of **€1.12 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 Lithuania?

Priorities for Lithuania will be set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities are expected to include:

- Promoting innovation and research investments.
- Improving business environment and enhancing the competitiveness of the business sector.
- Promoting digital society.
- Developing modern infrastructure to enhance competitiveness and foster sustainable growth.
- Promoting an environmentally friendly and resource-efficient economy.
- Promoting employment; improving quality of education policies; reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- Ensuring effectiveness of public administration.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 6.9 billion.

Since the start of the 2007-2013 funding period, thanks to the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, the following results were obtained so far:

- 4 240 jobs were created;
- 1 065 direct investment aid projects to SMEs were started;
- 301 start-ups were supported;
- 569 RTD projects were carried out;
- 47 338 additional persons are now served by waste water projects;
- 1 369 kilometres of road were reconstructed.

By the end of 2012, about 480 000 people in Lithuania took advantage of opportunities offered by the European Social Fund programme and improved their labour market or social situation:

- More than 160 000 unemployed or persons at risk of unemployment were involved in supported engagement programmes.
- More than 150 000 employees have successfully completed trainings improving their labour market situation.
- About 34 000 unemployed or persons at risk of unemployment were involved in vocational education programmes.
- More than 2 000 disabled participated in programmes of professional rehabilitation.

The European Social Fund also helped to improve the educational system, researchers' abilities and public administration:

- More than 25 000 teachers or lecturers studied according to informal education programmes.
- About 4 000 scientists and other researchers studied according to informal education programmes.
- More than 30 000 of public servants participated in trainings.
- The share of public expenditure covered by Performance Management Systems introduced with the ESF support increased from 23 % to 62 %.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● Training centre for wood technologies

An open-access practical training centre was created at the '[Kaunas Training Centre for Builders](#)' for companies specialised in wood technologies and innovations in furniture production. ERDF investments in training facilities and equipment will contribute to a higher quality of training of specialists, which is crucial for the growth and development of the wood processing and furniture-making sector in the Kaunas Region.

Total cost: €6.7 million (ERDF contribution: €5.7 million)

- **Šiauliai thermal power station**

The upgrade of [Šiauliai thermal power station](#) is an example of promoting renewable energy resources. The beneficiary company Šiaulių energija has implemented works on a combined cycle thermal power plant, resulting to more than 40 % decline in fossil fuel consumption in the company and 17 % reduction in customer prices.

Total budget: € 16.1 million (Cohesion Fund contribution: € 5.2 million)

- **Road bypass in Vilnius**

In June 2013, the Commission approved a major investment project for a 2.84 km [road bypass on the Western outskirts of Vilnius](#). The project forms part of the Trans-European Transport Network and will significantly improve accessibility to the capital and to the Vilnius International Airport while traffic congestions in the Western part of Vilnius will be reduced. The project is a good example of investment contributing to improving the mobility of citizens by ensuring safer and more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel conditions.

Total budget: € 44.7 million (Cohesion Fund contribution: € 37.7 million)

ESF projects

- **ATVERK ('Open Up'): Business Team of the Future**

In 2011-2013, the Engineering Industries Association of Lithuania – LINPRA implemented the project [ATVERK](#) for students together with its partners from Lithuania and Finland. In addition to their regular studies, students were given a brief introduction on the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Later they had to develop their own manufacturing business ideas, and finally joined together into teams to implement the best ideas. These teams simulated company operations, and worked at Entrepreneurship and Technical Creativity Centres which had been established at selected companies. With the help of mentors from these companies, the students were able to develop product prototypes and business plans.

Total budget: € 698 000 (ESF contribution: € 645 000)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Lithuania

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](#)
- [Lithuanian Finance Ministry website](#)