



The European Social Fund (ESF) at local level

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European Social Fund

Objectives of the presentation

- To present briefly the European Social Fund (history, goals, budget, geographical coverage, priorities, management system)
- To focus on how local stakeholders – public and private - can mobilize ESF

ESF – A treaty based fund

- Established under the Treaty in 1957

- ESF goals:

- Article 146 of the Treaty – Improving employment opportunities

“In order to improve employment opportunities for workers in the internal market and to contribute thereby to raising the standard of living [...]” ESF “shall aim to render the employment of workers easier and to increase their geographical and occupational mobility within the Community, and to facilitate their adaptation to industrial changes and to changes in production systems, in particular through vocational training and retraining.”

- Article 159 of the Treaty – Improving economic and social cohesion

“The Union shall also support the achievement of these objectives (economic and social cohesion) by the action it take through the Structural Funds (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section; European Social Fund; European Regional Development Fund)”



ESF

2007-2013 period

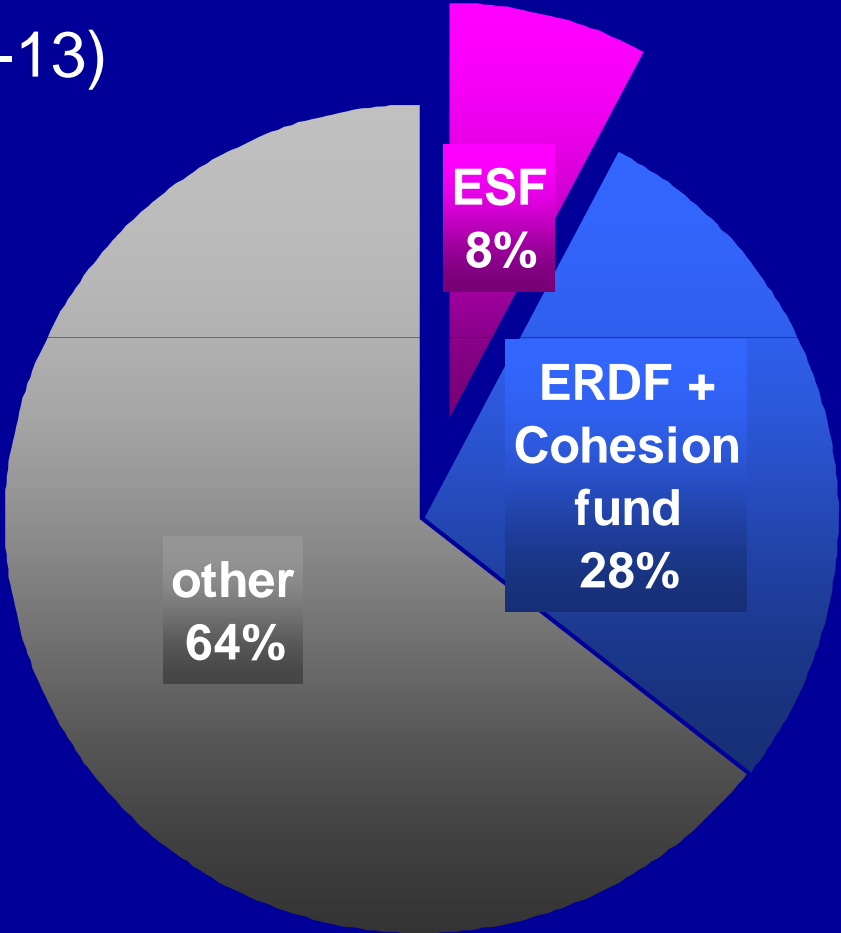
- New programming round from 1st January 2007
- New set of regulations (Regulation No. 1081/2006 and No. 1083/2006)
- 347 billion € for cohesion policy – 76 billion € for ESF



ESF budget

share of EU budget (2007-13)

- ESF
- ERDF + Cohesion fund
- other EU expenditure



ESF – geographical coverage

Support under 2 objectives:

- **Convergence**

- concerns the least developed regions, comparable to the former Objective 1

- **Regional Competitiveness and Employment**

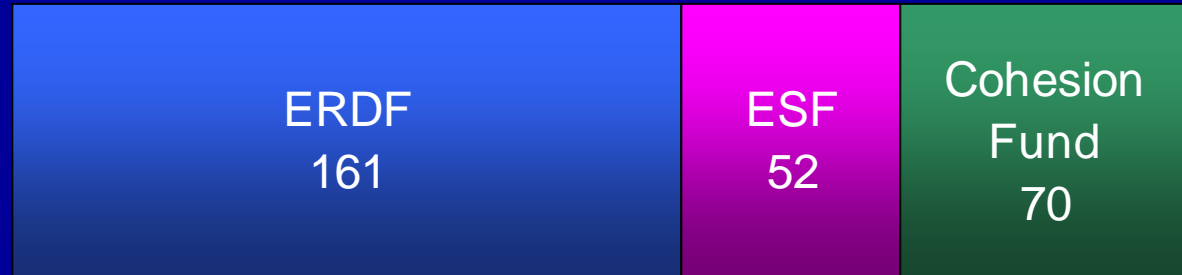
- the rest of the territory of the EU



Cohesion policy Objectives and Funds



bn€
Convergence
(81%)



Regional
Competitiveness &
Employment (16%)

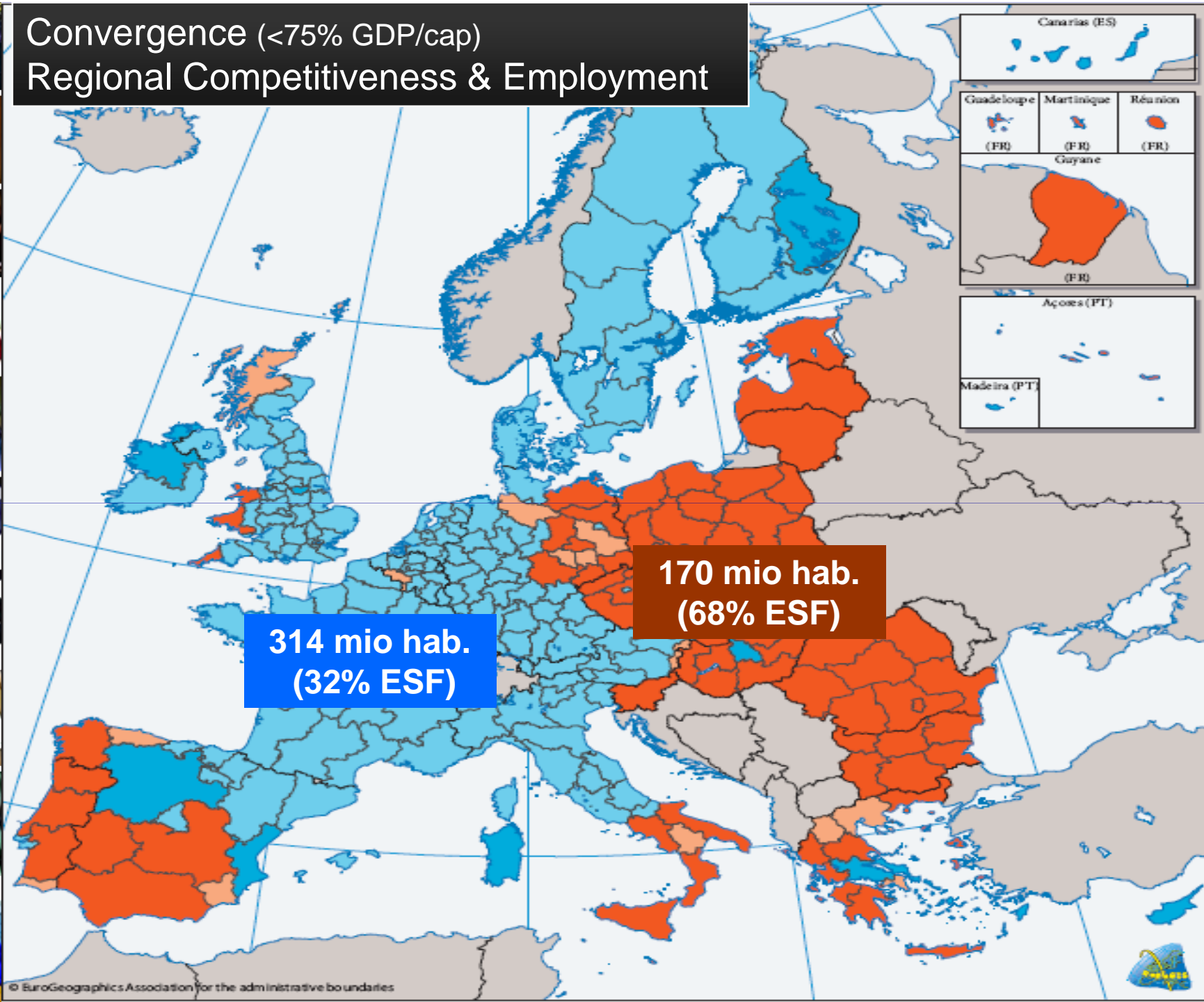


ESF = 76 bn€

European
Territorial
Cooperation

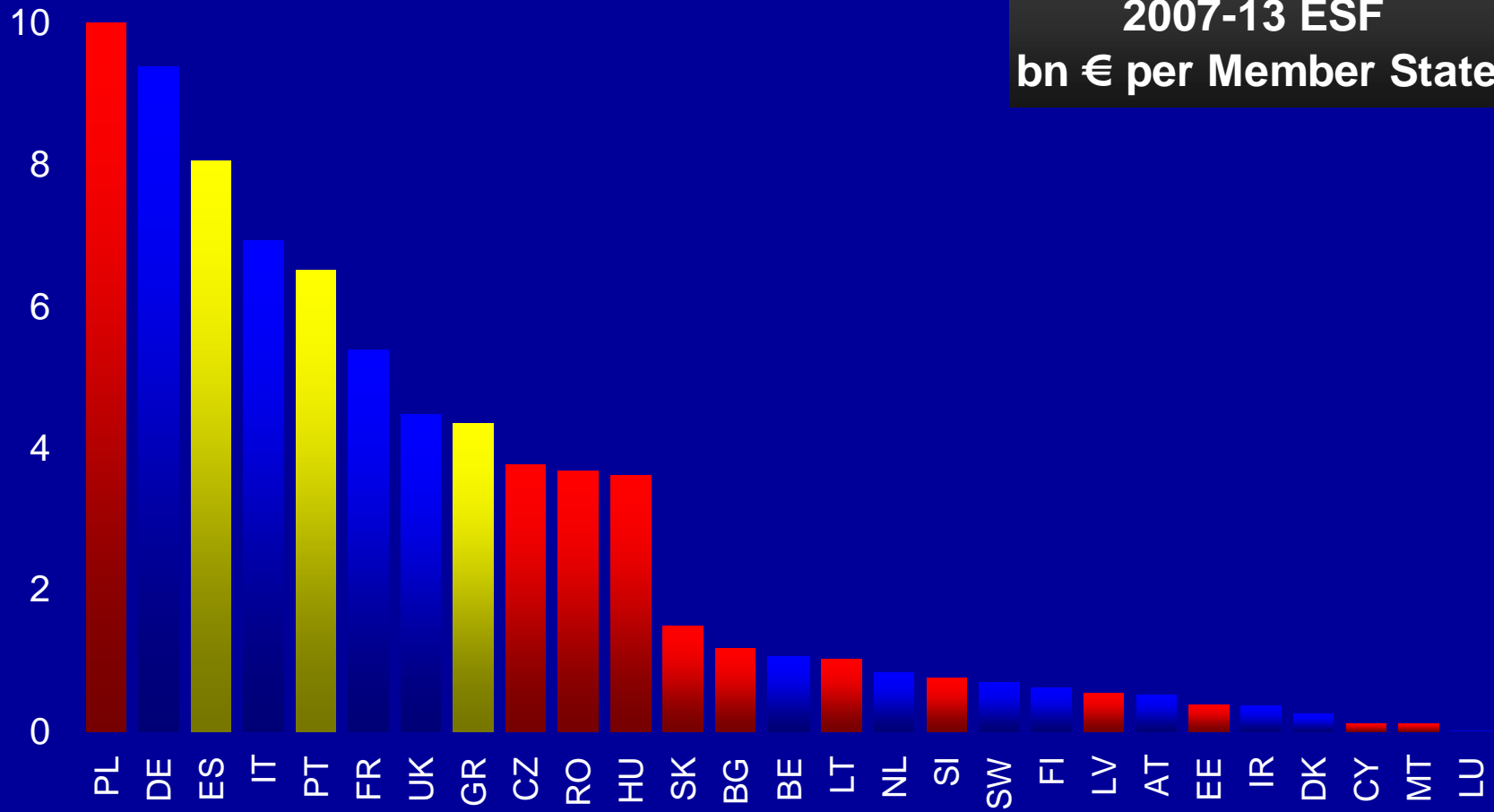


Convergence (<75% GDP/cap) Regional Competitiveness & Employment



ESF Use per Member State

2007-13 ESF
bn € per Member State



ESF - Priorities

For all regions:

- Adaptability of workers and enterprises
- Enhancing access to employment
- Reinforcing social inclusion
- Enhancing human capital
- Promoting partnership, involvement of social partners

Only for convergence regions:

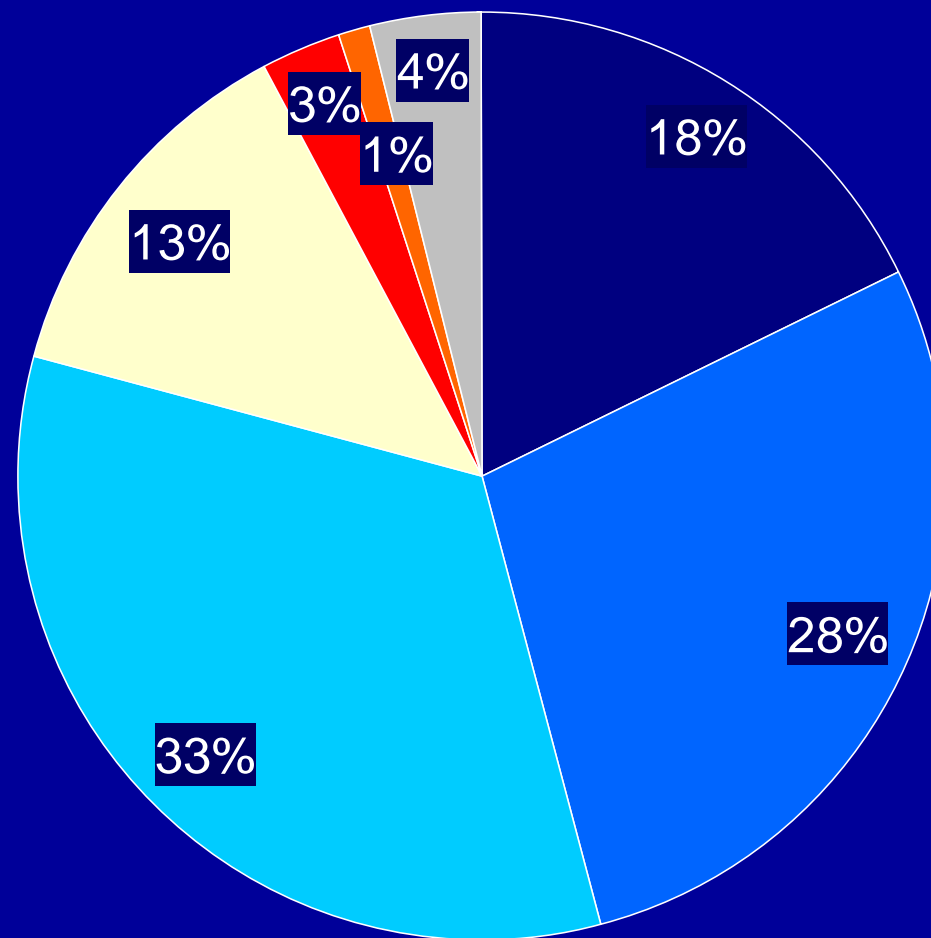
- Expanding investment in human capital by e.g. reforms in education
- Strengthening Institutional capacity and efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local level



European Social Fund

European Social Fund Use per priority

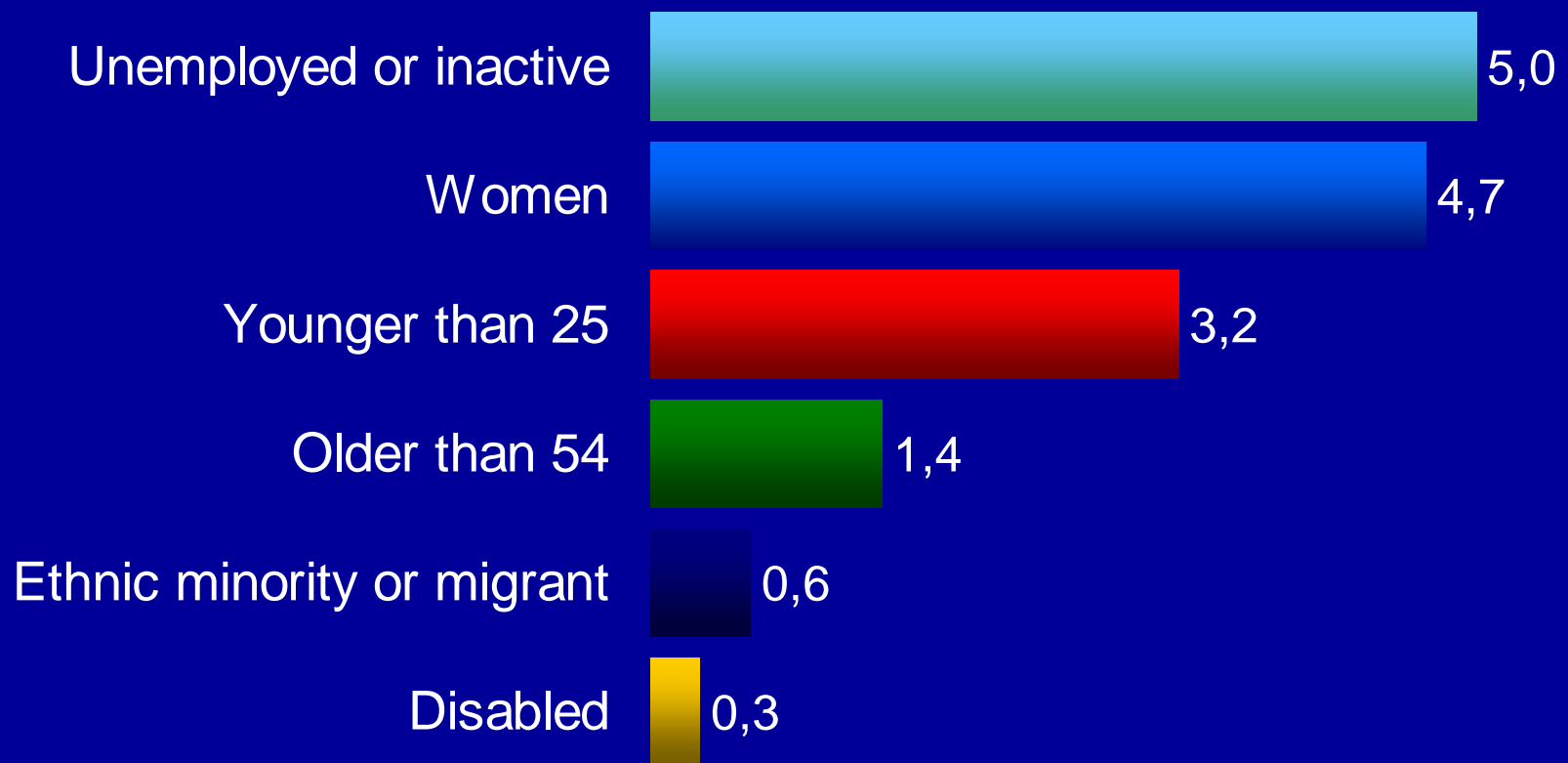
- adaptability
- access to employment
- human capital
- social inclusion
- institutional capacity
- partnerships
- Other





ESF supports ...

9 million people trained per year of which ...





ESF and the crisis

The European recovery plan – November 2008

- In the framework of the European recovery plan, the commission has called upon the MS to :
 - **reinforce activation schemes**
 - refocus programmes to **concentrate support on the most vulnerable**;
 - improve the monitoring and **matching of skills** development and upgrading with existing and anticipated job vacancies;

The Commission has proposed to the MS to re-programme ESF expenditure to ensure that immediate priorities are met.



ESF and the crisis

The European recovery plan – November 2008

- The Commission has also proposed changes to Structural Funds Regulations (General Regulation, ESF and ERDF Regulations)
- Objectives:
 - to strengthen investment with a view to generating renewed growth and job creation
 - To accelerate and simplify implementation of OPs



ESF and the crisis

A shared commitment for employment – June 2009

- Commission Communication

- Three priorities:

- Maintaining employment, creating jobs and promoting mobility
- Upgrading skills and matching labour market needs
- Increasing access to employment

- Several actions recommended to Member States

- Two direct proposals:

- Modify the Regulation to give the option to the MS of reimbursing expenditure at 100% in 2009 and 2010
- Create a new EU microfinance facility for employment (Progress facility)



ESF at local level

- The reasons why a partnership with local authorities is considered as essential:
 - Employment and social affairs are multi-level policies where responsibilities are shared in many MS
 - A large but very local partnership is needed to identify the local difficulties and to propose tailored made solutions.
 - Good governance and partnership shall ensure efficient and effective implementation of actions supported by the ESF.
- Partnership: a basic principle and a funding priority for ESF





ESF at local level

Partnership: A basic principle of functioning

- Legislative basis for partnership principle is laid down in the art. 5 of the ESF Regulation:
 - (1): "The ESF support shall be designed and implemented at the appropriate territorial level..."
 - (2): "Member States shall ensure the involvement of the social partners and adequate consultation and participation of other stakeholders, at the appropriate territorial level, in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of ESF support."





ESF at local level

Local authorities and ESF programming

- Operational programmes are prepared by the Member States or any authority designed by the Member State in cooperation with various partners.
 - Regional authorities can be directly the managing authorities of the OPs (DE, ES, IT, UK). In some case, OPs have been designed at a regional/city level (“Brussels Capital”, “Prague”, “Berlin”, “Bremen”, “Madrid”...).
 - In other cases, OPs are national but they can have a regional part. Local authorities took part in the design and they participate to the monitoring committee (FR)





ESF at local level

Local authorities and ESF implementation

- Partnership covers not only preparation but also implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operational programmes.
 - Local authorities can be designated by Member States or Managing Authorities as “intermediate bodies”. They manage and implement a part of an operational programme (e.g. through a global grant).
 - Local authorities can take part to the regular call of proposals organised by the managing authority.

Promoting partnership: An ESF priority

- Art 3 of ESF Regulation:

“The ESF shall support actions in MS promoting partnerships, pacts and initiatives through networking of relevant stakeholders, such as the social partners and non governmental organisations, at the transnational, national, regional and local levels in order to mobilise for reforms in the field of employment and labour market inclusiveness”.

- € 940 million earmarked for this priority in the 2007-2013 programming period.

- Examples of local and regional partnerships supported by ESF:

- Territorial Employment Pacts (TEP) in Austria
- Plans locaux d’insertion par l’activité économique (PLIE) in France ...



More Info

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf>



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European Social Fund - Investing in people

The European Social Fund, created in 1957, is the European Union's main financial instrument for investing in people. It supports employment and helps people enhance their education and skills. This improves their job prospects. Member States and regions devise their own ESF Operational Programmes in order to respond to the real needs 'on the ground'.

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ESF around Europe

ESF supported One-Stop-Shop project in Slovenia wins UN award

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