

## Examples of the projects supported by the EU funds in the 2007–2013 period in the Czech Republic

### Environment

Thanks to investments from the EU funds a total of **4 526 km** of new sewer mains has been constructed and **147 wastewater treatment plants** has been built or modernized. There are now more than **600 000 people** connected to the water supply and a modern sewerage system, which contributes to a better environment. In the Vltava river alone, the water pollution in some plants was decreased by tens of percent, even if measured several kilometres downstream from the plant.

### Education – primary and secondary schools

In the previous programming period, **90%** of primary and **75%** of secondary schools have enjoyed the benefits of the EU funds. The projects were aimed at improving conditions for education, especially in reading and information literacy, mathematics, foreign language teaching, ICT and also to equip classrooms as well as science labs. 86% of school representatives estimate that the project implemented in their school has contributed to the development of key skills. The most significant benefits were observed in the fields of information and communication technologies (97%) and foreign languages (91%).

### Entrepreneurship

The resources of EU funds have helped many businesses to overcome the period of economic hardship between 2008 and 2009. The company projects focused on innovation and new product development have helped to keep more jobs (albeit in the part-time form) than was the case in the comparable firms which did not receive any support. Of all the supported enterprises, 61% reported that they were able to **gain a competitive advantage**, and 91% of them launched a new product. Through investments, the production capacity of the surveyed companies rose by 25%.

### Support for science and technology studies

In 2015, interactive centres aimed at popularizing scientific and technical disciplines have welcomed more than **1.5 million visitors**. These activities contributed to a 5% increase between 2009 and 2015 in the proportion of students applying for engineering and science degrees.



Source: monitoring data and evaluation reports

# Cohesion Policy and its Benefits for the Czech Republic and the EU

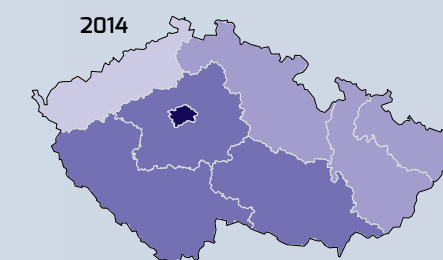
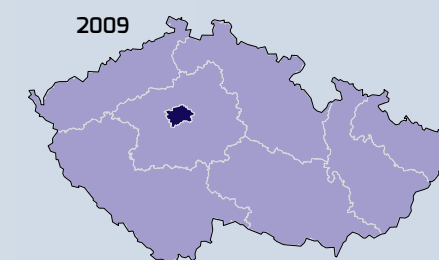
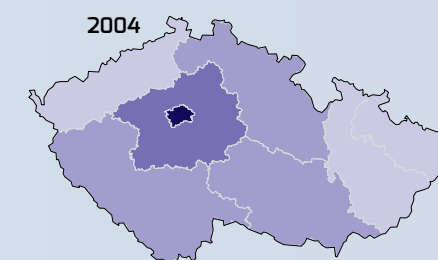
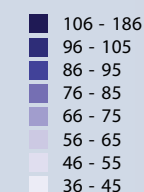
**Cohesion policy** is a win-win investment. The cohesion policy spending in the Czech Republic between 2007–2015 brought more than €20 billion worth of benefits to the EU15 economies.

Every €1 invested by cohesion policy between 2007–2013 will generate an additional €2.7 of EU's GDP by 2023.





These macroeconomic effects were achieved by implementing a huge number of successful projects in a wide range of thematic areas, as illustrated by the figures below.

Czech regions have seen **significant GDP convergence** to the EU average with the cohesion policy being a source of such progress. Thanks to Cohesion Policy, the GDP of the Czech Republic was **4% higher** in 2015.

LEGEND (% of EU GDP)



## Implementation of cohesion policy in numbers

-  **94 104** jobs were newly created in total.
-  **6 173** jobs in the field of research and development were newly created.
-  **6 992** students of all grades were using the created infrastructure or were involved in the centre's activities.
-  **111** km of new TEN-T motorways, expressways and main roads were constructed.
-  **346** km of TEN-T railway lines were reconstructed and upgraded.
-  **8 456** projects supported small and medium enterprises.
-  **4 549** innovative products, processes, organisational and marketing innovations were launched.
-  **147** waste water treatment plants were newly built, reconstructed or intensified.
-  In public transport, **684** environmentally friendly vehicles were newly acquired.

Source: Monitoring data  
Ex post evaluation and forecast of benefits obtained by the EU-15 countries as a result of implementing Cohesion Policy in the V4 countries





## 1 The Czech-German Cultural Centre Kvilda

Creative camps, workshops, symposia, as well as exhibitions, concerts and theatrical performances – all offered by the Czech-German Cultural Centre opened in September 2012 in the place called Kvilda, in the Sumava mountains. Reconstruction of the devastated buildings and the extension of the studio with graphic workshop created a unique cultural centre for artists from both sides of the border. Educational institutions in the framework of joint art education also use the centre premises. The centre significantly enriches the cultural life in this tourist region.

## 2 Construction of road connection Adorf - As

The largest funded project in the Czech-Saxon border of the 2007–2013 period has improved transport links in the As headland significantly. On the Czech side, two road sections were implemented. The construction included the realignment of the road bridges, one roundabout and building of a gabion retaining wall. The second project stage was a road modernization in the Studanka village. This, together with the rerouting of the original road, should increase traffic safety in the village. On the Saxon side, a bypass of the village Freiberg was built together with a stretch north of the village Ebmath. In the area of the border crossing Ebmath – Hranice a rainwater tank was also constructed.

## 3 Coaches unite – Czech-German education of youth football coaches

Thanks to a hobby (football), children from the Czech and Bavarian border region train together and at the same time learn the language and culture of the neighbouring country. Furthermore, special aids for a fun way of learning languages were also developed. At the same time, training courses for youth coaches were organized in cooperation with different football associations. The activities of the Czech-German Football School won numerous awards and are considered as a model for cross-border cooperation and removal of barriers by the European Commission. After the success at home, the idea is now gradually expanding to other countries (Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia).

## 4 Life without Barriers - WITH US, ABOUT US Elbe / Labe Euroregion between the towns Görlitz and Decin

The main idea was to improve the conditions for independent participation of people with physical and mental disabilities in everyday social life. On the Czech side, the implementation consisted of a newly-built barrier-free information and counselling centre offering accommodation services and special training jobs for people with disabilities. The project included the establishment of a bilingual internet portal providing information on how to work in self-help groups. Furthermore, training and qualification programmes enabled target groups to find jobs and encourage cross-border exchange of experience.

## Sample cross-border projects on the Czech-German border from the 2007–2013 period

Operational Programmes	Allocated ammount from EU funds 2007–2013	Number of projects selected	Total eligible cost of projects selected		Website
OP Cross-border Cooperation Czech Republic – Bavaria	115.5 mil. EUR	300	108.6 mil. EUR	94.0%	<a href="http://www.by-cz.eu">www.by-cz.eu</a>
OP Cross-border Cooperation Czech Republic – Saxony	207.4 mil. EUR	251	197.7 mil. EUR	95.3%	<a href="http://www.sn-cz2020.eu">www.sn-cz2020.eu</a>

