



**THE EVALUATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE
LITHUANIAN STRATEGY FOR THE USE OF EUROPEAN
UNION STRUCTURAL ASSISTANCE FOR 2007–2013 AND ITS
OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN ACHIEVING THE
OBJECTIVES OF “EUROPE 2020” STRATEGY**

Final report

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ABBREVIATIONS

Cohesion Fund – CF

European Regional Development Fund – ERDF

European Social Fund – ESF

European Union – EU

Operational Programme (-s) – OP(s)

Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources – OP DHR

Operational Programme for Economic Growth – OP EG

Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion – OP PC

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 A need for evaluation

“Europe 2020 is about what we need to do today and tomorrow”.

Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

“Europe 2020” Strategy replacing the Lisbon Strategy draws up new guidelines in the European Union (hereinafter – EU) till the year 2020 and establishes the main EU goals to overcome economic and financial crisis as soon as possible, to secure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, to seek high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion in the EU. In pursuit of these goals, a special role falls on the EU cohesion policy, which will be one of the most important financial sources and implementation measures of “Europe 2020” Strategy.

Taking into consideration that “Europe 2020” Strategy was approved in 2010, and during the period 2007–2013 the use of EU structural assistance received by Lithuania has already been planned and the major part of this assistance has been already allocated, it is important to make the evaluation, which would define to what extent and the implementation of which “Europe 2020” Strategy objectives, priorities and flagship initiatives the Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of EU Structural Assistance 2007–2013 and its implementing Operational Programmes for the Development of Human Resources, Economic Growth and Promotion of Cohesion contribute to. The evaluation also aims to identify the steps, which should be taken in planning the use of EU structural assistance for 2014–2020 in Lithuania seeking that the implementation of the EU cohesion policy in the country would have the most possible contribution to the implementation of the objectives of “Europe 2020” Strategy.

1.2 Evaluation tasks and objectives

The main objective of this evaluation is to evaluate to what extent and in which areas the use of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 in Lithuania contributes to the implementation of the objectives of “Europe 2020” Strategy.

Evaluation tasks:

- to define which priorities of the Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of EU Structural Assistance 2007–2013 and its implementing Operational Programmes (OPs for the Development of Human Resources, Economic Growth and Promotion of Cohesion) contribute to the implementation of the objectives, priorities and flagship initiatives of “Europe 2020” Strategy;
- to establish which amount of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 contributes to “Europe 2020” Strategy;
- to provide recommendations for the planning of the use of EU structural assistance for 2014–2020 in

Lithuania in order to contribute to the implementation of the “Europe 2020” objectives to the most possible extent.

1.3 Object of evaluation

Operational Programmes for the Development of Human Resources, Economic Growth and Promotion of Cohesion implementing the Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of EU Structural Assistance 2007–2013 and “Europe 2020” Strategy.

1.4 Evaluation methodology and criteria

In carrying out the evaluation of the contribution of the use of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the implementation of “Europe 2020” Strategy, the analysis of **176** measures (with the exception of the technical assistance measures) of the Operational Programmes for the Development of Human Resources, Economic Growth and Promotion of Cohesion implementing the Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of EU Structural Assistance 2007–2013 (hereinafter – Operational Programmes) approved before 1 February 2011, “Europe 2020” Strategy and its flagship initiatives: *“Innovation Union”*, *“Youth on the move”*, *“A digital agenda for Europe”*, *“Resource efficient Europe”*, *“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”*, *“An agenda for new skills and jobs”* and *“European platform against poverty”* has been made. During the analysis performed by applying logical and comparative analysis methods it was analysed whether the activities supported by the measures of Operational Programmes are directly compatible with the activities laid down in “Europe 2020” Strategy and its flagship initiatives, i.e. the analysis of compatibility of activities has been made. The Communication from the Commission on Regional Policy contributing to sustainable growth in “Europe 2020”, which sets out the role of the EU cohesion policy (which in major part is implemented from EU structural assistance) in pursuit of the “Europe 2020” objective of sustainable growth¹ has been chosen to be an additional source for analysis.

Taking into consideration that some flagship initiatives (such as *“Youth on the move”* and *“An agenda for new skills and jobs”*) and, accordingly, some their interactivities are closely interrelated, partially overlapped, the attribution of the measures of Operational Programmes to a relevant flagship initiative of “Europe 2020” was based on the principle “one measure – one flagship initiative”, i.e. if the evaluated relevant measure of the Operational Programmes is related to several flagship initiatives, it is attributed to the implementation of this particular flagship initiative the activities of which, in evaluators’ opinion, dominate in respective measure. It should be noted that in case of doubt regarding the attribution of the measure activities to “Europe 2020” and

¹ For instance, investments into integrated management of coasts and river basins or water supply and waste water treatment systems is not directly excluded in the flagship initiative “Resource efficient Europe”, however in Communication it is an important EU structural assistance-financed area contributing to the implementation of the Strategy.

activities of its flagship initiatives, the projects financed under relevant measure and their activities² have been analysed.

Compatibility criterion – activities of the measures under the Operational Programmes for the Development of Human Resources, Economic Growth and Promotion of Cohesion are directly compatible with the activities of “Europe 2020” and its flagship initiatives.

² For instance, the measure VP3-3.4-UM-01-K “Enhancement of energy production efficiency” of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion has not been attributed as contributing to the objective of sustainable growth, as the assistance in the projects financed under it is allocated for construction of gas-fired power stations, which are not attributed to the category of resource efficient power stations. This principle is applied and in case of other measures.

2. THE CONTRIBUTION OF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROMOTION OF COHESION IN ACHIEVING THE “EUROPE 2020” OBJECTIVES

During the period of 2007–2013 EU structural assistance for Lithuania is allocated under the Lithuanian Strategy for the Use of EU Structural Assistance 2007–2013 and it's implementing Operational Programmes. Implementing the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources, the main focus is given on investments into human capital by making efforts to increase employment and social inclusion, to stimulate lifelong learning, to enhance the researchers' potential and to enhance efficiency of public administration. The implementation of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth aims at enhancing national entrepreneurship, promoting economic competitiveness, R&D as well as information society, developing energy and transport infrastructure. The Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion aims at more effective use of local development potential, ensuring the quality and accessibility of public services, improving the quality of life and promoting sustainable development.

2.1 The contribution of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

The analysis of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources financed from the European Social Fund (hereinafter – ESF) showed that **50** out of 59 analysed measures directly contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020” by representing **88.56** % of EU assistance allocated for the implementation of the analysed Operational Programme. Implementing the above-mentioned programme the contribution is made to the implementation of all three “Europe 2020” priorities – smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, however to different extent. The major contribution is made to the implementation of the priority of an inclusive growth (almost 50 % of total ESF assistance allocated to the implementation of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources). While the least contribution is to the priority of a sustainable growth (slightly exceeding 2 % of total ESF assistance allocated to the implementation of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources).

Implementing the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources, the major contribution is made to the implementation of the following headline targets of the Strategy:

- to raise the employment rate of the population aged 20–64 from the current 69% to 75%;
- to reduce the share of early school leavers to 10% from the current 15%;
- to reduce the number of people living below national poverty lines, lifting 20 million people out of poverty.

The mentioned Operational Programme directly contributes to the implementation of five flagship

initiatives of “Europe 2020”. More detailed information about the contribution of the OP DHR to the implementation of the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives is presented in Table No. 1.

Table No. 1. The contribution of the OP DHR to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“	OP DHR priority	Number of OP DHR measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OP DHR priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OP DHR priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent ³
1.	<i>“Innovation Union”</i>	1.3 Enhancement of Researchers’ Capacities.	9	407 452 843	13,03
2.	<i>“Youth on the move”</i>	1.2 Lifelong Learning.	16	771 205 345	24,66
3.	<i>“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage; 1.4 Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration.	4	63 930 873	2,04
4.	<i>“An agenda for new skills and jobs”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage; 1.2 Lifelong Learning; 1.4 Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration.	16	887 117 434	28,36
5.	<i>“European platform against poverty”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage.	5	640 101 866	20,47
Total:			50	2 769 808 361	88,56

Analysing compatibility of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources with the “Europe 2020” Strategy, in regard to priority perspective of the Operational Programme, it can be noticed that all priorities of the Operational Programme are in major part compatible with the Strategy objectives and priorities (see Table No. 2). The least contribution to the implementation of the Strategy is made by the priority *Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration*. This refers to the fact that some measures of this priority are related to the development of the public administration system which is only partly directly related to the implementation of “Europe 2020”.

³ The column of the table presents a percentage distribution from funds allocated to the Operational Programme contributing to “Europe 2020”. Also applicable to Table No. 3 and No. 5.

Table No. 2. The contribution of the OP DHR priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

	OP DHR priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OP’s priority, Lt	Contribution of OP DHR priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OP DHR priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>High Quality Employment and Social Coverage</i>	1 286 693 188	1 284 805 973	99,85
2.	<i>Lifelong Learning</i>	879 240 345	879 240 345	100
3.	<i>Enhancement of Researchers’ Capacities</i>	407 452 843	407 452 843	100
4.	<i>Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration</i>	554 360 541	198 309 200	35,77
Total:		3 127 746 917⁴	2 769 808 361	88,56

In summary, the implementation of the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources contributes to “Europe 2020” mostly in such areas as lifelong learning, acquisition of new skills and upgrading, improving the quality of education, increasing employment and reduction of social exclusion. The information presented below shows the contribution to which areas of activities laid down in the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives is made by this programme:

- *“Innovation Union”*– access and dissemination of scientific information, cooperation between science institutions and business, private companies.
- *“Youth on the move”* – enhancement of students’ mobility, adaptation of study programmes to the labour market needs, measures which are used for encouragement to reduce the number of early school leavers and improvement of the access and quality of higher education.
- *“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”*– promotion of the Corporate Social Responsibility, improvement of business possibilities to get funding for very small and small companies, reduction of administrative burden and development of public-private partnership.
- *“An agenda for new skills and jobs”* – introduction of flexible work forms, acquisition of new skills necessary for adapting to shifting changes on labour market, upgrading and competence training.
- *“European platform against poverty”* – implementing special measures addressing the problems of vulnerable groups (e.g. people with a disability, unemployed people and etc.), to enhance their integration in labour market, increasing social inclusion and decreasing non-discrimination.

⁴ Funds allocated under the acting edition of the Annex to the OP for the Development of Human Resources during the evaluation (Official Gazette No. 90-4778, 2010).

2.2 The contribution of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

The analysis of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth financed from the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund showed that **44** out of 53 analysed measures directly contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020” by representing **82.25 %** of EU assistance allocated for the implementation of the analysed Operational Programme. Implementing this programme the contribution is made to the implementation of two “Europe 2020” priorities – smart and sustainable growth, however to different extent: 25.3 % and 57 %, accordingly, of total EU fund assistance allocated to the Operational Programme for Economic Growth. During the evaluation the direct contribution of the Operational Programme to the inclusive priority of “Europe 2020” has not been established.

The Operational Programme for Economic Growth mainly contributes to the implementation of the “Europe 2020” headline target – investing 3% of GDP in R&D.

Implementing the mentioned Operational Programme the direct contribution is made to the implementation of four “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives. More detailed information about the contribution of the OP EG to the implementation of the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives is presented in Table No. 3.

Table No. 3. The contribution of the OP EG to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“ Strategy	OP EG priority	Number of OP EG measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OP EG priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OP EG priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>“Innovation Union”</i>	2.1 Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy.	12	1 844 442 161	17,49
2.	<i>“Digital agenda for Europe”</i>	2.3 Information Society for All.	15	820 042 712	7,78
3.	<i>“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”</i>	2.2 Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business; 2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure; 2.5 Development of Trans-European Transport Networks.	16	5 830 748 518	55,29
4.	<i>“Resource efficient Europe”</i>	2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure.	1	178 080 088	1,69
Total:			44	8 673 313 479	82,25

Analysing compatibility of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth with the “Europe 2020” Strategy, in regard to priority perspective of the Operational Programme, it can be noticed that all priorities of the Operational Programme are in major part compatible with the Strategy objectives and priorities (see Table No. 4). The least contribution to the implementation of the Strategy is made by priority 4 *Basic Economic Infrastructure*. This refers to the fact that some measures of this priority are related to exceptional national needs which are indirectly related to the implementation of “Europe 2020”. Moreover, according to the national approach, a part of EU cohesion policy resources are invested in the areas that are not directly in line with “Europe 2020”.

Table No. 4. The contribution of the OP EG priorities to the “Europe 2020”

	OP EG priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OP’s priority, Lt	Contribution of OP EG priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OP EG priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy</i>	1 844 442 161	1 844 442 161	100
2.	<i>Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business</i>	2 090 771 029	1 836 640 760	87,85
3.	<i>Information Society for All</i>	828 971 962	820 042 712	98,92
4.	<i>Basic Economic Infrastructure</i>	2 025 960 578	417 383 178	20,60
5.	<i>Development of Trans-European Transport Networks</i>	3 754 804 668	3 754 804 668	100
Total:		10 544 950 398⁵	8 673 313 479	82,25

In summarizing, the largest contribution of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth to “Europe 2020” is made in such areas as development of trans-European transport networks, investments into R&D and innovations, information society, promotion of entrepreneurship and creation of business-friendly environment and a basic economic infrastructure. The information presented below shows the contribution to which areas of activities laid down in the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives is made by the implementation of the Operational Programme for Economic Growth:

- *“Innovation Union”*– promoting innovations, enhancing public and private R&D by establishing and developing high-level R&D and competence centres, science and study infrastructure and spread of knowledge on R&D, technologies and innovations, enhancement of R&D in private sector by improving the knowledge and technological spread environment, promoting cooperation between business and science in R&D.

⁵ Funds allocated under the acting edition of the Annex to the OP for Economic Growth during the evaluation (Official Gazette No. 142-7294, 2010).

- *“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”*– modernisation of infrastructure (energy, transport and etc.), development of cross-border transport networks, development of business possibilities by promoting investments of companies, accessibility to different financing sources, consultation and marketing services in search for foreign markets.
- *“Resource efficient Europe”*– ensuring safety of supply of main energy resources and more effective use of energy.
- *“A digital agenda for Europe”* – electronic public services, intellectual management systems, development of creative and cultural content for digital, various online decisions for business for public sector and for citizens, development of online learning, e-government, online health, broadband wireless communication networks and development of safe online network infrastructure.

2.3 The contribution of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

The analysis of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion financed from the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund showed that **49** out of 64 analysed measures directly contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020” by representing about **79 %** of EU assistance designated for the implementation of the analysed Operational Programme. Implementing this programme, the contribution is made to the implementation of two “Europe 2020” priorities – sustainable and inclusive growth, however to different extent. The major contribution is made to the implementation of sustainable growth (56 % of total EU fund assistance allocated to the implementation of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion).

Implementing the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion, the major contribution is made to the following Strategy headline targets:

- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increase the share of renewable energy in our final energy consumption to 20%, and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency;
- to reduce the number of people living below national poverty lines, lifting 20 million people out of poverty.

The implementation of the mentioned Operational Programme directly contributes to the implementation of two “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives. More detailed information about the contribution of OP PC to the implementation of the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives is presented in Table No. 5.

Table N. 5. The contribution of the OP PC to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“ Strategy	OP PC priority	Number of OP PC measures that comply	Contribution of OP PC priorities to the “Europe	Contribution of OP PC priorities to the “Europe

			with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	2020” Strategy, Lt	2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	“Resource efficient Europe”	3.1 Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism; 3.3 Environment and Sustainable Development.	18	5 032 286 585	55,98
2.	“European platform against poverty”	3.2 Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure.	31	2 083 357 830	23,17
Total:			49	7 115 644 415	79,15

Analysing compatibility of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion with the “Europe 2020” Strategy, in regard to priority perspective of the Operational Programme, it can be noticed that the priorities of the Operational Programme are in major part in line with the Strategy objectives and priorities (see Table No. 6). The least contribution to the implementation of the Strategy is made by the priority *Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism*. This refers to the fact that more than a half of the measures of this priority are related to the development of regional economic growth centres and problematic areas, creation of prerequisites for more accelerated diversification of economic activities, promotion of tourism, which are not directly related to the implementation of “Europe 2020”.

Table No. 6. The contribution of the OP PC priorities to “Europe 2020

	OP PC priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OP’s priority, Lt	Contribution of OP PC priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OP PC priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism</i>	2 920 303 369	1 194 200 020	40,89
2.	<i>Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure</i>	2 173 917 080	2 083 357 830	95,83

3.	<i>Environment and Sustainable Development</i>	3 895 171 201	3 838 086 565	98,53
Total:		8 989 391 650⁶	7 115 644 415	79,15

It should be noticed that based on the evaluators' expert opinion, the development of social, education and health infrastructure financed under the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion is attributed to the areas directly contributing to the achievement of the "Europe 2020" objective of inclusive growth⁷. This refers to the fact that the development of social, education and health infrastructure in the flagship initiative "European platform against poverty" is excluded as contributing to the achievement of goals of the mentioned flagship initiative during the 2007–2013 programming period, especially in less developed Member States. Whereas the description of the initiative indicates that this statement should not predetermine the attitude towards the areas to be financed from the EU structural assistance during the new programming period; it should be stressed that post 2013 the development of social, education and health infrastructure important to Lithuania may not be included into the list of eligible priorities proposed by the Commission as contributing to the implementation of "Europe 2020".

In summarizing, the largest contribution of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion to "Europe 2020" is in the areas of efficient use of natural resources and development of social, education and health infrastructure. The information presented below shows the contribution to which of activities laid down in the "Europe 2020" flagship initiatives is made by the implementation of the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion:

- "Resource efficient Europe" – modernisation of public buildings and multi-apartment houses by increasing efficiency of their energy use, protection of natural resources and their efficient use, protection of ecosystems, integrated management of coasts and river basins, more effective waste recycling, promotion of a lower carbon dioxide economy;
- "European platform against poverty" – disease prevention, ensuring access to health and social services, investments into social, education and health infrastructure.

2.4 Summary: the contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the "Europe 2020" Strategy

This section presents the summary about the contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the implementation of "Europe 2020" through the perspectives of the Operational Programmes and EU Funds.

⁶ Funds allocated under the acting edition of the Annex to the OP for Promotion of Cohesion during the evaluation (Official Gazette No. 158-8046, 2010).

⁷ It should be stressed that these investments were not attributed to the investments contributing to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy (followed up by the "Europe 2020" Strategy).

Taking into consideration that the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources is financed only from the European Social Fund, the summary of this Fund is presented in subsection 2.1.

2.4.1 The contribution of the European Regional Development Fund to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

81 out of 104 analysed measures financed from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter – ERDF) directly contributes to the implementation of “Europe 2020” and that represents about **68.96** % of total assistance of the Fund. The implementation of the measures financed from ERDF to some extent contributes to all three Strategy priorities. However, the largest contribution is observed to the implementation of the sustainable growth priority and the following flagship initiatives: “*European platform against poverty*”, “*An industrial policy for the globalisation era*” and “*Innovation Union*” (see Table No. 7). The ERDF contribution is great in developing health, social and education infrastructure and investing into R&D.

Table No. 7. The contribution of the ERDF to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“ Strategy	OPs priority	Number of OPs measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt
1.	“ <i>Innovation Union</i> ”	2.1 Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy.	12	1 844 442 161
2.	“ <i>Digital agenda for Europe</i> ”	2.3 Information Society for All.	15	820 042 712
3.	“ <i>Resource efficient Europe</i> ”	2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure; 3.1 Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism.	12	1 372 280 108
4.	“ <i>An industrial policy for the globalisation era</i> ”	2.2 Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business; 2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure.	11	2 075 943 850
5.	“ <i>European platform against poverty</i> ”	3.2 Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure.	31	2 083 357 830
Total:			81	8 196 066 661

Table No. 8. The contribution of the ERDF to “Europe 2020”

	OPs priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OPs	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020”	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020”

		priorities, Lt	Strategy, Lt	Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>2.1 Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy</i>	1 844 442 161	1 844 442 161	100
2.	<i>2.2 Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business</i>	2 090 771 029	1 836 640 760	87,85
3.	<i>2.3 Information Society for All</i>	828 971 962	820 042 712	98,92
4.	<i>2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure</i>	2 025 960 578	417 383 178	20,60
5.	<i>3.1 Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism</i>	2 920 303 369	1 194 200 020	40,89
6.	<i>3.2 Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure</i>	2 173 917 080	2 083 357 830	95,83
Total:		11 884 366 179	8 196 066 661	68,96

2.4.2 The contribution of the Cohesion Fund to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

12 out of 13 analysed measures financed from the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter – CF) contributes to “Europe 2020” and that makes up about **99.25** % of total assistance of the Fund. It should be noted that all measures financed from CF contribute to the implementation of two flagship initiatives (see Table No. 9) which go under the priority of sustainable growth. The CF contribution is especially strong in modernisation of transport and energy infrastructure, environment protection as well as energy efficiency enhancement.

Table No. 9. The contribution of the CF to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“	OPs priority	Number of OPs measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt
1.	<i>“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”</i>	2.5 Development of Trans-European Transport Networks.	5	3 754 804 668
2.	<i>“Resource efficient Europe”</i>	3.3 Environment and Sustainable Development.	7	3 838 086 565
Total:			12	7 592 891 233

Table No. 10. The contribution of the CF to “Europe 2020”

	OPs priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OPs priority, Lt	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
1.	<i>2.5 Development of Trans-European Transport Networks</i>	3 754 804 668	3 754 804 668	100
2.	<i>3.3 Environment and Sustainable</i>	3 895 171 201	3 838 086 565	98,53

	<i>Development</i>			
Total:		7 649 975 869	7 592 891 233	99,25

2.4.3 The contribution of Operational Programmes to the “Europe 2020” Strategy

Thus, **143** out of 176 analysed Operational Programmes measures directly contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020”, what represents **81.89** % of total EU Fund assistance designated for implementation of three analysed OPs. 3 Operational Programmes significantly contribute to all three “Europe 2020” priorities – smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, however to different extent. The largest contribution of EU Fund assistance is attributed to the following flagship initiatives: “*Resource efficient Europe*”, “*An industrial policy for the globalisation era*” and “*Innovation Union*” (see Table No. 11). Thus, more than a half (**59.84** %) of total EU Fund assistance (in total percentage distribution of funds) contributing to the implementation of “Europe 2020” contribute to the second Strategy’s priority – sustainable growth (see Table No. 12). In this case, structural investments, which are mainly the “hard” ones, are directed to the measures that are implemented in such areas like the energy efficiency, efficient use of natural resources, waste management, recycling, improvement of the infrastructure (energy, transport and etc.), promotion of the entrepreneurship, and etc. While the contribution of EU Funds to achieving smart and inclusive growth is nearly the same – 20.71 % and 19.45 %, accordingly. The implementation of the Operational Programmes to some extent contributes to the implementation of all “Europe 2020” objectives. However, the largest contribution is observed to achieving the following headline targets: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increase the share of renewable energy in our final energy consumption to 20%, and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency; to achieve the target of investing 3% of GDP in R&D; to reduce the number of people living below national poverty lines, lifting 20 million people out of poverty.

Other main conclusions:

- at the level of Operational Programmes, the largest contribution to “Europe 2020” is attributed to the OP DHR – almost 90 % of total EU assistance allocated to the implementation of this programme (see Table No. 13);
- at the level of EU Funds, the largest contribution is attributed to CF – 99.25 % of total Fund assistance (see Table No. 14);
- 4 priorities of the operational programmes – “*Lifelong Learning*” (OP DHR), “*Enhancement of Researchers’ Capacities*” (OP DHR), “*Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy*” (OP EG) and “*Development of Trans-European Transport Networks*” (OP EG) – to all extent contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020” (see Table No. 15);
- the largest contribution of the OP DHR is made to the implementation of the priority of inclusive

growth, while the OP EG and the OP PC – to the priority of sustainable growth;

- about 20 % of EU structural assistance is allocated to the areas that are not directly in line with “Europe 2020”; this is due to the fact that the EU cohesion policy is broader than the Strategy and part of its funds are allocated to regional priorities contributing to the implementation of the fundamental goal of the EU cohesion policy enshrined in the EU Treaty – to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion among EU regions;
- the implementation of the Operational Programmes contributes to the implementation only of some relevant activities of “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives, i.e. not all the mentioned areas of activities. This refers to the circumstance that the same target and/or priority of the “Europe 2020” Strategy could be achieved by implementing different actions/measures which are the most relevant in addressing the problems of a particular region, i.e. the regional context and particularities are crucial in selecting the directions of structural investments in the context of the “Europe 2020” Strategy.

Table No. 11. The contribution of OPs to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives

	Flagship initiative of „Europe 2020“ Strategy	OPs priority	Number of OPs measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Percentage distribution
1.	<i>“Innovation Union”</i>	1.3 Enhancement of Researchers’ Capacities; 2.1 Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy.	21	2 251 895 004	12,13
2.	<i>“Youth on the move”</i>	1.2 Lifelong Learning.	16	771 205 345	4,16
3.	<i>“Digital agenda for Europe”</i>	2.3 Information Society for All.	15	820 042 712	4,42
4.	<i>“Resource efficient Europe”</i>	2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure; 3.1 Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism; 3.3 Environment and Sustainable Development.	19	5 210 366 673	28,07
5.	<i>“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage; 1.4 Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public	20	5 894 679 391	31,76

		Administration; 2.2 Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business; 2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure; 2.5 Development of Trans-European Transport Networks.			
6.	<i>“An agenda for new skills and jobs”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage; 1.2 Lifelong Learning; 1.4 Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration.	16	887 117 434	4,78
7.	<i>“European platform against poverty”</i>	1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage; 3.2 Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure.	36	2 723 459 696	14,68
Total:			143	18 558 766 255	100

Chart No. 1. The contribution of OPs to the “Europe 2020” flagship initiatives: per cent

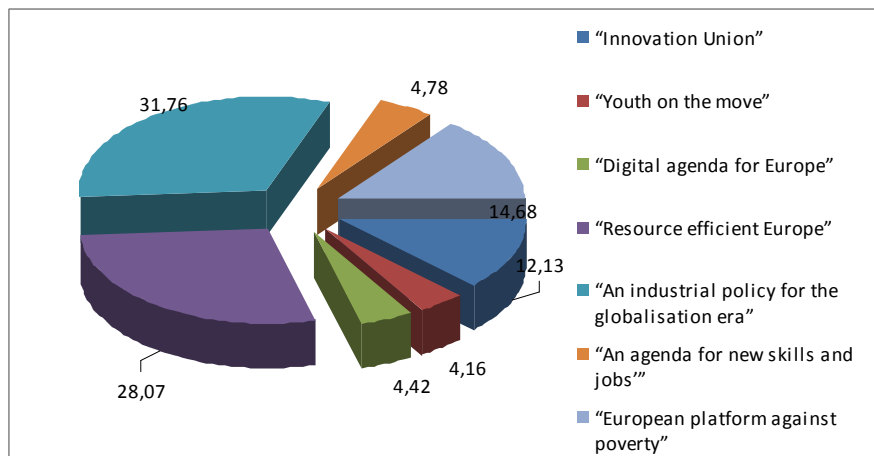


Table No. 12. The contribution of OPs to the “Europe 2020” priorities

	Priority of „Europe 2020“	Flagship initiatives of „Europe 2020“ strategy	Number of OPs measures that comply with the “Europe 2020” Strategy	Contribution of OPs priorities to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Percentage distribution
1.	Smart growth	<i>“Innovation Union”, “Youth</i>	52	3 843 143 061	20,71

		<i>on the move</i> ”, “ <i>Digital agenda for Europe</i> ”.			
2.	Sustainable growth	“ <i>Resource efficient Europe</i> ”, “ <i>An industrial policy for the globalisation era</i> ”.	39	11 105 046 064	59,84
3.	Inclusive growth	“ <i>An agenda for new skills and jobs</i> ”, “ <i>European platform against poverty</i> ”.	52	3 610 577 130	19,45
Total:			143	18 558 766 255	100

Chart No. 2. The contribution of OPs to the “Europe 2020” priorities: per cent

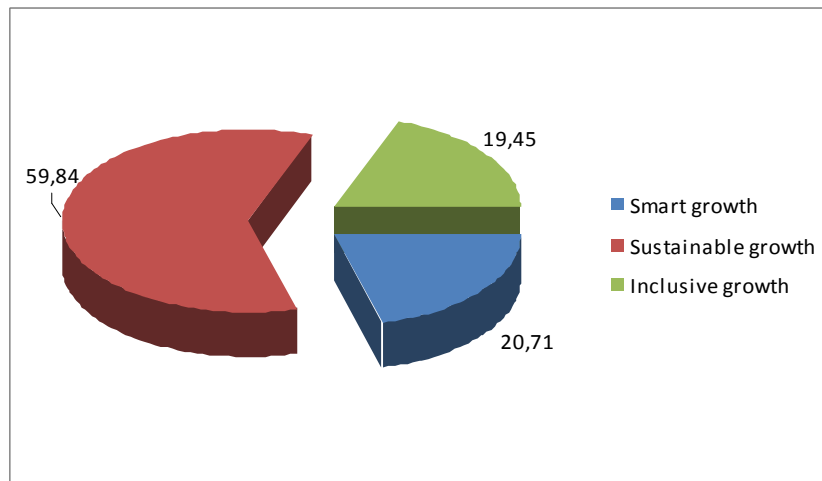


Table No. 13. General contribution of OP DHR, EG and PC to “Europe 2020”

OP	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OPs, Lt	Contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
OP DHR	3 127 746 917	2 769 808 361	88,56
OP EG	10 544 950 398	8 673 313 479	82,25
OP PC	8 989 391 650	7 115 644 415	79,15
Total:	22 662 088 965	18 558 766 255	81,89

Table No. 14. General contribution of ESF, ERDF and CF to “Europe 2020”

EU fund	EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 allocated to OPs, Lt	Contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	Contribution of EU structural assistance for 2007–2013 to the “Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
ESF	3 127 746 917	2 769 808 361	88,56
ERDF	11 884 366 179	8 196 066 661	68,96
CF	7 649 975 869	7 592 891 233	99,25
Total:	22 662 088 965	18 558 766 255	81,89

Table No. 15. The contribution of OPs priorities to “Europe 2020”

OP’s priority	EU structural assistance for 2007–	Contribution of OPs priorities to	Contribution of OPs priorities to the

	2013 allocated to OPs priority, Lt	the “Europe 2020” Strategy, Lt	“Europe 2020” Strategy, per cent
<i>1.1 High Quality Employment and Social Coverage</i>	1 286 693 188	1 284 805 973	99,85
<i>1.2 Lifelong Learning</i>	879 240 345	879 240 345	100
<i>1.3 Enhancement of Researchers’ Capacities</i>	407 452 843	407 452 843	100
<i>1.4 Development of Administrative Competence and Improvement of Efficiency of Public Administration</i>	554 360 541	198 309 200	35,77
<i>2.1 Research and Development for Competitiveness and Growth of the Economy</i>	1 844 442 161	1 844 442 161	100
<i>2.2 Increasing Business Productivity and Improving Environment for Business</i>	2 090 771 029	1 836 640 760	87,85
<i>2.3 Information Society for All</i>	828 971 962	820 042 712	98,92
<i>2.4 Basic Economic Infrastructure</i>	2 025 960 578	417 383 178	20,60
<i>2.5 Development of Trans-European Transport Networks</i>	3 754 804 668	3 754 804 668	100
<i>3.1 Local and Urban Development, Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Protection of Nature and its Adaptation to Development of Tourism</i>	2 920 303 369	1 194 200 020	40,89
<i>3.2 Quality and Availability of Public Services: Health Care, Education, Social Infrastructure</i>	2 173 917 080	2 083 357 830	95,83
<i>3.3 Environment and Sustainable Development</i>	3 895 171 201	3 838 086 565	98,53
Total:	22 662 088 965	18 558 766 255	81,89

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognizing the importance of the “Europe 2020” Strategy in securing smart, sustainable and inclusive EU growth and the contribution of the EU cohesion policy in achieving the Strategy objectives, it is recommended in preparing the programming documents of the new (2014–2020) programming period to give a greater focus on the “Europe 2020”, to harmonise the priorities for the use of EU assistance with “Europe 2020”. Whereas it is also important not to forget the fundamental goal of the EU cohesion policy – promote social, economic and territorial cohesion – and planning the use of EU structural assistance to allocate a part of funds to finance regional priorities which are not necessarily in line with the “Europe 2020” objectives.
- The objectives and priorities of the “Europe 2020” Strategy could be implemented through various activities supplementing each other. EU regions, in their turn, differ in their capabilities and demands. Taking it into consideration, it is recommended in planning the activities funded from the EU structural assistance in the context of “Europe 2020” to establish the measures which are the most important and effective in the national context, i.e. in establishing the measures, to take into consideration regional/national particularities in order to make the maximum effective use of structural investments in implementing the Strategy.
- The development of social, education and health infrastructure, to which is allocated about 23 % of funds under the Operational Programme for Promotion of Cohesion during the 2007–2013 programming period, may not be included into the list of eligible priorities proposed by the Commission as contributing to the implementation of “Europe 2020”. Considering this, it is recommended to seek that the investments into the development of fundamental infrastructure would further (in 2014–2020) remain to be eligible for financing from EU structural assistance as an important Lithuania’s regional priority.
- Taking into consideration that all EU policy areas (such as, for example, rural development, fishery and etc.) should contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020”, it would be expedient to perform the contribution analysis of these policy areas to achieving the Strategy objectives. Such a study would have the value added in shaping Lithuania’s negotiating position with regard to the 2014–2020 EU Financial Perspective and in planning the use of the new period EU financial assistance.

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