4 years into the 2014-2020 funding period, the implementation of European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds programmes has reached full speed, with €278 billion already delivered to the EU real economy by October 2017, which is 44% of the Funds’ total envelope. €360 billion is left to be invested over the next 6 years, as the funding period will close in 2023.

The 2014-2020 framework is more ambitious, with new preconditions to fulfil before receiving money under the ESI Funds (“ex-ante conditionality”), which tangibly helped improve the investment environment in Europe. Nonetheless, the 2017 Strategic report shows that implementation is on the right track, with broadly the same pace as during the 2007-2013 funding period.

**MAIN RESULTS BY THE END OF 2016**

- **2 million projects** creating growth, jobs, protecting our environment and improving citizens’ everyday lives were seeing the light of day; that is 1 million more than the year before.

- **7.8 million people** have received assistance in finding a job or developing new skills, up from 2.7 million the year before.

- **793,490 businesses** have already been supported under the 2014-2020 programmes, compared to 274,000 at the end of 2015. This is supposed to lead to the direct creation of 154,000 new jobs so far.

- The biodiversity of **23.5 million hectares of agricultural land** have been improved, up from 11 million hectares in 2015.
Already invested in research and innovation projects, leading to 29,000 researchers benefiting from improved research infrastructure.

Invested in digital projects, which should lead to better access to broadband for 915,000 additional households and to over 1.2 million inhabitants of rural areas benefitting from improved digital services.

Invested to boost the competitiveness of small businesses. 196,000 companies received advisory assistance and 10,900 businesses received support to launch new products.

Out of an envelope of €181.4 billion, €50.3 billion were already invested in research, innovation, digital services and infrastructures as well as in small businesses by the end of 2016. €131.1 billion is left to be invested.
By the end of 2016, 787,000 people have found a job and 820,000 people have gained qualification after participating in EU-funded training projects. 634,000 people with disabilities have also been supported under ESI Funds programmes.

**INVESTMENTS IN EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EDUCATION**

**€168.3 billion**

- **€17.4 billion**
  - Already invested in projects supporting quality and lasting employment and labour mobility, reaching 4.2 million unemployed people.

- **€16.5 billion**
  - Invested in social inclusion projects, leading to a stronger integration of 1.2 million vulnerable people, including migrants.

- **€14.6 billion**
  - Invested in education and vocational training, to tackle early-school leaving and offer training opportunities. Investments so far led to an additional capacity equivalent to 4.4 million people in childcare and school infrastructure.

**€48.7 billion** already delivered

**€119.6 billion** left to be invested
INVESTMENTS IN THE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS AND TRANSPORT

€11 billion
Already invested in actions supporting a low-carbon economy, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, leading to energy savings for 148,000 households.

€16.5 billion
Invested in climate change adaptation and risk prevention projects. As a result, 4.6 million people now benefit from new or improved protection against floods.

€15.5 billion
Invested in the protection of the environment. 60,000 km² of Natura 2000 areas and 1.5 million km² of Marine Protected Areas are now being managed better. 3.5 million people should now enjoy improved water supplies.

€22 billion
Invested in transport and energy networks. As a result 687 km of TEN-T railway lines are being reconstructed or upgraded.

€73.2 billion already delivered

€189 billion left to be invested

€262.2 billion

More than 25% of the total ESI Funds envelope is dedicated to climate related projects, in line with the EU objective of spending at least 20% of its budget on climate action. Already €29.6 billion have been invested in climate change actions. These investments are powerful tools for the EU to lead the fight for climate change prevention and adaptation and for meeting the Paris Agreement objectives.