

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme
for Baden-Württemberg 2014 to 2020

Citizens' summary

Short information



EUROPÄISCHE UNION
Europäischer Fonds für regionale Entwicklung



Investition in Ihre Zukunft.



Baden-Württemberg

Imprint

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**Ministry of Rural Affairs and Consumer
Protection
Baden-Württemberg
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The European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was established in 1975 in order to increase the economic and social cohesion within the European Union – EU – and therefore to reduce the regional differences among the member states and their regions. Another task that has been added in the last decade is to contribute to

the growth and employment as well as to the wealth of the entire Union.

This is why not only the less developed member states and regions benefit from funding by the EU, but also more-developed member states and regions, among them Baden-Württemberg.

The tasks of these regions are to improve research and development, innovation and technology by implementing model projects.

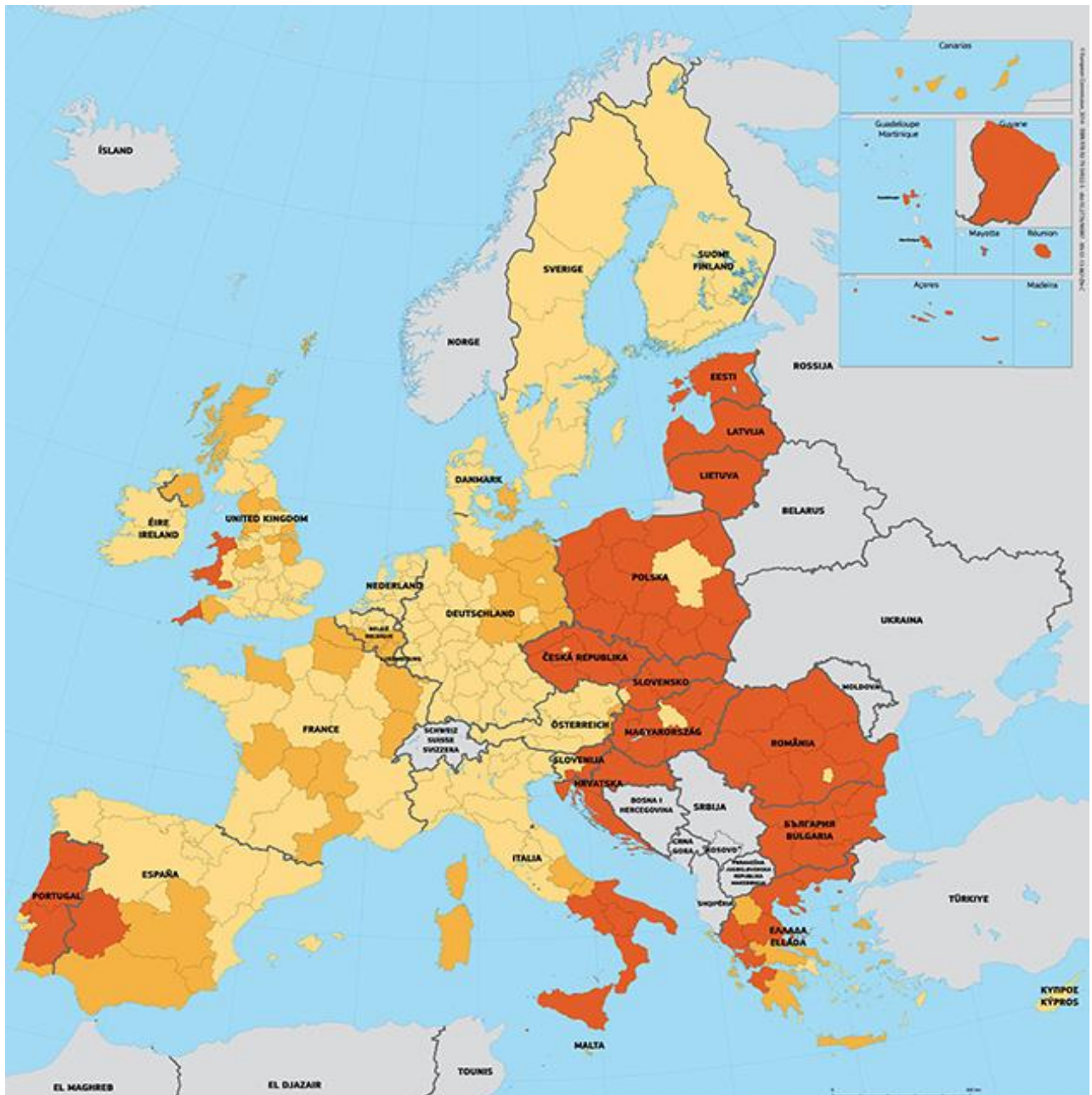


Image 1: The classification of regions in the European Union distinguishes between less developed regions (red), transition regions (yellowish brown) and more developed regions (straw yellow). Baden-Württemberg ranks among the latter. Source: © European Union, 1995-2015

Central points of the ERDF Programme in Baden Württemberg 2014-2020 “Innovation and Energy Transition”

Innovation

Baden-Württemberg is known for its reliable and state of the art products and services, and because of these qualifications the export provided by the region is very strong. Innovation is one of the main targets of the ERDF programme in order to keep up with the level reached in the global competition, and also to do more research and development in fields of science close to business purposes but also in fields of excellence in line with the innovation strategy of Baden-Württemberg .

Technology and knowledge transfer

New ways of transferring technology and knowledge are proved, in order to especially support small and medium sized enterprises (SME) which often are not able to keep research capacities by themselves. As technology transfer is also useful to foster the economic use of resources, recovery of phosphorus from sewage sludge is supported from development to implementation in an exemplary manner.



Image 2: Sample from a scanning electron microscope in the Research Institute for Precious Metals and Metal Chemistry (fem).
Source: © fem

Networking of enterprises in clusters

Baden-Württemberg is already known as the "Region of Clusters", but nothing is so good that it cannot be improved. Especially the professionalization of the management shall be fostered and more enterprises shall be gained for cooperation.

Start-ups in high-tech sectors are motors of innovation and structural development. Their share of all start-ups shall be increased by supporting measures.

Innovation in existing companies

Technology leadership is spread evenly in Baden-Württemberg. To strengthen this decentralized economic structure small and medium sized enterprises with potential of technological leadership in the rural area will be supported.

Energy transition

The transformation of the energy system and the increase of energy efficiency are prerequisites for a sustainable society. And since Baden-Württemberg has relatively few resources the economy is depending on supplies from other countries whose pricing and reliableness is beyond of control. Energy transition is therefore the second priority of the ERDF programme in Baden-Württemberg.



Image 3: Electric car in a charging station.
Source: © Martin Robold

However there are certain points that are considered to be the most important elements taking into account the measures financed by the Federation to foster the energy transition: Competence centers are installed to provide enterprises better access to energy consulting and to initiate networking aiming at an increase of energy efficiency.

Municipalities and regions are invited to set good examples of Investments in CO₂-reduction and of raising awareness for the topic, both on the basis of a strategic approach.

RegioWIN

The competition “Regional Competitiveness through Innovation and Sustainability – RegioWIN” has been launched in 2013 inviting regions, cities and municipalities to develop regional strategies for sustainable development and to derive beacon projects for funding.

The competition met with big response from all parts of the country and suggests that the ERDF reaches directly the citizens.



Image 4: The RegioWIN competition promotes regional competitiveness through innovation and sustainability.

Cross-cutting objectives

All projects will be selected in accordance with ambitious selection criteria corresponding to the objectives of funding. In addition, the projects have to contribute to the implementation of the three cross-cutting objectives:

1. Sustainable development
2. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination
3. Equality between men and women.