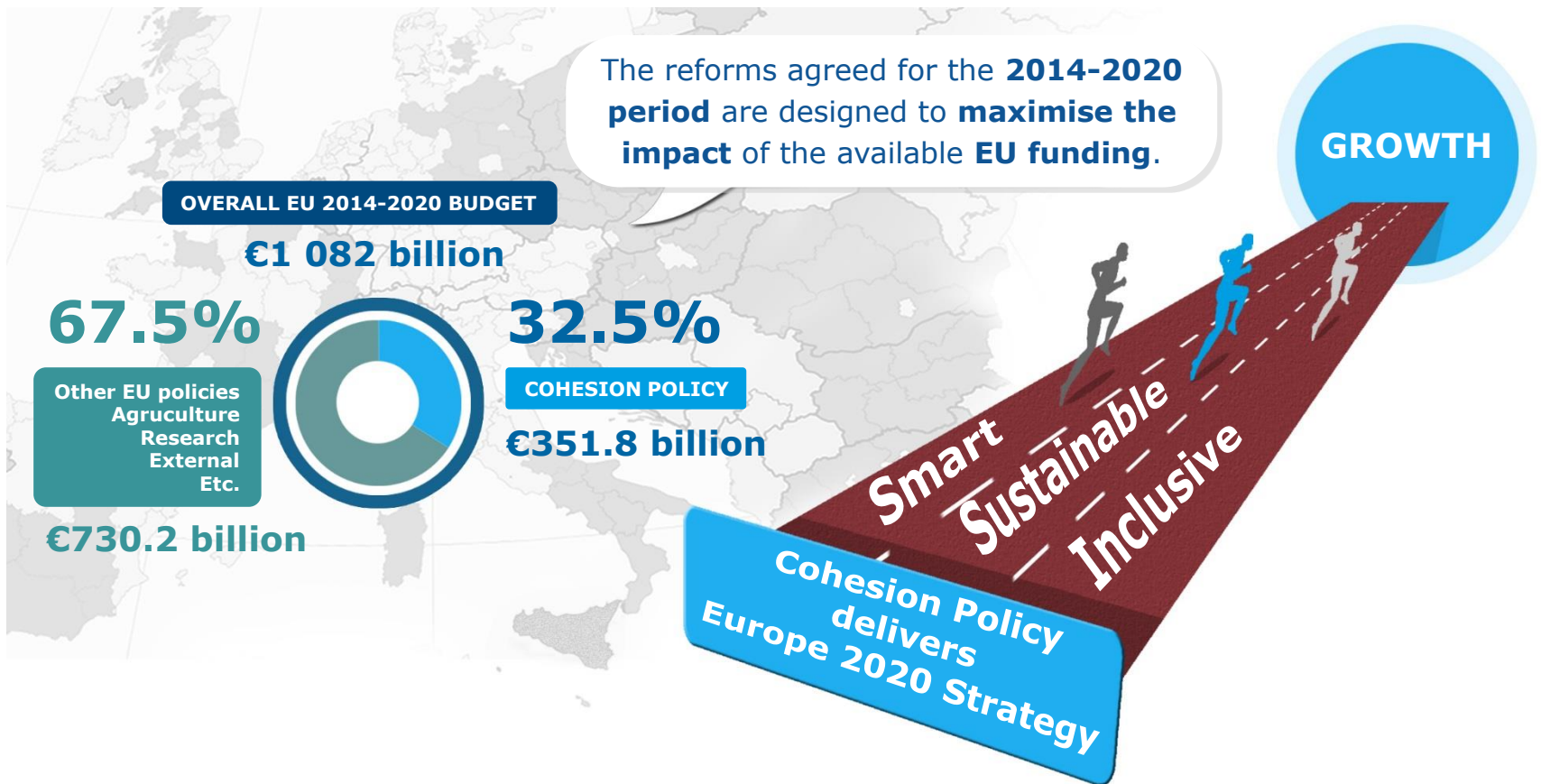




# EU Cohesion Policy- ESF

## 2014-2020

# EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: 1/3 of the EU budget



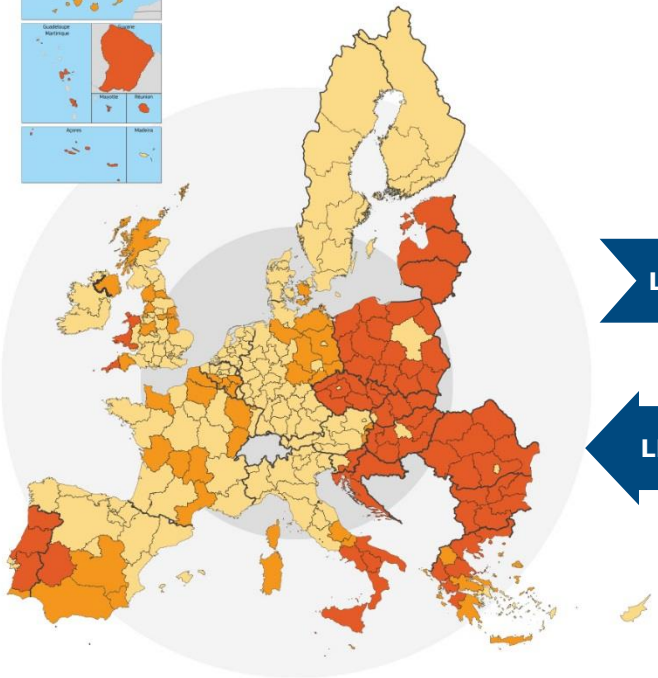
## Cohesion Policy delivers the Europe 2020 strategy

- Launched in March 2010: Follow-up to the Lisbon Agenda (2000 and 2005).
- A strategy from the European Commission 'for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' over the next 10 years
- Smart agenda: innovation; education; digital society.
- Sustainability agenda: climate, energy, and mobility.
- Inclusive agenda: employment and skills; fighting poverty and social exclusion.



European Commission

# Investing in all EU regions



LEVEL OF INVESTMENT

ADAPTED TO

LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

**ALL EU REGIONS BENEFIT**

**€ 182 billion**

for less developed regions  
GDP < 75% of EU-27 average



**50.5%**



27% of EU pop.

**€35bn** for transition regions

GDP 75-90% of EU-27 average



**9.9%**



12% of EU pop.

**€54bn** for more developed regions

GDP > 90% of EU-27 average



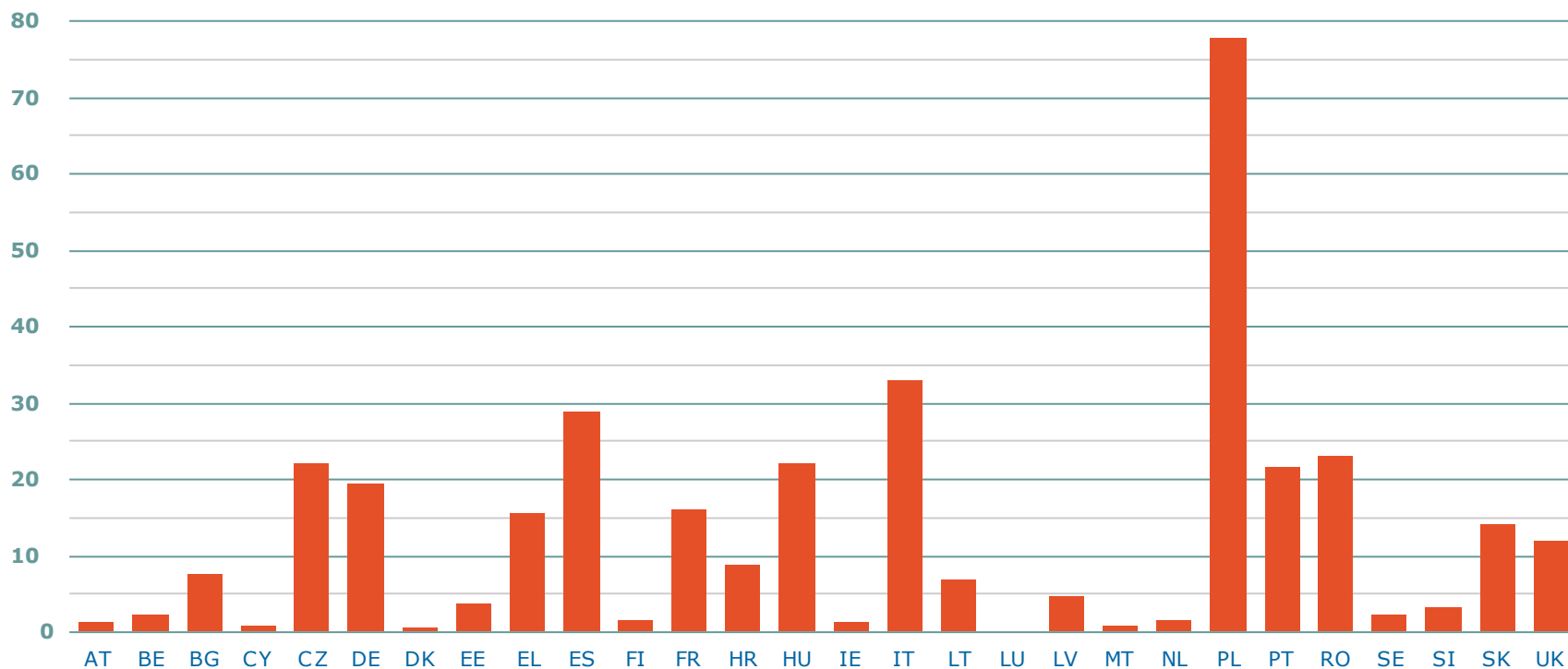
**15.1%**



61% of EU pop.

# Budget allocations per Member State (2014-2020)

Total EU allocations of cohesion policy 2014-2020\* (billion €, current prices)



\* breakdown by category of allocations subject to transfers between categories at the request of the Member States

# The method: Programming, Partnership and Shared Management

**Common  
Strategic  
Framework**

**Partnership  
Agreements**

**Operational  
Programmes**

**Management of  
programmes/  
Selection of  
projects**

**Monitoring/  
Annual  
reporting**

# Five European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) working together

## PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

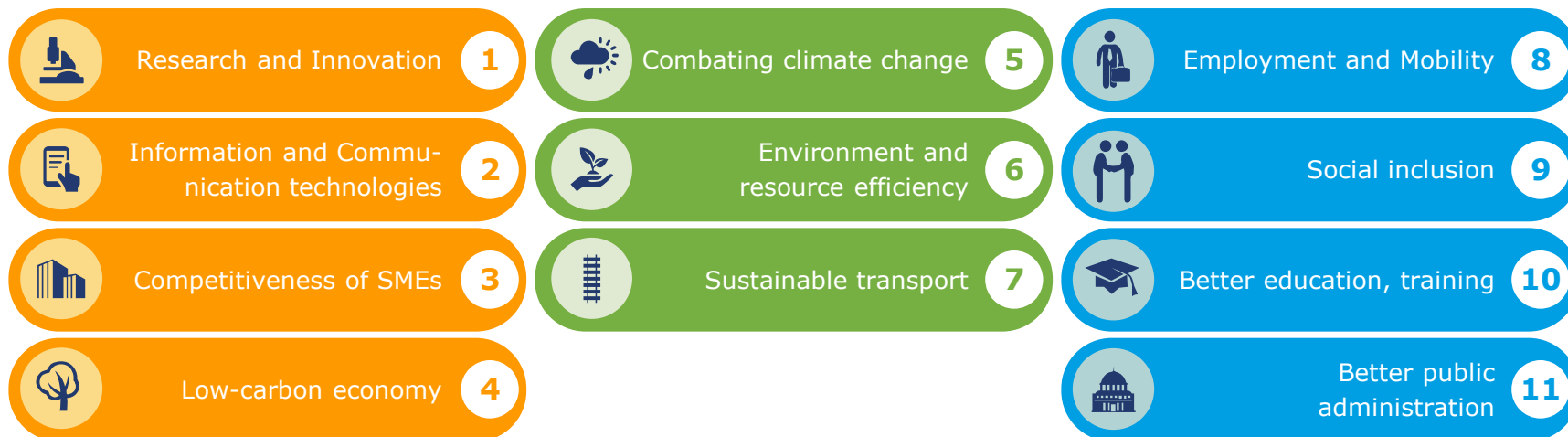


- **Common rules for ESI Funds**
  - Simplified cost options.
  - E-governance.
  - Eligibility rules.
  - Financial instruments.
  - CLLD- Community –Led Local Development.



European  
Commission

## 11 thematic objectives





## Better focus on results



### **Performance reserve**

6% funding allocated in 2019 to programmes and priorities which have achieved 85% of their milestones.

## **Stronger role for partners in planning & implementation**

### **European Code of Conduct on Partnership**

- A common set of standards to improve consultation, participation and dialogue with partners during the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of projects financed by all European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).
- Partners: public authorities, trade unions, employers and NGOs and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

## Necessity of pre-conditions for an effective EU investment

### Thematic *ex ante* conditionalities

- Linked to the **thematic objectives** and **investment priorities** of Cohesion Policy and applied in relation to investments in the **specific thematic area**: strategic, regulatory and institutional pre-conditions, administrative capacity.

### General *ex ante* conditionalities

- Linked to horizontal aspects of **programme implementation** and apply **across all ESIF**: anti-discrimination policy, gender equality policy.

## Enhanced role for the European Social Fund

**For the first time in cohesion policy a minimum share for the ESF is set at 23.1% for 2014-2020**

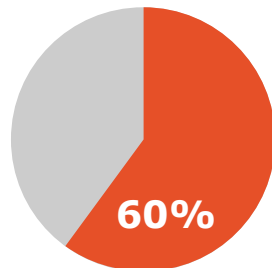
Based on:

- national ESF shares for 2007-2013; and
- member State employment levels;
- actual share to be determined in the **Partnership Agreements** based on needs and challenges;
- total ESF amount for EU 28: **€ 80.3 billion.**

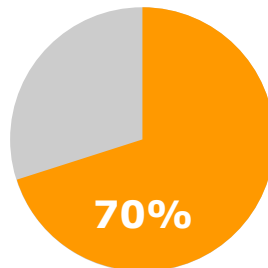
## ESF thematic concentration

- 20% of ESF resources in each Member State for social inclusion, fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination.
- Thematic concentration of each OP on up to 5 investment priorities (out of 19) for employment/mobility, education/training, social inclusion & institutional capacity.

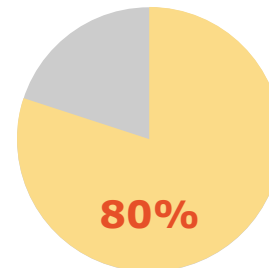
Less developed  
regions



Transition  
regions



More developed  
regions



# ESF and Youth

- **Relevant investment priorities:**
  - Sustainable integration of young people in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, into the labour market, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;
  - Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education [...];
  - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning [...], upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce [...]



## Youth Employment Initiative

- Launched by the European Council on 7-8 February 2013
- To support in particular some aspects of the Youth Guarantee schemes (actions for individuals)
- **EUR 6 billion** for the period 2014-2020 - open to all regions with levels of youth unemployment (age group 15-24) above 25% in 2012.
- **EUR 3 billion from the ESF** and a further EUR 3 billion from a specific 'youth employment' budget line in the EU budget
- The full YEI budget will be committed already 2014-15

## ESF Regulation provisions on YEI

- YEI will target **actions to individuals** only (not systems and structures). ESF can support systems reform
- **YEI target group:**
  - NEETs aged up to 25, or optionally up to 30:
    - inactive or unemployed (+long-term)
    - registered or not as job seekers
    - residing in the eligible regions
- **N.B.:** NEETS are a heterogeneous group (can be both high and low-educated) MS will themselves define the target population of NEET
- Frontloading of YEI, eligibility date of expenditure, early adoption of dedicated YEI OPs
- Direct and speedy results expected



## YEI and the ESF

- YEI has a specific purpose, to act in the worst-affected regions
- YEI will be fully integrated in ESF programming
- YEI will support interventions that ESF already supports: jobs and training measures, apprenticeships and traineeships, transnational labour mobility, business start-up, etc.
- YEI will enhance and complement, not replace ESF actions
- MS are expected to allocate more ESF for youth actions

# ESF and Gender Equality

- **Ex-ante Conditionality**
- **Mainstreaming**

Article 7 ESF

- **Specific Action**

Investment Priority under TO 8

## **Article 7 – ESF regulation**

*"The Member States and the Commission shall promote equality between men and women through mainstreaming as referred in article 7 of the Common Provisions Regulation and specific targeted actions as referred to in Article 3 (1)(a)(iv) in particular with the aim of increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment, reducing gender-based segregation, combating gender stereotypes in education and training and promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for men and women".*

- Innovations with regard to the current regulation
  - A dedicated article for gender equality
  - A clear obligation to pursue a dual approach: gender mainstreaming and specific actions

## Specific targeted actions for gender equality

- Why a dedicated investment priority for specific actions?
  - Article 3 (1)(a)(iv): *equality between men and women and reconciliation between work and private life*
  - Objective: to have one main category of expenditure entirely dedicated to capture all types of gender-equality specific actions

## Specific targeted actions for gender equality

- Large flexibility left to MS in implementing this obligation:
  - No specific earmarking indicated
  - Obligation made at MS level and not at OP level
    - ➔ It will depend on the needs of each Member State and the way they organise their programmes (thematic, territorial)
  - No restriction in the fields where specific targeted actions should be implemented

## Specific targeted actions for gender equality

- Indicative list of field for the specific actions:
  - *increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment*
  - *reducing gender-based segregation*
  - *combating gender stereotypes in education and training*
  - *promoting reconciliation of work and personal life for men and women.*

# ESF and Older Workers

- **Ex ante Conditionality 8.4**
- **Dedicated Investment Priority under TO 8**
- **"Mainstreaming"**

# Ex ante Conditionality

## Active ageing policies are designed in the light of Employment Guidelines

EG 7: EU headline target of employment rate of 75% by 2020 to be reached through greater participation of.... older workers

EG 8: Develop skilled workforce responding to labour market needs, including through increased employability of older workers



## **IP on Active and Healthy Ageing (TO 8)**

- Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility
- Particular focus especially for Member States having received relevant CSRs
- Linked to ex-ante conditionality

## "Mainstreaming" dimension

- *Older people included within scope of IPs on "combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities" and "enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, including health care and social services of general interest" under TO9 on "promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination"*
- *Older people included within scope of IP on "enhancing access to lifelong learning for all age groups...." under TO 10 on "investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and LLL"*

# Key actions

- Life-long learning: Workers' – and particularly older workers' – access to and participation in education, training and skills development allowing them to fully participate in the labour market, in quality jobs up to retirement age.
- Healthy working conditions: Working conditions and work environments that maintain workers' health and well-being, thereby ensuring workers' life-long employability.
- Age management strategies: Adapting careers and working conditions to the changing needs of workers as they age, thereby avoiding early retirement.
- Employment services for older workers: Counselling, placement, reintegration support.
- Support for carers: Availability of professional support and training to carers as well as respite care and adequate social protection.
- Health promotion and preventive health care: Measures that maximise healthy life years and reduce the risk of dependency.
- Independent living: Making sure that autonomy is preserved or restored