

Summary of achievements

Previously the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE) highlighted the progress made in integrating IPA and ENPI into a single financial system with ERDF funds. In addition, contributions to improvement of transnational connectivity, strengthening joint flood response capacities, building research-business cooperation, and working towards a common migration strategy for Southeast Europe were also put forward.

In the 2014 Annual Implementation Report we draw the attention to a plethora of SEE achievements. In particular, SEE-supported projects trained more than 4,000 businesses to improve their skills and capacity to innovate. About half of these were micro, small and medium size enterprises from the agro-food sector. Other industries addressed with capacity building activities were industrial informatics and embedded systems, health and clean technology, renewable energy, construction, automobile, wood (incl. biomass and furniture), textile, extractive sector, tourism, and transport (incl. logistics). In addition, more than 7,500 staff members of public and public-equivalent institutions also underwent trainings in the framework of SEE projects. Of these, 37% acquired knowledge in delivering effective innovation support services and schemes. Another 25% are now better equipped to assess the renewable energy potential of their territory, to assess investment opportunities and evaluate energy efficiency. More than 300 public servants improved their skills in using software solutions for mapping natural risks and planning coordinated response. Another ca. 600 are ready to manage cultural heritage in a sustainable as well as economically profitable manner.

Furthermore, SEE projects have developed 344 new services benefitting more than 7 million inhabitants of Southeast Europe. The majority of services aim to facilitate innovation and sustainable growth, e.g. innovation finance advice helpdesks and urban centres for participatory planning. Significantly, SEE programme leveraged investment worth more than EUR 28 billion. The largest share of this is earmarked for improving rail, road and waterway infrastructure in the region including intermodal links. Investments will be of added value for the Baltic-Adriatic, Orient/East-Med, Mediterranean and Rhine-Danube Corridors and will bridge the gap with the Western Balkans. Changes in policy frameworks and revision of strategies can also be attributed to the cooperation efforts of SEE projects. Among the success stories are the input given to the Hungarian S3 strategy on emerging industries and the prepared technical and administrative groundwork for an International Danube Ship Waste Convention. Finally, SEE programme is proud of the 52 jobs created in the area (not counting people employed to work on project management or as external experts) as this is positive spill-over effect of projects stimulating entrepreneurship and inclusive growth.

All data is derived from the SEE programme and project monitoring tools. More details are provided in section 2.1.6 and annex III of the Annual Implementation Report.

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