

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Support to Employment and Labour Mobility 2014-2018



CROATIA

SUMMARY

Employment and mobility measures funded by the ESF aim at promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Croatia spent a combined total of 18.7 million euro in ESF investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 6 349 participations in employment and labour mobility activities have taken place in Croatia. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far of the implementation of employment and mobility measures (excluding youth employment) co-funded by the EU.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



► In 2014, the **unemployment rate** of persons aged 15-74 and the share of long-term unemployed were **above the EU average** (10.2%; 49.3%). There are no significant regional differences.

► In 2018, the **unemployment rate** is still **above the rate observed** at the EU level (6.8%), though the gap has narrowed. There are slight variations by region, with Kontinentalna Hrvatska region having a lower unemployment rate than Jadranska Hrvatska region.

SHARE OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT



► The **share of long-term unemployed** is below the EU-28 average (43.0%) in 2018, showing minor regional disparities. It ranges from 37,8 % in Jadranska Hrvatska to 41.6% in Kontinentalna Hrvatska.

► **Helping people join and stay in the labour market, ensuring better alignment of job seeker's skills with labour market needs, strengthening professional guidance activities, re-integrating the long-term unemployed into the labour market and commencing measures regarding entrepreneurship and self-employment** (particularly among women) are the most relevant issues addressed through ESF funding.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund OP Operational Programme IP Investment Priority

- This factsheet was prepared before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Figures present the situation for operations under Investment Priorities 8.i-8.vii, excluding 8.ii, for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to 2018, as reported by 6th September 2019 in SFC2014. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage. They are provided only as an indication of progress.
- The situation for operations under Investment Priority 8.ii (youth employment) for the same programming period is presented in the Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment.
- Target achievements are calculated dividing the outputs and the results by the targets set in the Operational Programmes. Targets set should be reached by 2023.
- Participants' data are collected on starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag, the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.



ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

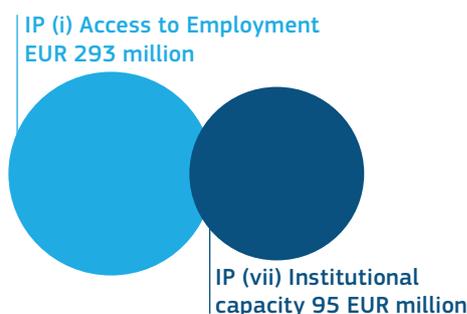
388 Million Euro are budgeted to the support of Employment and Mobility

330 Million Euro The EU contributes a large share of this funding

The national OP implements specific actions addressing employment and labour mobility. Two Investment Priorities (IPs) are covered in Croatia, namely IP (i) (access to employment) and (vii) (institutional capacity).

- ▶ The investment focus in Croatia is on **bringing people (back) into the labour market, ensuring the matching between jobseekers skills and requirements of employers and industry and initiating measures to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment.**

- ▶ The ESF budget is allocated to two IPs, with a focus on Access to Employment (76% of the funding). A smaller amount is allocated to Institutional capacity.*



STATE OF PLAY



51% of the participants are women

- ▶ The achievement of targets for participation is lagging behind. By the end of 2018, only 6% of the expected number of participations (until 2023) are reached.

Achievements of targets for participation **6%**

* Gender equality and equal access to services has no specific allocation to IP 8.iv, but is instead addressed in IP 8.vii.

** As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported, not the number of participants. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.



PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



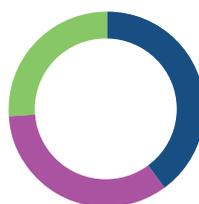
80% unemployed
20% employed

Migrants | 70

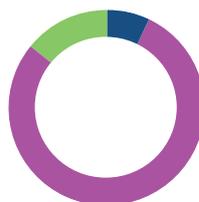
Other disadvantaged | 736*

Participants with disabilities | 286

Homeless | 2



40% with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)
34% with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)
26% with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)



7% <25 years
79% 25 to 54 years
14% >54 years

- ▶ No variations in the labour market status, age distribution and in terms of the educational level of participants were identified.
- ▶ Around 12% of participants were disadvantaged.



- ▶ The OP is strongly lagging behind in achieving the targeted number of results.
- ▶ While the average achievement of targets for results for IP 8.i (Access to employment) is at 10%, only 1% of the targets for IP 8.vii (Institutional capacity) were reached by end-2018.

Achievement of targets for results **7%**

* Participants may refuse to give this information. Consequently, disadvantages are likely to be underreported.



LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

Promoting self-employment

The most sustainable type of operation is the one that promotes self-employment. The participants obtain work experience and skills that help them start their own business.

Investing in the Employment Service

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness, especially at regional level, more investment in human resources and in the Croatian Employment Service as institution is needed.

Involvement of stakeholders

The involvement of all relevant stakeholders (e.g. civil society organisations) in designing and implementing the actions would be useful in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Career Information and Counselling Centres

As a result of ESF-financed operations, the Croatian Employment Service opened 13 Career Information and Counselling Centres (CISOK) throughout the country. They provide vocational guidance services regarding appropriate training and employment and contribute to the development of the community and economy at both local and national levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Croatia <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=383>
Website of the ESF Croatia <http://www.esf.hr>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Employment and Labour Mobility

