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How do EU-15 Member States Benefit from the Cohesion Policy in the V4?

Prepared within the *Ex post evaluation and forecast of benefits to EU-15 countries as a result of Cohesion Policy implementation in V4 countries,* commissioned by Polish Ministry of Economic Development

country profile: Austria

imapp

ibs

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1 Introduction

Results presented in this material are based on the final report from *Ex post evaluation and forecast of benefits to EU-15 countries as a result of Cohesion Policy implementation in the V4*, a study conducted by imapp and the Institute for Structural Research between September 2015 and May 2016. The evaluation was commissioned by the Polish Ministry of Economic Development and completed in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Regional Development, the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office and Government Office of the Slovak Republic.

2 Impact of Cohesion Policy on economies of the V4

According to the macroeconomic simulation applied in this evaluation, by the end of effective spending under the 2007-2013 programming period (i.e. in 2015), the GDP of the V4 was higher by ca. 6% than it would have been under the no-support from structural funds and the Cohesion Fund scenario. Two sets of mechanisms underpinned this scale of impact. Firstly, the V4 business environment was invigorated by the growth in aggregate demand induced by the implementation of projects co-financed by EU funds, e.g. in demand for building services or machinery and equipment procurements. Secondly, higher GDP was also driven by supply-side mechanisms, i.e. gradual increase in production capacity of the economy thanks to the impact of implemented projects.

Figure 1. Impact of the Cohesion Policy on GDP in the V4 (percentage deviation from the baseline [no-EU-funds] scenario)

Source: Own elaboration.

Numerous evaluations also confirm tangible impacts of the Cohesion Policy in areas such as improved innovation, positive labour market developments, higher transport accessibility, improved environmental protection and enhanced energy efficiency. Despite many challenges, taken on for a reason, it is clear that EU-funded programmes in V4 countries have achieved most of their objectives. Nevertheless, that the unprecedented scale of growth-related investments in V4 countries would not have been possible without the contribution from structural funds and the Cohesion Fund made up largely of payments by the EU-15 into the EU budget. However, the spending is offset by economic benefits and other positive externalities, which make the Cohesion Policy in its current form beneficial both to beneficiaries of the support as well as to the member states which co-finance the interventions, notably Austria.

3 Benefits to Austria

The total values of economic benefits to Austria resulting from the implementation of the Cohesion Policy in V4 during the 2007-2013 financial perspective can be broken down into three major categories: indirect export benefits, direct export benefits and direct capital benefits.

category of benefits	interpretation	value (EUR bn)[1]	% of benefits to the EU-15
indirect export benefits	benefits resulting from increased exports to the V4 induced by the macroeconomic impact of Cohesion Policy interventions, less the direct involvement of Austrian companies in the implementation of projects	EUR 6.9 bn	9.0%
direct export benefits	benefits resulting from direct involvement as contractors/suppliers of Austrian-based companies in projects funded under Cohesion Policy in V4	EUR 0.9 bn	8.1%
direct capital benefits	benefits resulting from direct involvement as contractors/suppliers of companies owned by Austrian capital groups in in projects funded under Cohesion Policy in V4	EUR 2.4 bn	29.2%
total economic benefits	sum of indirect export benefits, direct export benefits and direct capital benefits	EUR 10.2 bn	10.6%

[1] All values are expressed in constant 2010 prices.

- In absolute terms, Austria enjoyed the second largest value of benefits resulting from the implementation of Cohesion Policy in the V4 during the 2007-2013 programming period. This can largely be attributed to the high importance of Austria as a trading partner of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- Benefits to Austria come in even proportions from all V4 economies, especially interesting is a relatively low share of Poland in the overall volume of benefits.
- Geographical proximity of Austria to all V4 countries results in a relatively high share of direct benefits in comparison with other EU-15 member states. Notably, Austria stands out in terms of its high value of direct capital benefits, i.e. benefits resulting from direct involvement as contractors/suppliers of companies owned by Austrian capital groups in the implementation of projects funded Cohesion Policy in V4 countries. However, even in the case of Austria, indirect export benefits dominate (over 2/3 of total benefits).

Figure 1. Structure of economic benefits to Austria

division of benefits between V4 countries

division between categories of benefits

Source: Own elaboration

Figure 2. Summary of benefits to Austria (2007-2013 programming period)

Source: Own elaboration

Austria is not only the second-largest beneficiary among the EU-15 member states in absolute terms, but also enjoys the highest ratio total economic of benefits in 2007-2013 programming period to the amounts of fund contributed to Cohesion Policy implementation in V4.[2]

Figure 3. Total economic benefits to the EU-15 in relation to gross contribution to Cohesion Policy implementation in the V4 in 2007-2013 programming period

Source: Own elaboration.

[2] Calculated based on Austrian contributions to the EU-budget in 2007-2013.

Figure 4. Total economic benefits to the EU-15 in relation to gross contribution to Cohesion Policy implementation in the V4 in 2007-2013 programming period (EUR bn,%)

The EU-15 MS **contributed** ca. **EUR 120 billion** to the cohesion policy in V4.

The **total economic benefits to EU-15 MS** resulting from implementing cohesion policy in V4 amount to **EUR 96.6 billion**, which is approx. **80% of their contribution**.

Percentages on the map: benefits to each EU-15 country as a % of its gross spending for the cohesion policy in V4 countries in 2007-2015.

Source: Own elaboration.

Table 1. Summary of benefits to the EU-15 (2007-2013 programming period)

	Czech Republic	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia	V4
total benefits	20 906.27	16 170.14	51 088.55	8 406.79	**96 571.75**
indirect export benefits	17 356.97	13 420.73	38 622.85	7 478.01	**76 878.57**
direct export benefits	1 822.82	2 103.62	7 501.33	228.85	**11 656.62**
direct capital benefits	1 726.48	645.79	4 964.37	699.93	**8 036.57**
total benefits	100%	100%	100%	100%	**100%**
indirect export benefits	83%	83%	76%	89%	**80%**
direct export benefits	9%	13%	15%	3%	**12%**
direct capital benefits	8%	4%	10%	8%	**8%**
total benefits by EU-15 (EUR mn)					
AT	2 423.89	3 285.77	3 127.42	1 402.30	**10 239.38**
BE	696.76	1 015.88	2 457.68	568.70	**4 739.03**
DE	10 236.23	6 147.17	20 680.97	3 174.38	**40 238.75**
DK	147.30	308.50	1 331.46	73.72	**1 860.98**
EL	59.57	34.68	285.88	22.40	**402.54**
ES	527.91	326.39	4 176.19	316.08	**5 346.58**
FI	77.14	74.16	527.87	28.40	**707.57**
FR	1 463.04	1 219.28	3 651.82	811.60	**7 145.75**
IE	234.11	307.87	638.51	34.35	**1 214.84**
IT	1 119.77	1 622.14	5 201.24	956.63	**8 899.78**
LU	83.29	49.03	164.56	62.79	**359.67**
NL	1 947.03	838.04	4 423.91	590.08	**7 799.06**
PT	105.65	68.87	234.36	16.15	**425.02**
SE	879.15	210.96	1 864.31	82.34	**3 036.77**
UK	905.43	661.40	2 322.36	266.85	**4 156.05**
total benefits by EU-15 MS					
AT	11.6%	20.3%	6.1%	16.7%	**10.6%**
BE	3.3%	6.3%	4.8%	6.8%	**4.9%**
DE	49.0%	38.0%	40.5%	37.8%	**41.7%**
DK	0.7%	1.9%	2.6%	0.9%	**1.9%**
EL	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%	**0.4%**
ES	2.5%	2.0%	8.2%	3.8%	**5.5%**
FI	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%	0.3%	**0.7%**
FR	7.0%	7.5%	7.1%	9.7%	**7.4%**
IE	1.1%	1.9%	1.2%	0.4%	**1.3%**
IT	5.4%	10.0%	10.2%	11.4%	**9.2%**
LU	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	**0.4%**
NL	9.3%	5.2%	8.7%	7.0%	**8.1%**
PT	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	**0.4%**
SE	4.2%	1.3%	3.6%	1.0%	**3.1%**
UK	4.3%	4.1%	4.5%	3.2%	**4.3%**

Source: Own elaboration