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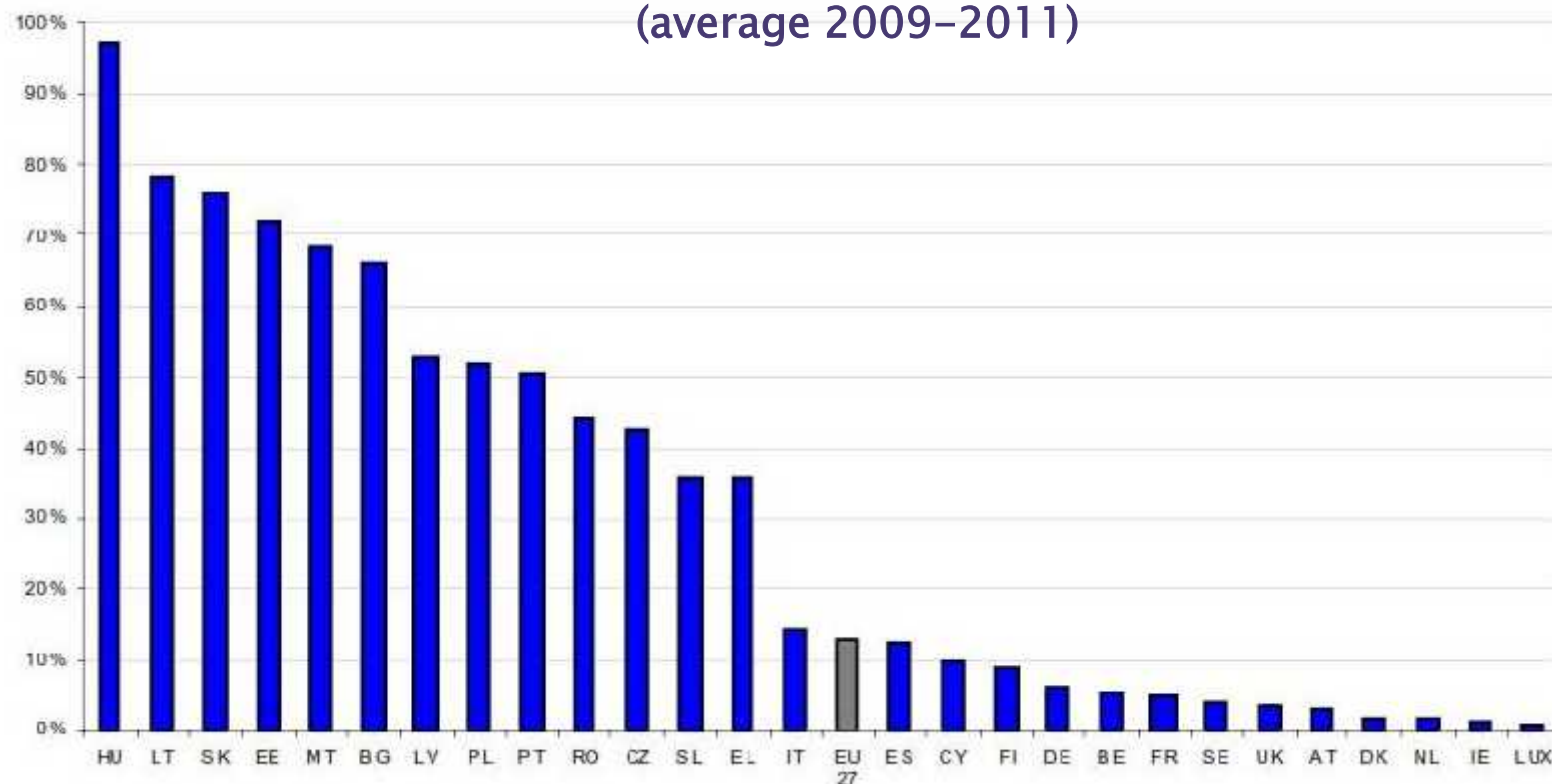
Successful Cohesion policy in CEE through partnership: lessons learned and opportunities not to be missed

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Why EU funds matter

Structural funds and national co-financing as % of total public investment
(average 2009–2011)



Source: European Commission, 2012

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Lessons learned

Learning from mistakes

- Inappropriate spending that costs tax payers
- Some projects do not fit into region and were implemented only because «money was available»

Benefits to be explained better

- Money spent while clear results and impact on cohesion process not always visible
- Challenges to build on synergies and coordinate across different programmes

Looking for *win-win* investments

Energy efficiency

- Multiple benefits: environmental, economic, social
- Coordinated efforts allow overcoming hurdles and increase EU funds uptake and deliver tangible benefits



„Let's Live Warmer” (Dzīvo siltāk), Latvia

Tackling energy-efficiency starts in the home. Nationwide campaign in Latvia inspires citizens to take action to improve insulation in residential buildings



Small projects do work

Example: LEADER programmes

- Bottom-up process
- Involves various stakeholders: municipalities, local non-governmental organisations, businesses
- Integrated approach

Challenges of big projects

- Higher risk of delays
- Higher corruption risks



Click on the  to see how European money is spent

Perspectives for 2014–2020 period – important approaches

- Partnership
- Integrated approach
- Coherence with other EU policies

Partnership throughout the whole EU funds cycle

Partnership in programming

- Comprehensive involvement of all stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations necessary
- Balanced approach towards choosing priorities
- Envisaging environmental safeguards

Partnership in implementation

- Stakeholders should be properly represented in EU funds monitoring bodies
- Enhances ownership and thus contributes to increase in efficiency of cohesion policy

Integrated approach

Community-led local development (CLDD) should be applicable in all regions

- Catering local needs better – relevant priorities, administration and implementation
- Tool for local economy development and cohesion
- However CLDD is only a rare feature in draft programmes

Result orientation in EU funds spending

Strengthening of horizontal principles

Coherence with other EU policies

Cohesion policy spending should be in line with climate policies

- Climate mainstreaming necessary throughout EU funds (programming and implementation)
- EU investments should contribute achieving nature protection targets, not undermine them

Avoid disguising under *smooth talking*

- The evil is in details: renewable energy projects are not always environmentally sustainable and adaptation to climate change should not be in recreation facilities

Thanks for your attention!

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