

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
National Coordination Authority

Cohesion Policy – Czech Perspective

EP, Committee on Budgets: Public Hearing on The Financing of the European Structural & Investment Funds and the link between these and other investment funds



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Cohesion Policy = Policy which brings real changes



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Cohesion Policy (and its ESI funds)

- Meets the commitment to implement a result-oriented EU budget.
- Is one of the main public vehicles of growth in the EU.
- Helps reducing disparities and supporting competitiveness and growth.
- Solves regional and local problems and targets investments according to specific needs while contributing to European priorities.
- Is one of the best monitored and evaluated policy with tangible results.
- By being more visible on the ground it has the potential to contribute to better integration of Europe.



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Real changes through Policy

- Significant and tangible results with impact on economy and conditions for better living.
- Improvement of the public administration's strategic management and thinking.
- Strengthening of the horizontal and vertical partnerships (change and development is driven by „society“, not only by individuals).
- Evident contribution to transparency and communication (dialogue and win-win results).

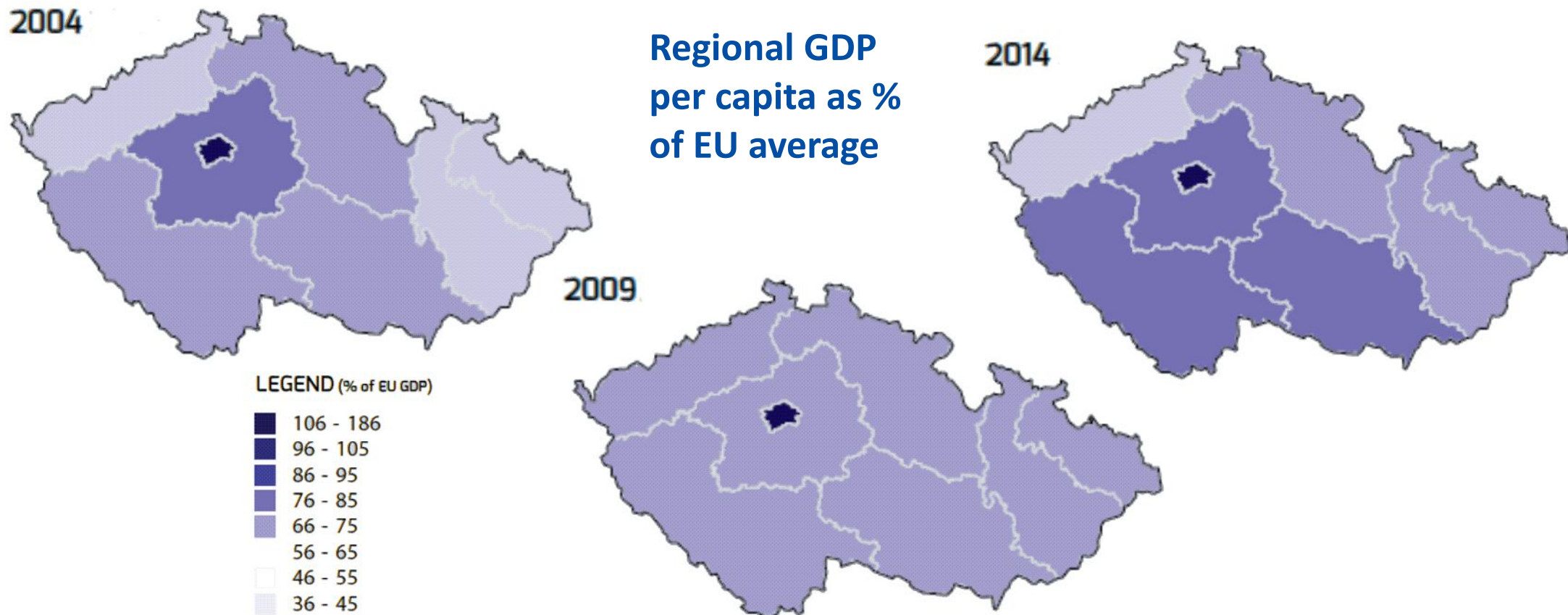


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Cohesion Policy contributes to convergence

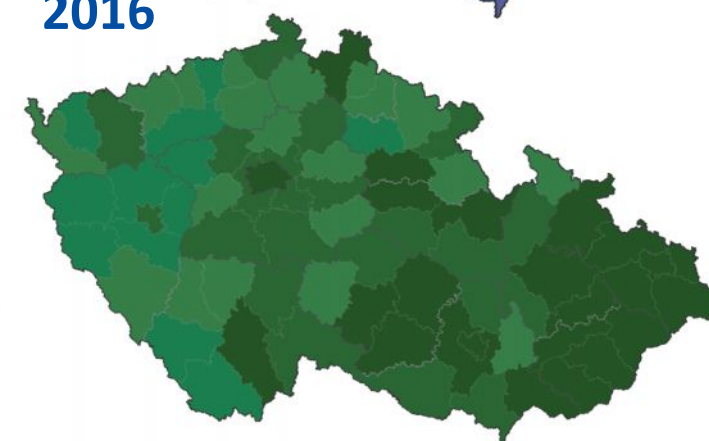
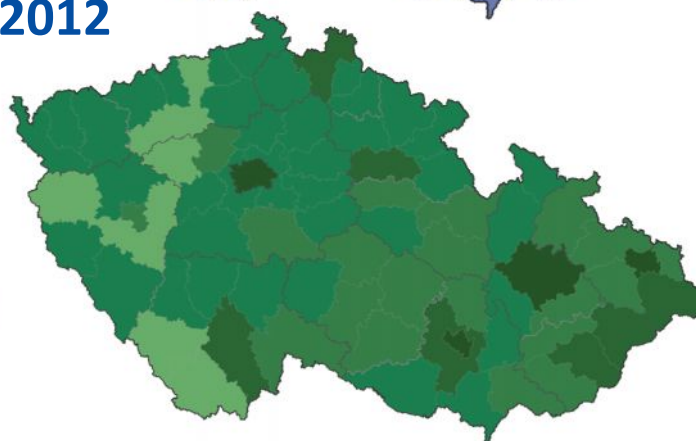
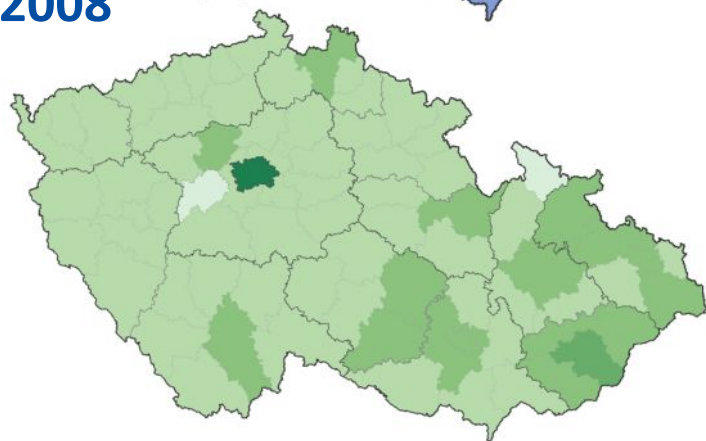
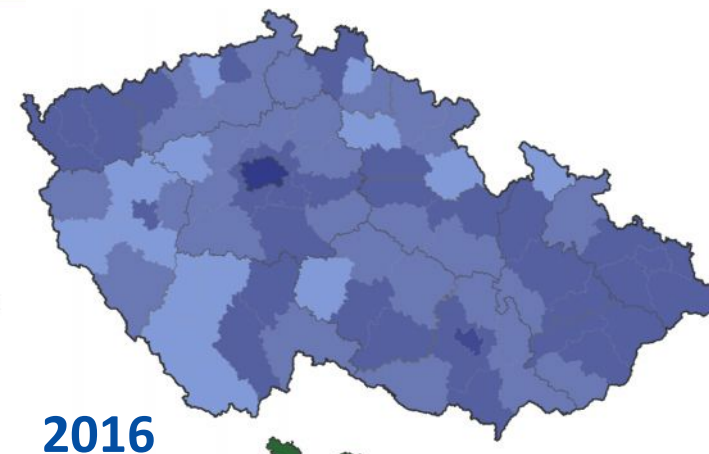
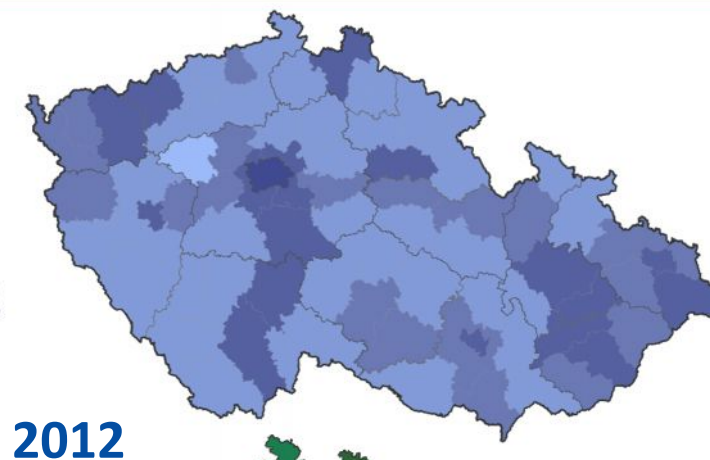
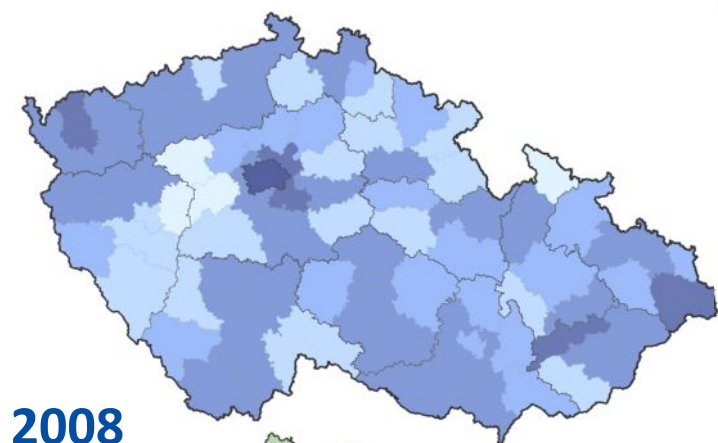


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Financial support and number of projects 2008–2016






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Results and impact at a glance (examples)

4% higher GDP in 2015, 3% lower unemployment rate, 34% of all governmental capital investments from ESIF.

-  **94 104 jobs** were newly created in total.
-  **6 173 jobs** in the field of research and development were newly created.
-  **6 992 students** of all grades were using the created infrastructure or were involved in the centre's activities.
-  **111 km** of new TEN-T motorways, expressways and main roads were constructed.
-  **346 km** of TEN-T railway lines were reconstructed and upgraded.
-  **8 456 projects** supported small and medium enterprises.
-  **4 549 innovative products, processes, organisational and marketing innovations** were launched.
-  **147 waste water treatment plants** were newly built, reconstructed or intensified.
-  In public transport, **684 environmentally friendly vehicles** were newly acquired.

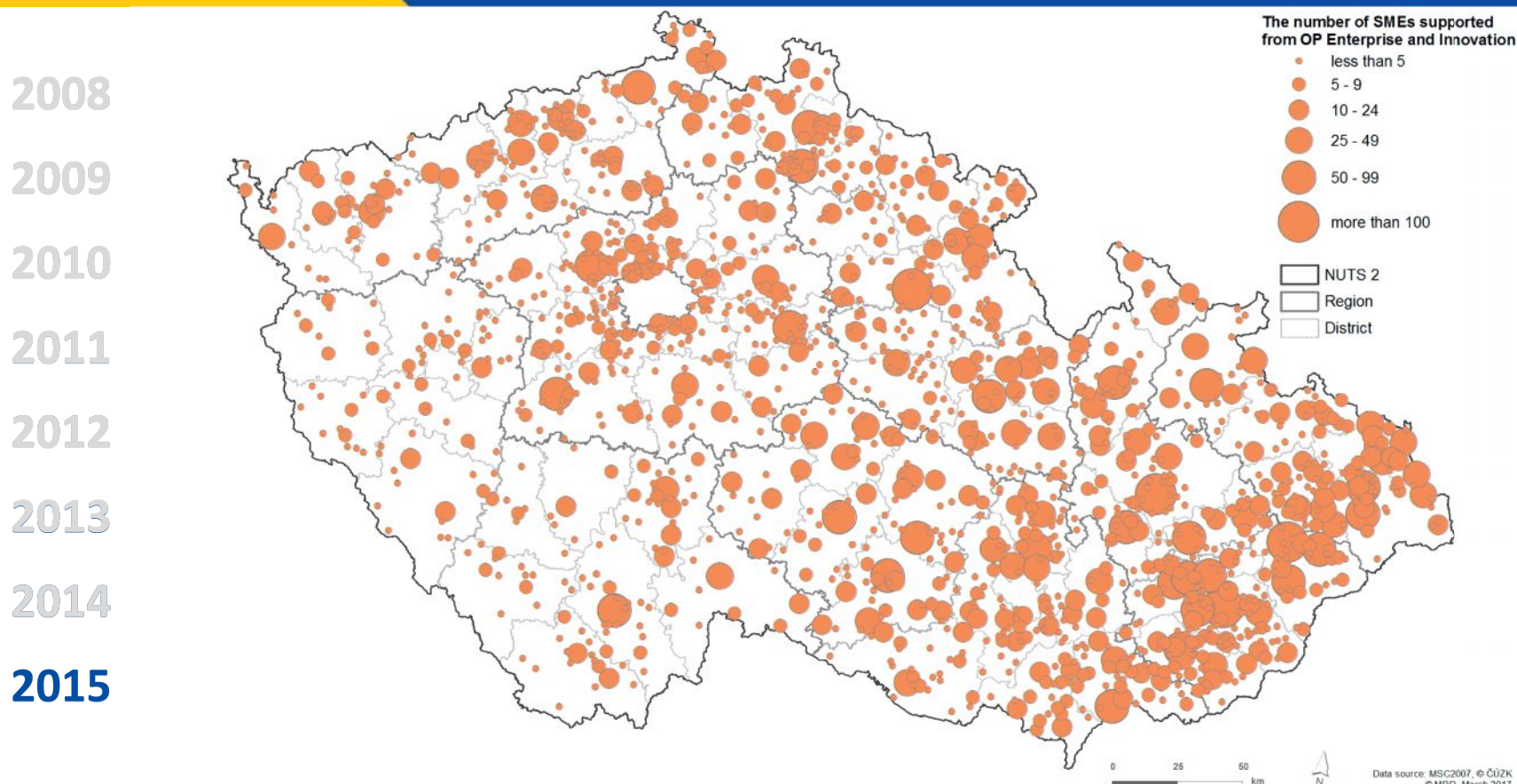


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Example of results and impact (SMEs supported, OP EI)



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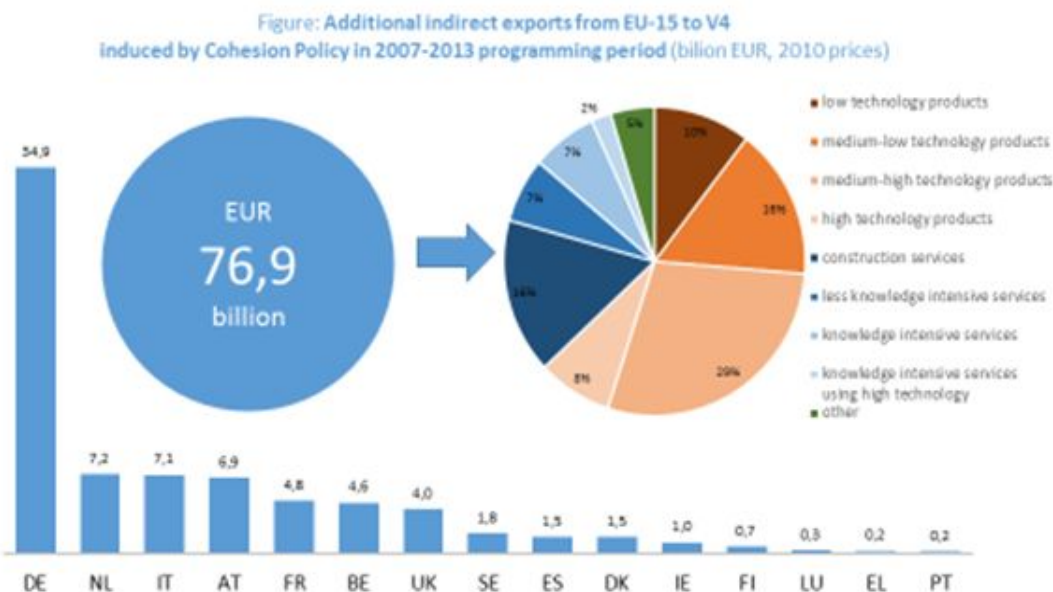


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Cohesion policy entails a significant spill-over effects

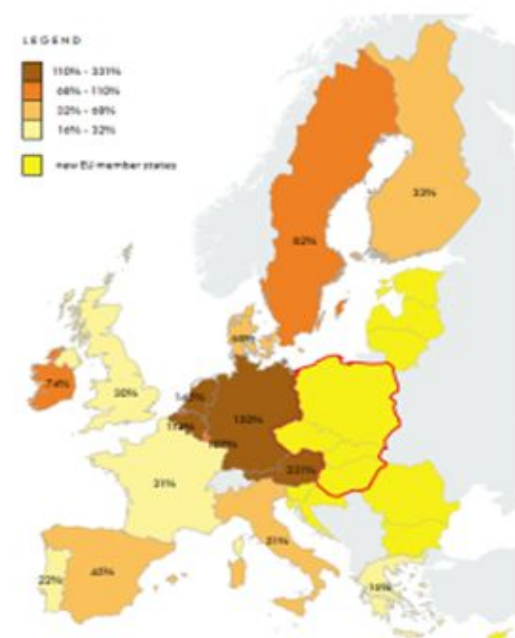
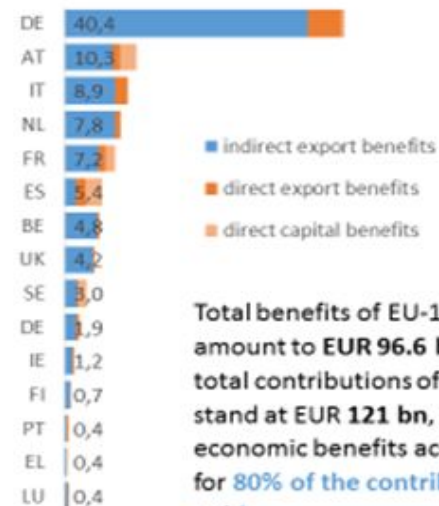
V4 study: investment in V4 brought benefits for EU15 countries (77 mld. Euro)

Indirect export benefits



Total benefits

Figure: Total economic benefits (EUR billion, 2010 prices)



Current state of play



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Implementation is speeding up ...

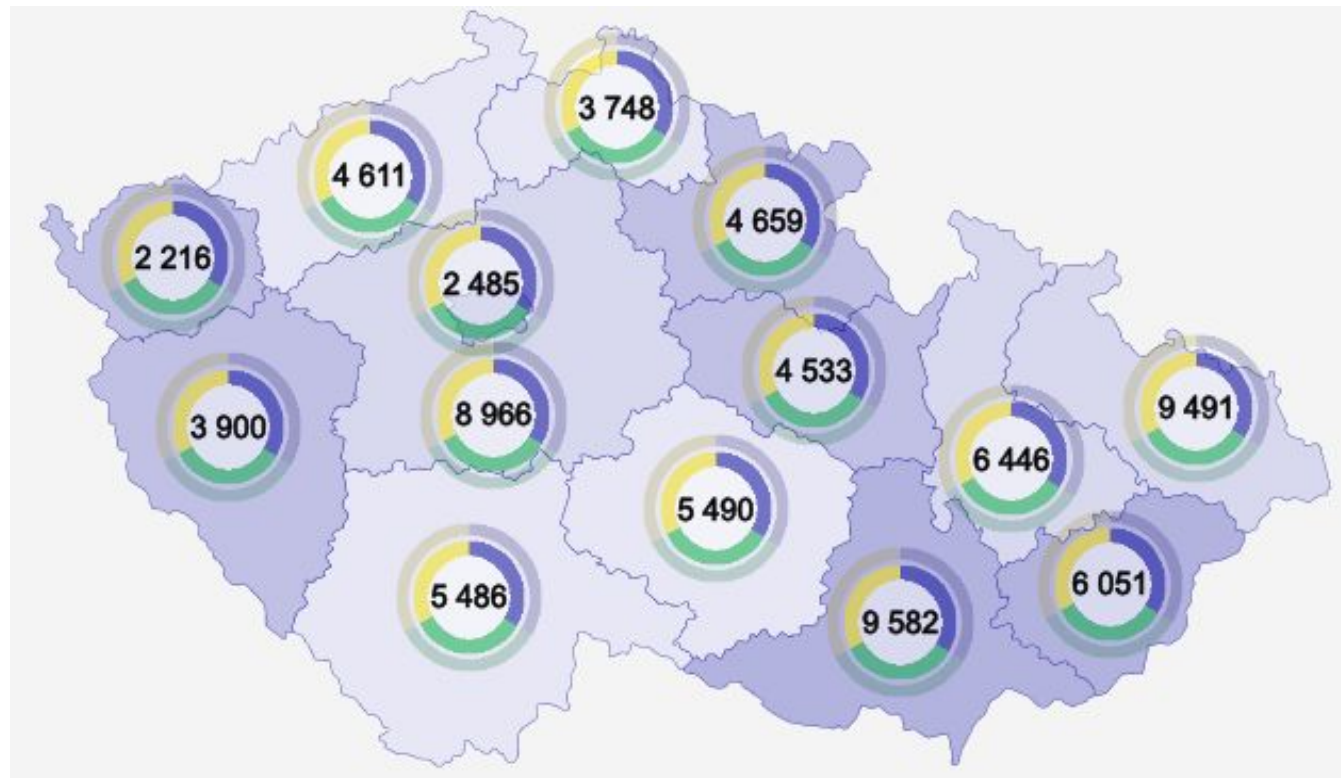
In calls = 83 % of main allocation

Applications submitted = 68,2%

Approved projects = 78 034 (22 April 2017)

528= launched calls

For the past quarters increase of ten 10 % in all stages (from calls through selected operations to operations contracted)



- Map of the projects at dotaceeu.cz

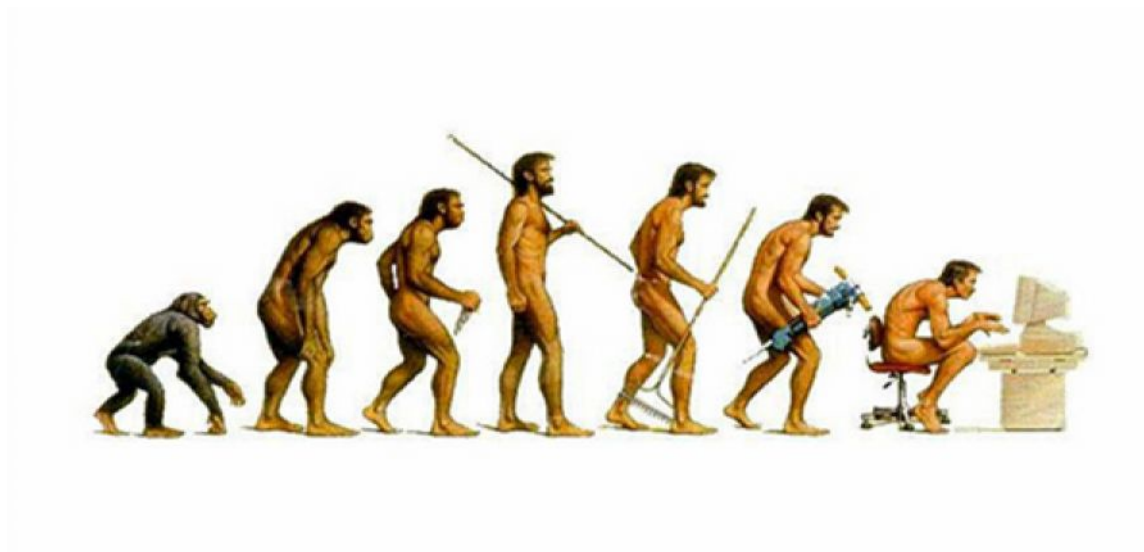


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As Programming Periods evolve



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Differences

- 2014-2020 = real policy reform.
 - New elements (EACs, e-cohesion, thematic concentration, integrated tools, some provisions of FN, process of designation).
 - Systemic changes (such performance framework).
 - Substantial complexity and robustness.
- = Late adoption of legislation and guidances and new issues still arise.



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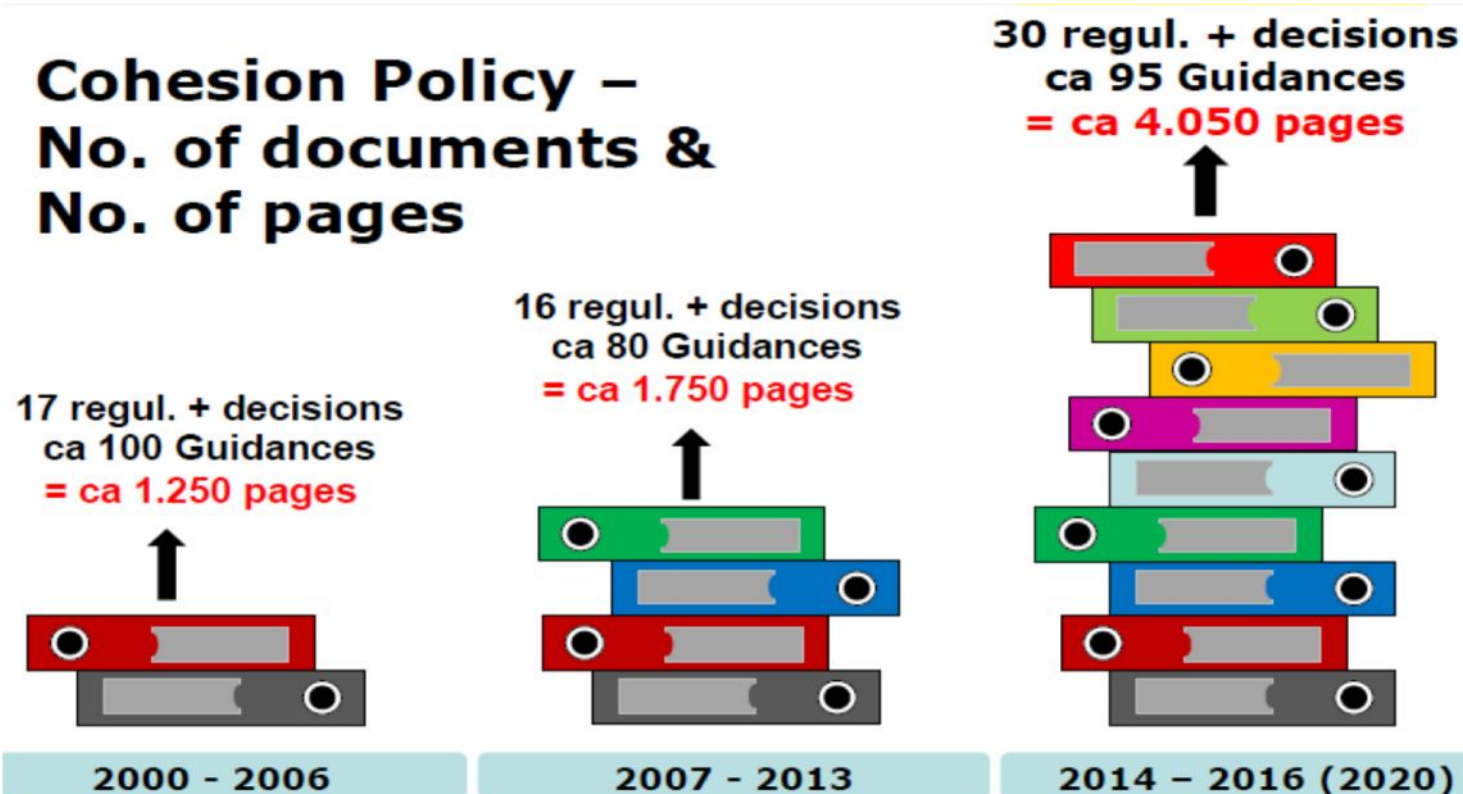


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What makes it difficult

Extension of
legislation and
guidances

Cohesion Policy – No. of documents & No. of pages



Source: presentation in Bratislava



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Lessons learned/new measures – at the strategic level

- We decreased number of operational programmes.
- We created Unified Methodological Environment and Monitoring System.
- We have developed an Integrated System of Risk Management.
- We introduced anti-corruption measures.
- We incorporated a stronger involvement of partners in OPs preparation, realization and evaluation.
- We implement SCO's wider, for more funds.



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Lessons learned/new measures – at operational level

- We are demanding an annual reporting of planned calls.
- We are coordinating a system for setting forecasts.
- We set up a benchmark / target related to the rate of contracted projects to be achieved by the end of 2017.
- We announce time schedule of calls for proposals to inform potential beneficiaries adequately ahead about the planned support.

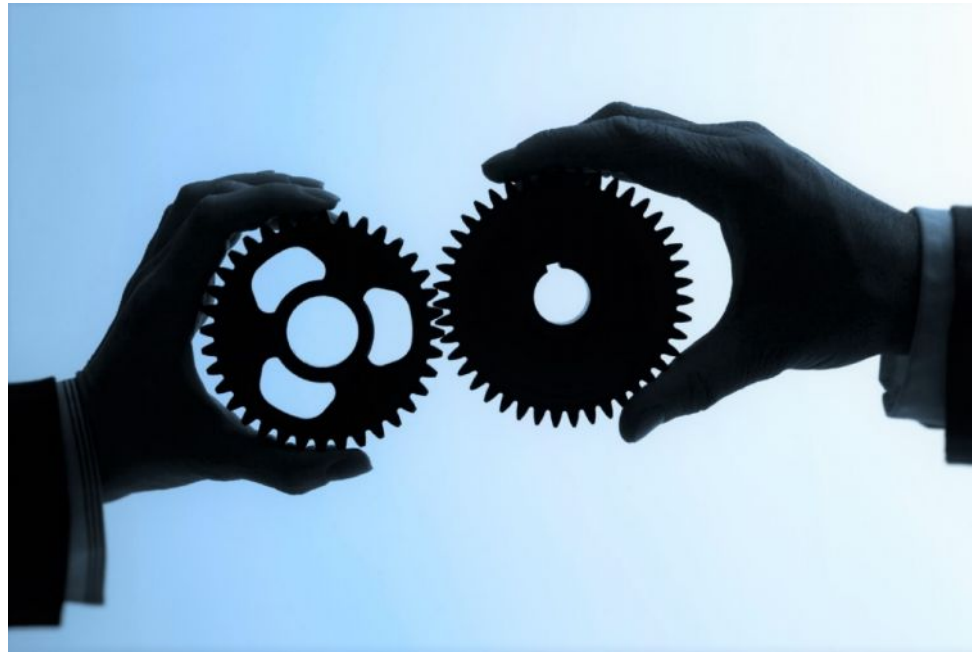


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Synergies between ESIF and other tools



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Baseline and set up in CZ

- Synergies and complementaries are part of the (CZ) Partnership Agreement, operational programmes and methodologies.

Also between ESIF programmes and Union programmes.

To ensure that specific coordination mechanisms are set up.

- Synergies are tackled during preparation of the calls at relevant platforms (or coordination groups, working teams).
- For centrally managed instruments there are the National Contact Points (= other than managing authorities).

Practical examples

- OP RDE and Horizont 2020: the grant project HiLASE (Center of Excellence in Laser Technologies).
- OP EIC and Clean Sky Two: aim is to find a space for the use of the so-called Synergy Label for Clean Sky 2 quality projects (bonification in the call or special thematic call).
- H2020 and national resources: Technology agency of the Czech Republic announced a call to fund projects within Seal of Excellence (for small and small to medium size enterprises).



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Some constraints when comparing ESIF and Centrally managed programmes

- Greater complexity and different coordination requirements might go against simplification.
- Different „nature“ of the centrally managed programmes; for instance as far as concerns
 - ✓ *themes/support; beneficiaries;*
 - ✓ *application of some rules for provision of support (such as the state aid);*
 - ✓ *regime of monitoring (lack of sufficient information about specific projects) and control; eligible costs;*
 - ✓ *some of them are based on high speed spending approach (causing uncertainty of achieving long-term impact);*
 - ✓ *could create space for inappropriate competitiveness between various tools.*



Future ?



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What we can / must do for future architecture

- We have learnt our part.
- We know what are the challenges.
- We know what to do.
- We are committed to changing the system.
- What we change now could mean simplification for the future perspective and better investments.



Building blocks of the future framework

- Strategic vision 2030 and achievable goals in the EU – also for Cohesion Policy.
- Continuity – no radical revolution at the strategic level (lessons learned from the previous periods).
- Shared management as a main principle of Cohesion Policy.
- Simplicity (beneficiaries view in the process has to be crucial).
- Higher, trust-based legal certainty of the decision-making.



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Building blocks of the future framework

- Flexibility on the strategic, programming and implementation level.
- Role of audits (to be built around trust and legal certainty, responsibility, prevention, subsidiarity, proportionality, result orientation, training, value-for-money, communication and cooperation).
- Clear accountability on all levels.
- Harmonization of the rules across all EU programmes policies (e.g. state aid, public procurements, unification of terminology) and better coordination.
- Better and targeted visibility of Cohesion Policy.



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For more information see also dotaceeu.cz

Dotaceeu.cz (main gateway to ESI funds in CZ)

Includes also updated data about implementation; all the documents, publications etc.



IMPACT AND RESULTS OF COHESION POLICY
BENEFITS FROM V4 COHESION POLICY TO THE EU-15
AND PROJECT EXAMPLES FROM V4

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

Supported by the EU Funds
in the Czech Republic
In Pictures



**CZECH PRESIDENCY
ČESKÉ PŘEDSEDNICTVÍ V4**
COHESION POLICY / KOHEZNÍ POLITIKA

2015/2016

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Thank you for your attention

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