



ESI Funds for health: overview of preliminary findings

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Introduction

ESI Funds for health - Key Facts

- EU-funded contract with CHAFEA
- December 2016 - December 2018
- Consortium led by Milieu Ltd, 3 thematic partners + communications team
- Combines elements of data gathering + analysis with dissemination, experience exchange and learning
- Outputs include 6 thematic workshops, country factsheets, thematic mapping documents, final conference and publication

Project Objectives

- To **complement the existing knowledge** on the ESIF 2014-2020 investments in the health sector
- To assess how these can contribute to implementing **EU health policy goals** (particularly reducing health inequalities and supporting structural reforms)
- To **further develop capacities** of the relevant actors in EU Member States and regions to support the effective and consistent implementation of ESIF for health.

Six health themes



Access to health
services



Reform of health
systems



eHealth & Digital health
technologies



Research & Innovation
in health



Disease prevention &
Health promotion



Planning & training of the
health workforce

ESI Funds for health: Overview of preliminary findings

Presentation overview

- Overview of challenges in the field of access to healthcare
- How can ESI funds support these challenges?
- What kinds of projects are currently being supported?
- What can we learn from this?

Challenges for EU policy

- Improving access for citizens to healthcare services
- *“Reforms of health care and long-term care systems need to be pursued to enhance their cost-effectiveness, ensure their fiscal sustainability and **ensure quality, affordable access**”*

Annual Growth Survey 2018

European Semester

- For some countries, the 2018 Country Specific Recommendations referred to access to healthcare: Cyprus, Bulgaria, Latvia, Romania
- For some countries, investments have concentrated in slightly different but related areas –such as investments in Bulgaria to build the health workforce ...

Programming the use of ESIF to support access to healthcare

2014-2020

Programming of health-related projects – Mobile health units

Algarve

- 11 broad Thematic Objectives (TOs)
- More detailed Investment Priorities given for TO in fund-specific regulations
- Specific Objectives adjusted to the needs of the MS and regions



Spending priorities for access to healthcare (1/3)

Most relevant: Thematic Objective 9:

'Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty'

- IP ERDF 9a and ESF 9iv were the most frequently selected IPs in Operational Programmes across Member States:
 - ERDF 9a: investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion (...)- 15 Member States + 10 Interreg A OPs
 - ESF 9iv: enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest
- Some are cross-sectoral:
 - ESF 9i: active inclusion, with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Spending priorities for access to healthcare (2/3)

Others: Thematic Objective 1: 'Strengthening research, technological development and innovation'

- ERDF 1b promoting business investment in R&I -2 Member States, 2 Interreg A OPs and 3 Interreg B OPs

This thematic objective was linked to the investment priority of promoting links between business and research in order to support the development of new technologies

Spending priorities for access to healthcare (3/3)

Others: Thematic Objective 11: 'Institutional capacities of public authorities'

Used in Italy, this thematic objective was linked to investing in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration and public services at national, regional and local levels

Other specific objectives used by Member States in their OPs

- Increasing the number of people from vulnerable communities in (...) healthcare and social services, with a focus on the Roma, migrants and people with a foreign background (BG)
- Testing, evaluating, and implementing innovative approaches to improve access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality health and social services (DE)
- Improving access of vulnerable groups to health services and welfare services (EL)
- Improving access to primary and emergency healthcare, with a focus on isolated and deprived areas (HR)

Programme indicators

- MS use indicators tracking progress of implementation of the SOs and the projects
- Only 1 common (output) indicator relating to health: *Population covered by improved health services* –this is used by the Mobile Health Units, Algarve Project, PT
- Examples of other indicators used for this theme:
 - Number of modernised treatment facilities in regional hospitals functioning as competence centres (EE)
 - Relative difference of outpatient visits in regional areas and big cities (LV)
 - Number of people who used a health service on either side of the border (BE-FR)

Projects supporting access to healthcare

2014-2020

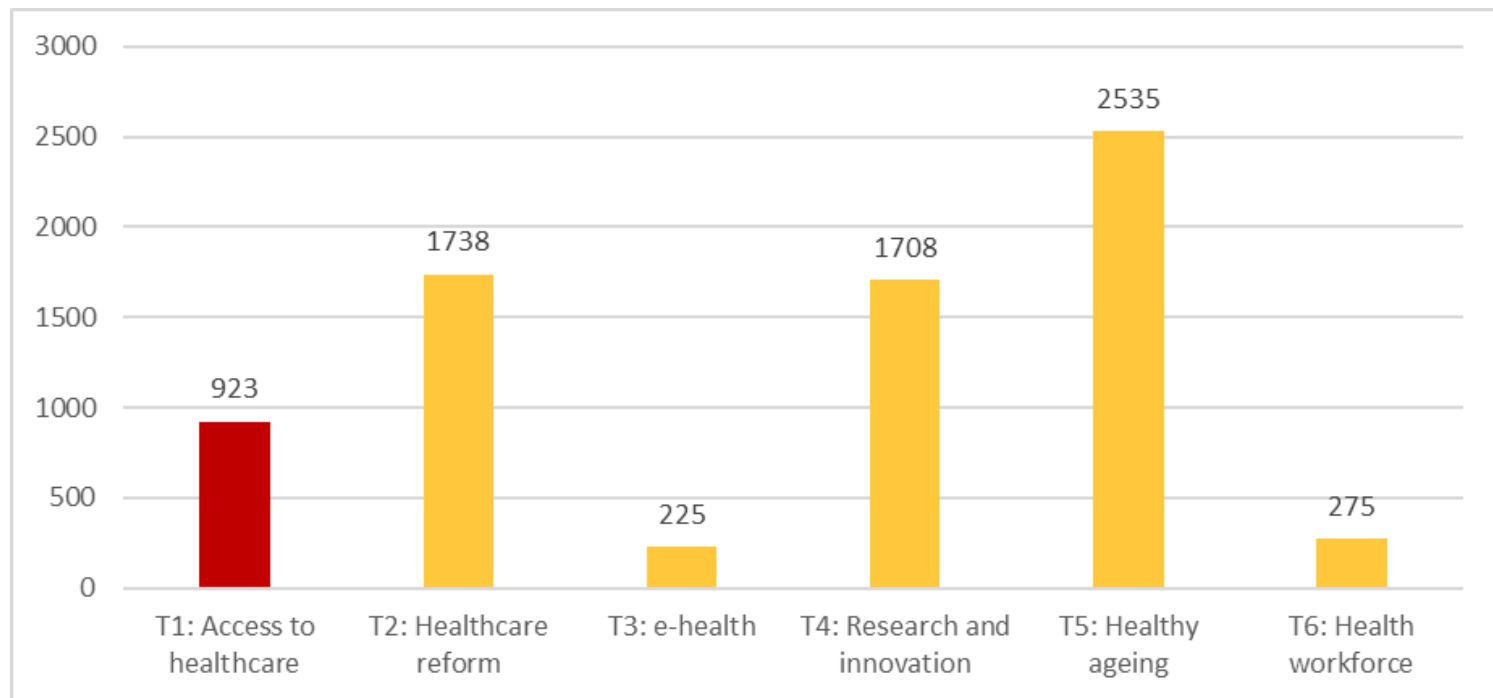
Methodology for data collection and synthesis

Key steps:

1. **Data sources** – programming documents (OPs) and ‘lists of operations’
2. **Consistent method** to identify, classify and track data
3. **Identifying the planned health investments** – review of 197 national/regional OPs and 76 INTERREG CPs
4. **Identifying the actual health investments** – review of the lists of operations for all reviewed OPs/CPs
5. **Developing outputs:** country factsheets, INTERREG and thematic mapping documents based on Excel database of over 7,000 projects

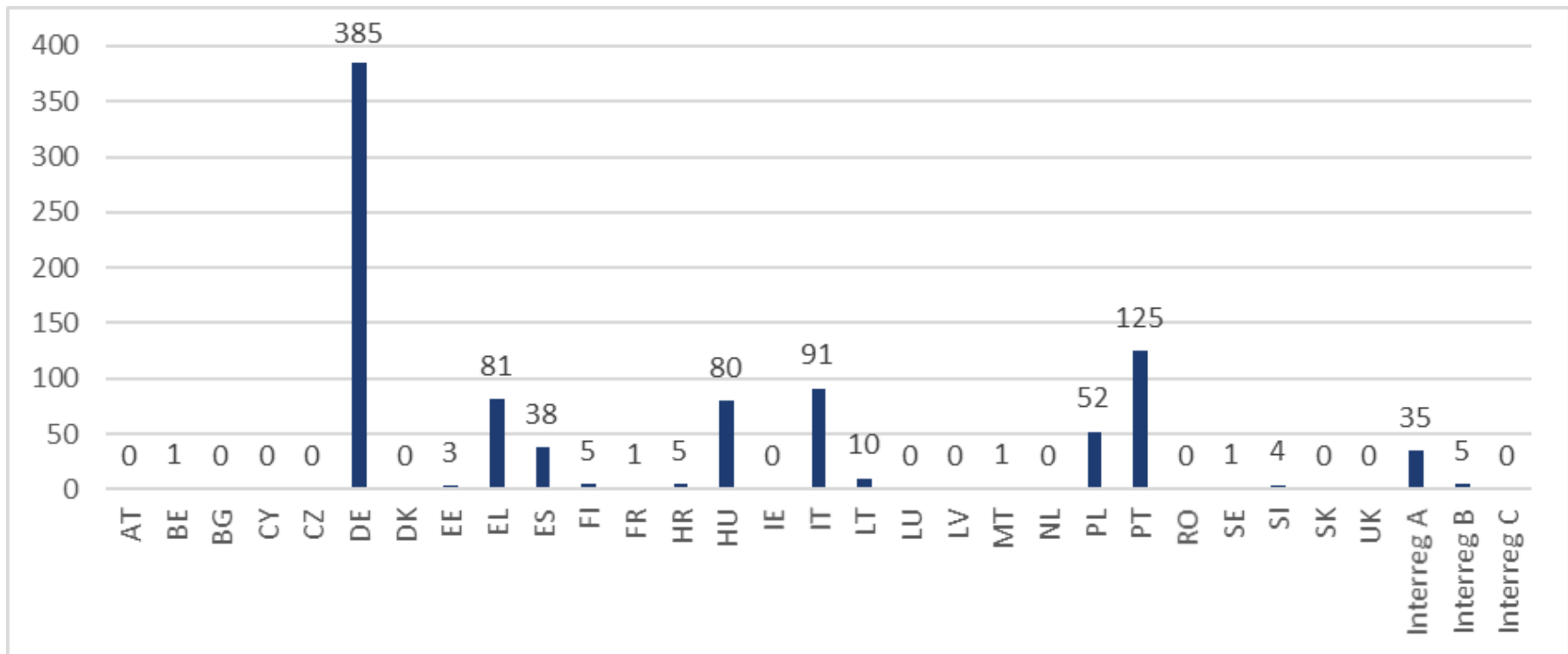
Theme 1: access to healthcare

- 923 projects in 16 Member States and INTERREG (out of a total of 7404 projects found for all themes –around 12%)



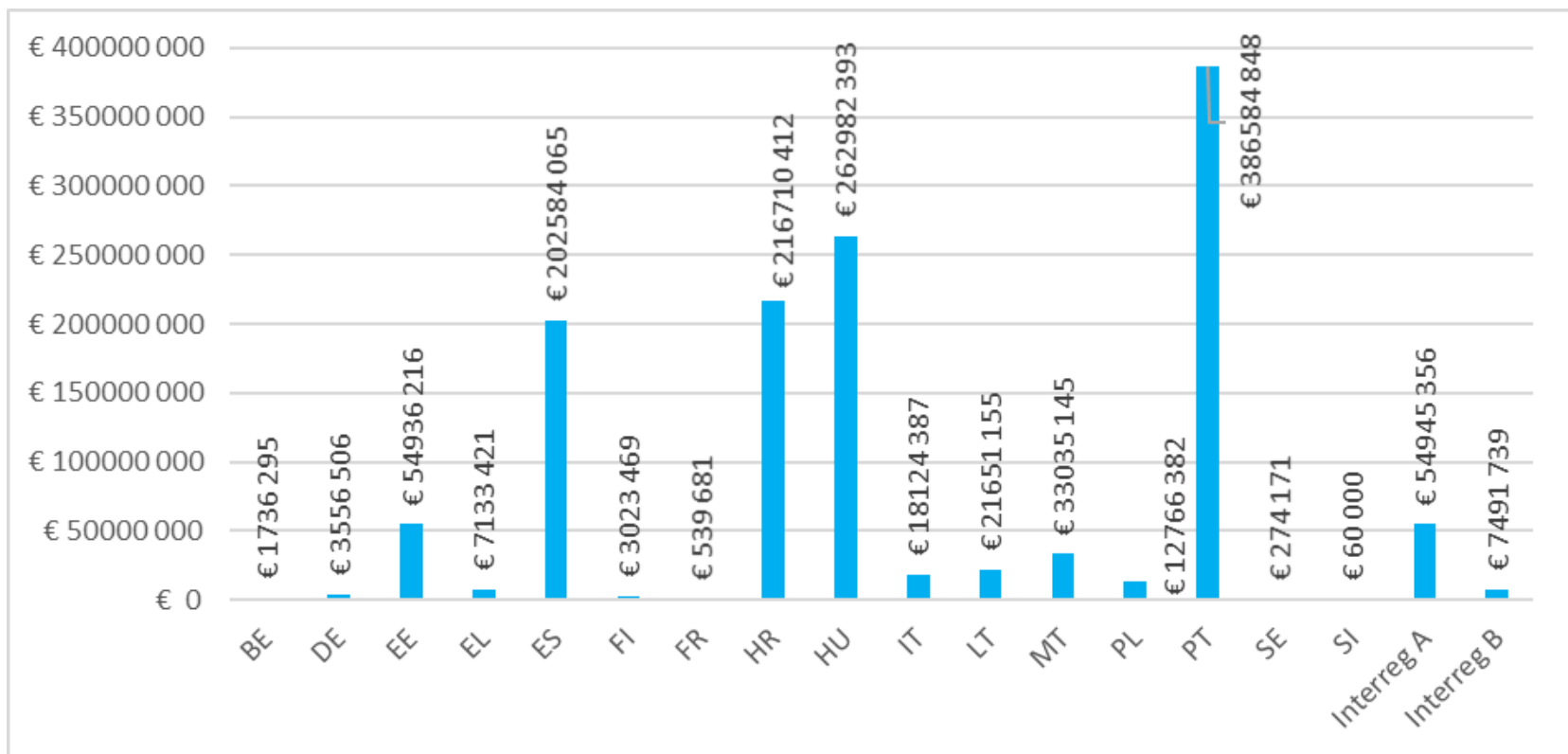
Numbers of access to healthcare projects per Member State

- Most projects: DE, PT, IT, HU, EL and PL



Total budget of access to healthcare projects per Member State

- Total budget: € 1.3 billion; around 15% of total budget
- Largest spending: PT, HU, HR, ES



Access to healthcare projects by sub-theme

Sub-theme	Number of projects
Improving health infrastructures	170
Improving access of specific population groups	232
Addressing unequal healthcare coverage	3
Improving skills and capacities of health workers	392
Addressing distance, price and quality of healthcare	187
Addressing social stigma, language and cultural barriers	129
Other	1

What are the implications of these findings for EU goals on access to healthcare?

ESIF spending should be policy relevant...

“Health investments under ESIF 2014-2020 should support Member States in achieving EU goals in the health area.”

- Investments in Health – Policy Guide for ESIF

“The funds available under the current EU multiannual financial framework are being used by the Member States to help prepare and implement structural reforms.”

- European Commission, 2017

ESIF spending should be policy relevant...

ESI Funds should support Member States investments that are focused on:

- *“improving **access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality healthcare**,*
- *in particular with a view to **reducing inequalities** between regions, and*
- ***giving disadvantaged groups and marginalised communities better access to healthcare”***

European Commission, Investing in Health –Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion, Commission Staff Working Document, 2013

Key questions – spending trends

- How does spending on access to healthcare line up with EU policy in this area?
- Is there evidence that spending supports structural reforms identified through European Semester process?
- On what kinds of projects is the most money spent?

Key questions – project development

- What kinds of access to healthcare projects are most popular and why?
- What are the key factors behind successful projects?
- What can be done in the current and upcoming MFF to ensure access to healthcare is better supported by the ESI funds?

Visit our website for more information

- Country + INTERREG factsheets
- Six thematic mapping documents
- ESI Funds for health analytical report
- Database of 60 exemplary projects
- Six thematic workshops
- Final conference (forthcoming, Brussels, December 2018)
- Final report/publication (forthcoming, December 2018)
- www.esifundsforhealth.eu

Q & A

Milieu