



ESI Funds for health: overview of preliminary findings

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Introduction

ESI Funds for health - Key Facts

- EU-funded contract with CHAFEA
- December 2016 - December 2018
- Consortium led by Milieu Ltd, 3 thematic partners + communications team
- Combines elements of data gathering + analysis with dissemination, experience exchange and learning
- Outputs include 6 thematic workshops, country factsheets, thematic mapping documents, final conference and publication

Project Objectives

- To **complement the existing knowledge** on the ESIF 2014-2020 investments in the health sector
- To assess how these can contribute to implementing **EU health policy goals** (particularly reducing health inequalities and supporting structural reforms)
- To **further develop capacities** of the relevant actors in EU Member States and regions to support the effective and consistent implementation of ESIF for health.

Six health themes



Access to health services



Reform of health systems



eHealth & Digital health technologies



Research & Innovation in health



Disease prevention & Health promotion



Planning & training of the health workforce

Visit our website for more information

- **Country + INTERREG factsheets**
- **Six thematic mapping documents**
- **ESI Funds for health analytical report**
- **Database of 60 exemplary projects**
- **Six thematic workshops**
- **Final conference (forthcoming, Brussels, November 2018)**
- **Final report/publication (forthcoming, December 2018)**
- **www.esifundsforhealth.eu**



Bulgaria

Number of health-related Operational Programmes:

4

Number of health projects:

394

[DOWNLOAD](#)



Regional Cooperation

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as **Interreg**, is a programme aiming at stimulating cooperation between regions in the European Union.

Interreg provides a framework for the implementation of joint projects between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: *cross-border (Interreg A)*, *transnational (Interreg B)* and *interregional (Interreg C)*.

Download our mapping documents containing information on health projects identified within each of the three Interreg programmes here:

 [Mapping Interreg A.pdf](#)

 [Mapping Interreg B.pdf](#)

 [Mapping Interreg C.pdf](#)

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) support local and regional projects that contribute to job creation and a sustainable European economy.

This website shows examples of ESIF-funded health projects and provides information on the implementation of projects that contribute to wider health policy goals.

ESI Funds for health: Overview of preliminary findings

Presentation overview

- Overview of challenges for the EU health workforce
- How can ESI funds support these challenges?
- What kinds of projects are currently being supported?
- What can we learn from this?

Challenges for the health workforce

- Training and skills-building: **basic training** for new professionals and **continuous professional development** in a wide range of fields
- Workforce planning: **data and information** on existing workers as well as **forecasting and projection** of future needs
- Attractiveness of the sector: **improving working conditions** to retain existing workers and **attracting new professionals** to the field

Spending priorities for the health workforce

Thematic Objective 8: Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility

- Support **workforce planning** in the sector including performing an inventory of all health staff
- Support the **training and adaptation of the health workforce**, and encourage continuous professional development and life-long learning, to match future demanded skills and services,
- As part of the transition from hospital-based to more community-based care, **support reorientation of specialist to general practitioners**, to strengthen healthcare in primary care settings;
- Support **measures to enhance the attractiveness of the health professions in rural and remote areas** to improve access to healthcare and territorial cohesion within a Member State, by means of, for example, financial compensation, housing or travel support or via a career mandatory phase or promotion opportunities.
- Support **measures to encourage, train and offer young people** work experience in the wide range of healthcare occupations
- Support **measures for good working conditions**, career advancement of the health workforce, including as a **main 'retention' strategy** in the profession/country and to attract knowledge and skills locally.

Spending priorities for the health workforce

TO 10: Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning

- Increase **pool of primary care practitioners** through, for example, promoting the option at university education level or specific training programmes
- Develop **protocols on and include/reinforce in professional education and (lifelong) training programmes**, for health professionals and other healthcare workers (as relevant)
 - Multidisciplinary aspects of patient safety;
 - Specificities in relation to alcohol, tobacco, nutrition and physical activity and related risk factors, and on how to provide treatment to combat addictions;
 - Specificities in relation to old age and ageing (e.g. comprehensive case management, multimorbidity, polypharmacy);
 - Specificities in HIV/AIDS, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, mental disorders, and other major and chronic diseases;

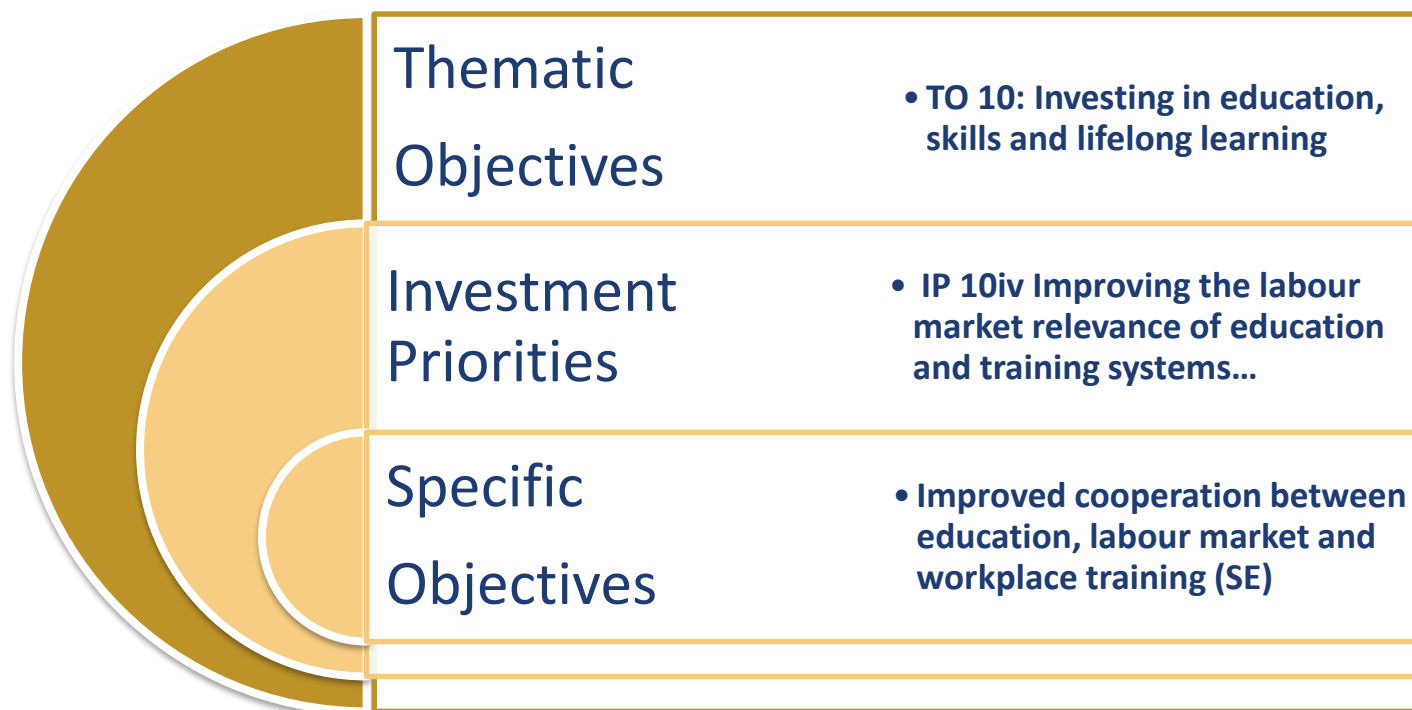
European Semester: country-specific challenges

- Health workforce **critical for efficiency in healthcare spending** + **labour force** challenges
- **2017 country reports:** around **half** of Member States need to pay attention to health workforce issues
- Health workforce **labour shortages** (BG, EE, HU, IE, PL, RO, SK)
- Adequate provisions for **health workforce planning** (BG, CZ, HU, PT, RO)

Programming of health-related projects

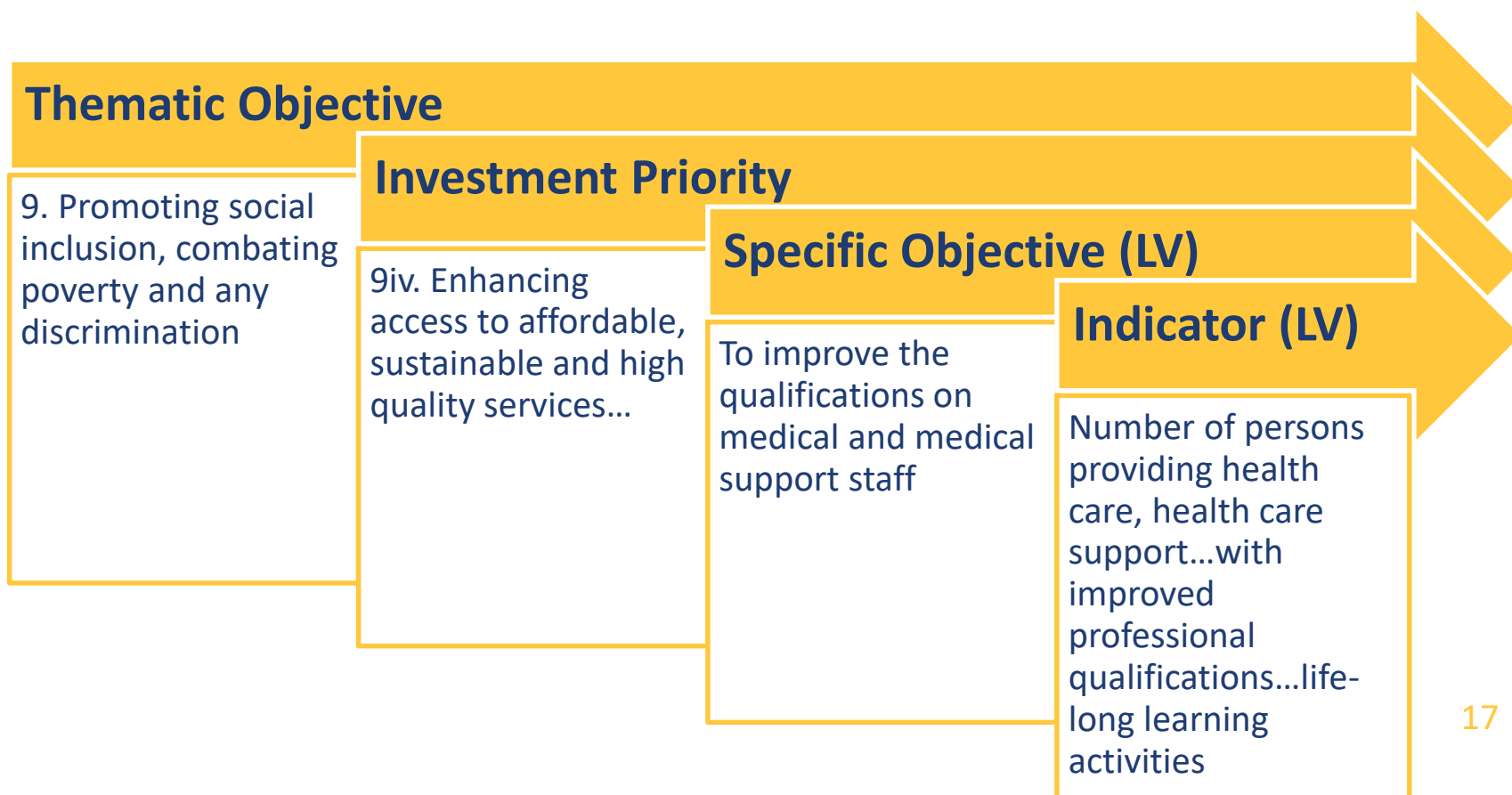
- 11 broad Thematic Objectives (TOs)
- More detailed Investment Priorities given for TO in fund-specific regulations
- Specific Objectives adjusted to the needs of the MS and regions

EXAMPLE:



Programme indicators

- MS use indicators tracking progress of implementation of the SOs and the projects
- Only 1 common indicator relating to health: *Population covered by improved health services*, for the themes 1 and 2, used by 7 MS



Projects supporting the health workforce 2014-2020

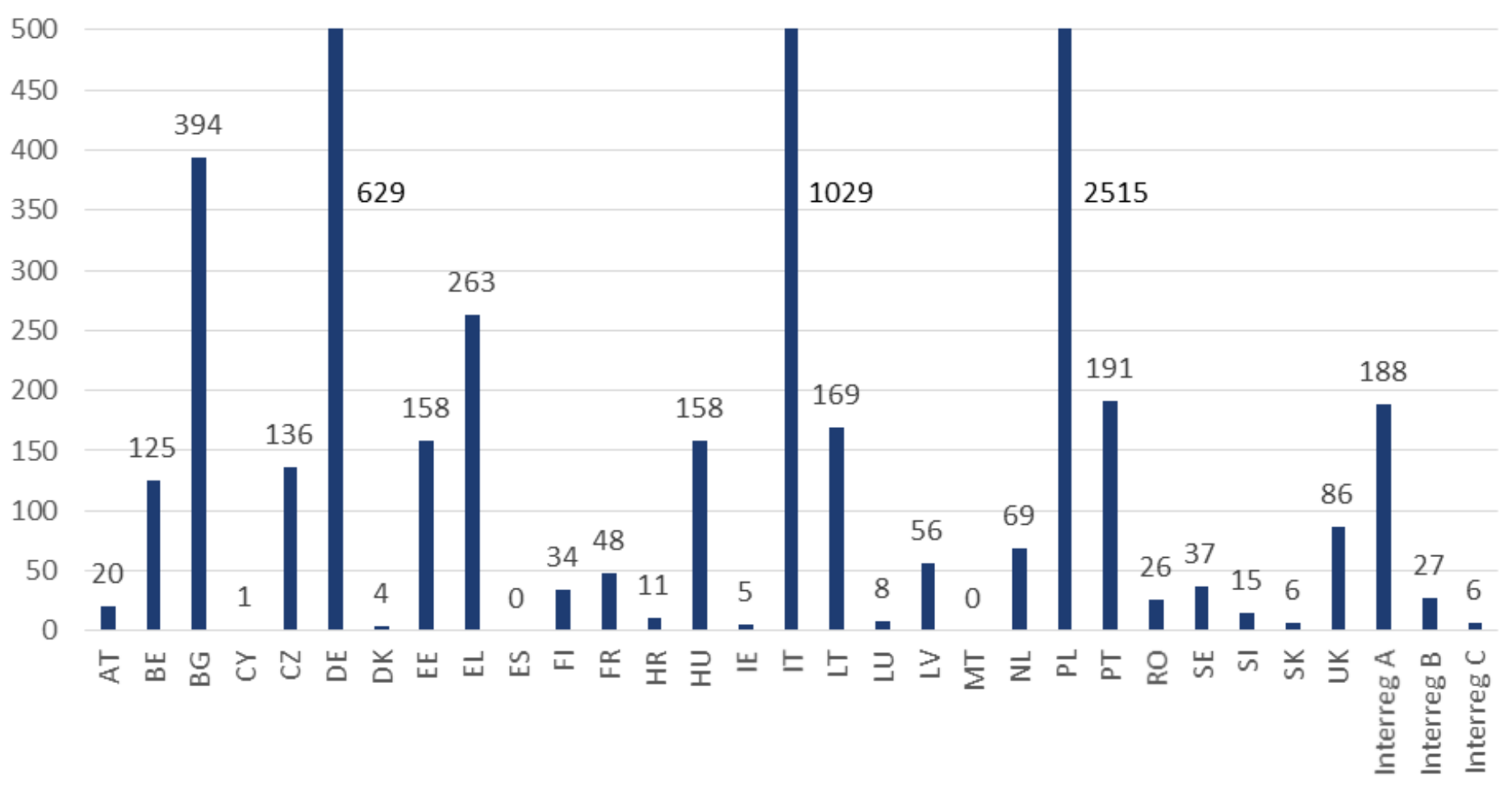
Methodology for data collection and synthesis

Key steps:

1. **Data sources** – programming documents (OPs) and ‘lists of operations’
2. **Consistent method** to identify, classify and track data
3. **Identifying the planned health investments** – review of 197 national/regional OPs and 76 INTERREG CPs
4. **Identifying the actual health investments** – review of the lists of operations for all reviewed OPs/CPs
5. **Developing outputs:** country factsheets, INTERREG and thematic mapping documents based on Excel database of over 6,000 projects

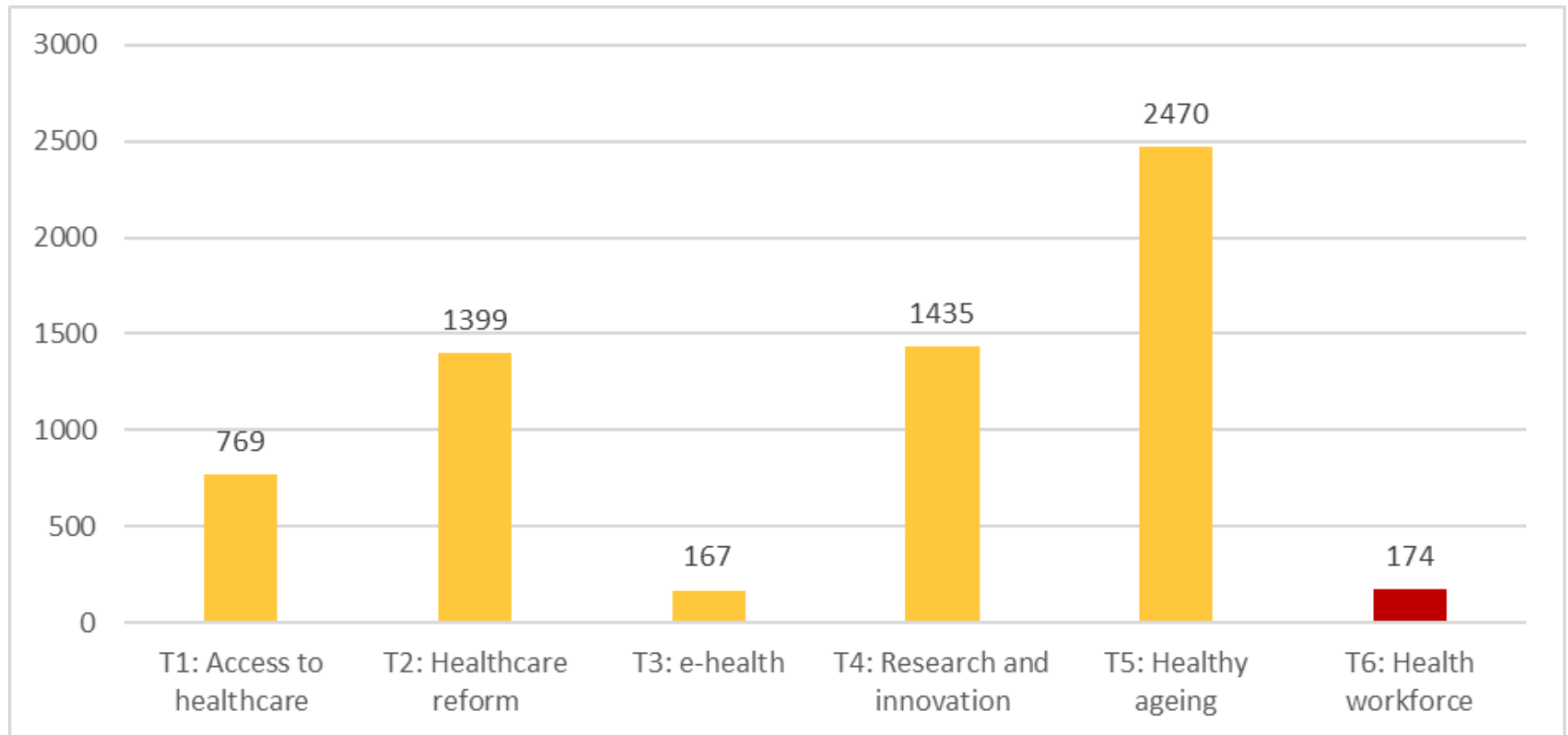
ESIF health-relevant projects, 2014-2017

- **6,414** health projects, of which 221 INTERREG projects
- Total spending of approx. **€ 6 billion**, of which € 0.5 billion INTERREG



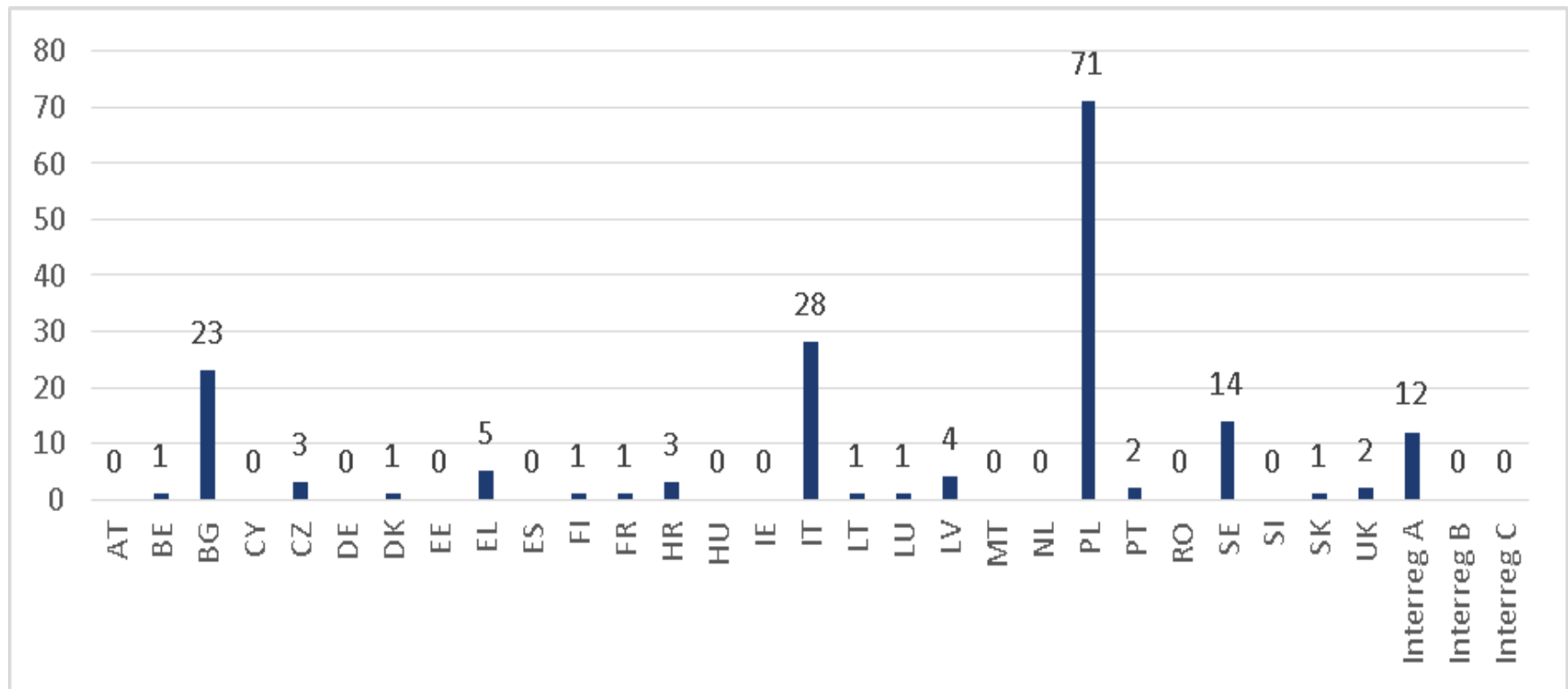
Health workforce projects

- 174 projects in 17 Member States and INTERREG
- Total budget: € 0.4 billion; average project budget: € 2.1 million



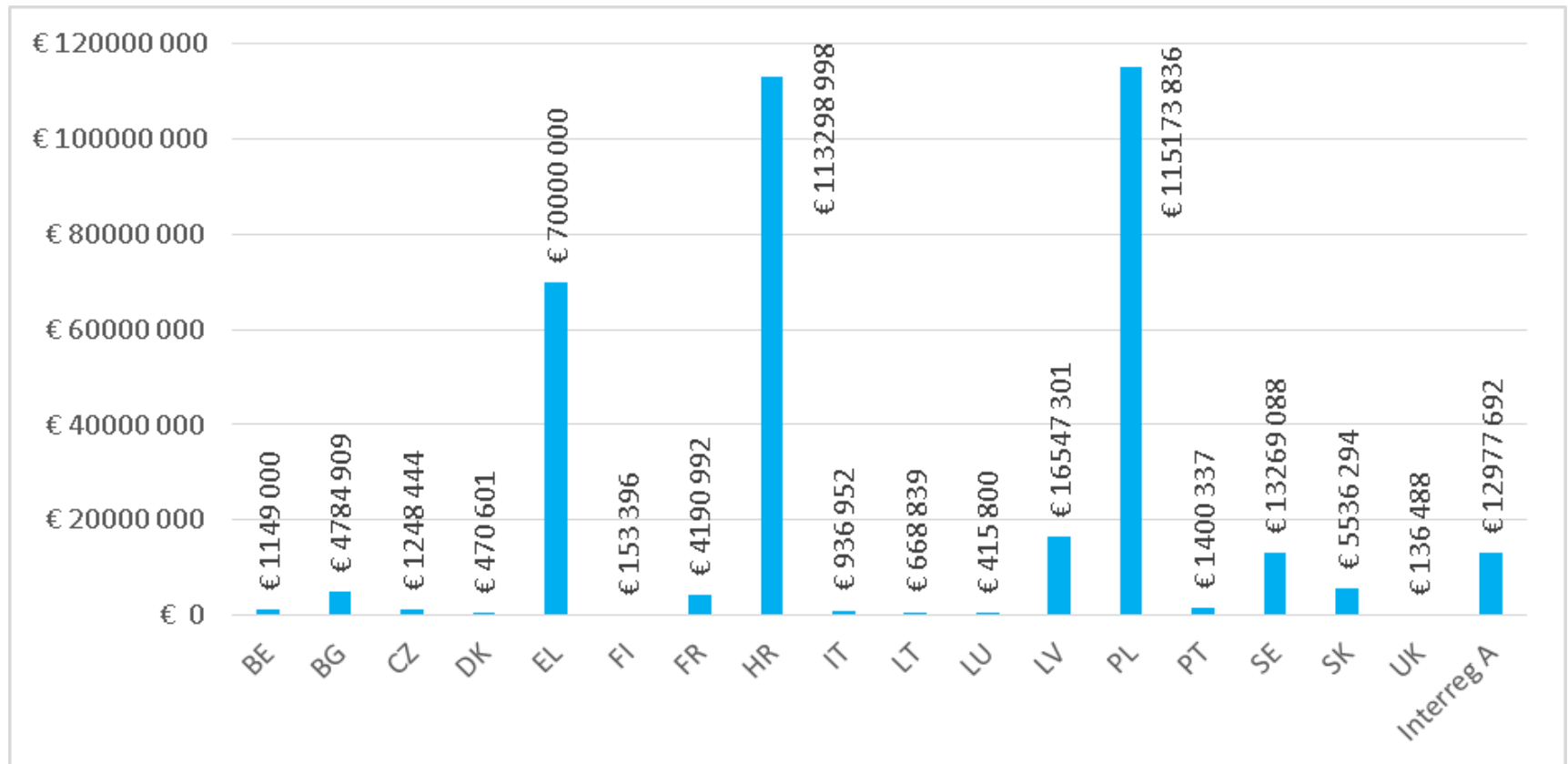
Numbers of health workforce projects per Member State

- 174 projects in 17 Member States and INTERREG
- Most projects: PL, IT, BG; 12 Interreg A projects



Total budget of health workforce projects per Member State

- Total budget: € 0.4 billion; average project budget: € 2.1 million
- Largest spending: PL, HR, EL



Health workforce projects in Bulgaria

OP Human Resources Development (ESF):

- IP11: Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations [...]
 - 1: **Increasing the knowledge, skills and competencies of the employees in the administrations** in the field of social inclusion, healthcare, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and working conditions
 - 2: Introduction of new processes with the aim **to improve the processes of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control at the institutions** operating in the field of social inclusion, healthcare, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and working conditions
- IP10: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning [...]
 - 3: **Increasing the number of persons employed** in knowledge-based sectors, high technology and ICT, green economy, „white“ sector and personal services sector, processing industry with higher value added from labour, creative and cultural sectors, who have improved their knowledge and skills with the support of HRD OP

Health workforce projects in Bulgaria

- 23 projects
- Total budget: € 4 784 909; average budget: € 208 040
- Nearly all projects focus on the training unemployed young persons or other groups of long-term unemployed and their **integration into the labour market through jobs in the health sector**
- One project that supports the institutional capacity and efficiency of health services

Health workforce projects by sub-theme

Sub-theme	# projects
Training of the health workforce	141
Workforce planning	7
Retention	0
Promoting to work in the health sector	28
Improving working conditions	4
Healthcare professional's curricula	12
Healthcare workforce mobility	2
Other	7

What does it all mean for health workforce needs and goals in the EU?

ESIF spending should be policy relevant...

“Health investments under ESIF 2014-2020 should support Member States in achieving EU goals in the health area.”

- Investments in Health – Policy Guide for ESIF

“The funds available under the current EU multiannual financial framework are being used by the Member States to help prepare and implement structural reforms.”

- European Commission, 2017

Key questions – spending trends

- How do investments align with EU health policy priorities?
- Are there projects that follow Commission's guidance on spending priorities?
- Is there evidence that spending supports structural reforms identified through European Semester process?

Key questions – project development

- What types of activities related to health workforce are easiest to fund and why?
- What are the key factors behind successful health workforce projects?
- What can be done in the current and upcoming MFF to ensure key health workforce priorities are supported by the ESI funds?

Q & A

Milieu

Peer review outcomes

- Presentations from Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia
- All working to address priority aspects of health workforce:
 - Educating and training doctors in post-graduate specialization
 - Addressing needs for specific types of professionals
 - Controlling the supply of health professionals in geographic areas
 - Good practices in terms of planned, targeted solutions
- Countries have used ESI funds in different ways to target their needs, fill gaps
- Learn from how others are doing it
- Develop ideas for new ways to address needs/challenges

Peer review outcomes

