

**Question for written answer E-003244/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Management of EU regional policy funds at the national level

The European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund are used in Member States through operational programmes in accordance with expressed needs and in conformance with the prescribed EU regional policy rules. Member states have set up the system of management and use of these funds in different ways. In some countries there is a system that prefers operational programmes at the national level (the newer and smaller Member States), which can be regarded as centralised, while other Member States apply a combination where one part of the operational programmes and governing bodies is brought down onto the NUTS 2 planning level (Poland, Italy and some other countries). Such a system that respects the principle of subsidiarity can be regarded as decentralised.

Given that, for the period 2014 – 2020, the Republic of Croatia has created a system with two operational programmes at the national level and governing bodies at the national level, I ask the Commission:

- Based on previous analysis, is there a correspondence between the system applied in individual Member States and the success of the absorption of EU regional policy funds in the period 2007 – 2013?
- Are Member States which apply a decentralised system more successful in the absorption of the said resources?