



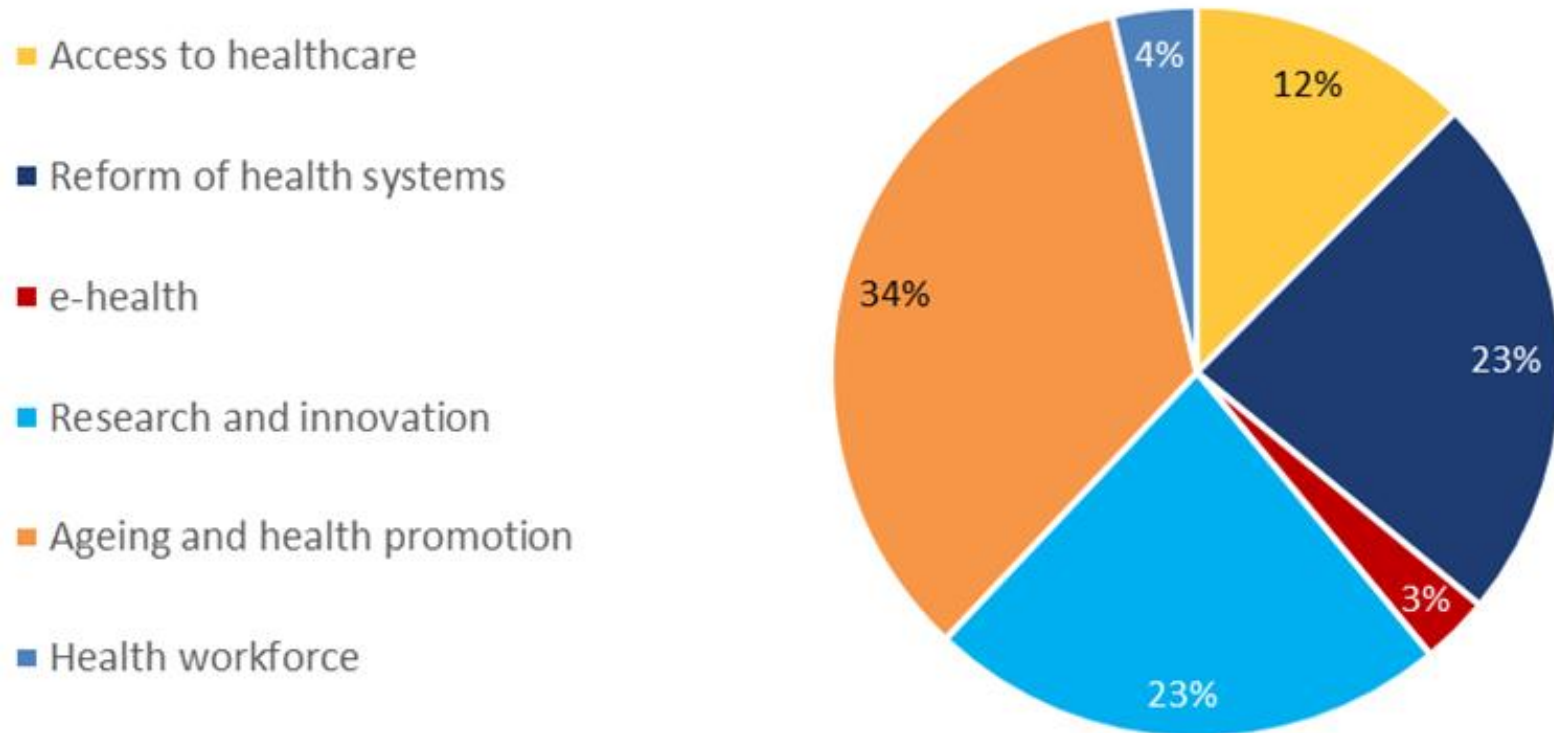
Investing to address health  
inequalities and improve access to  
healthcare



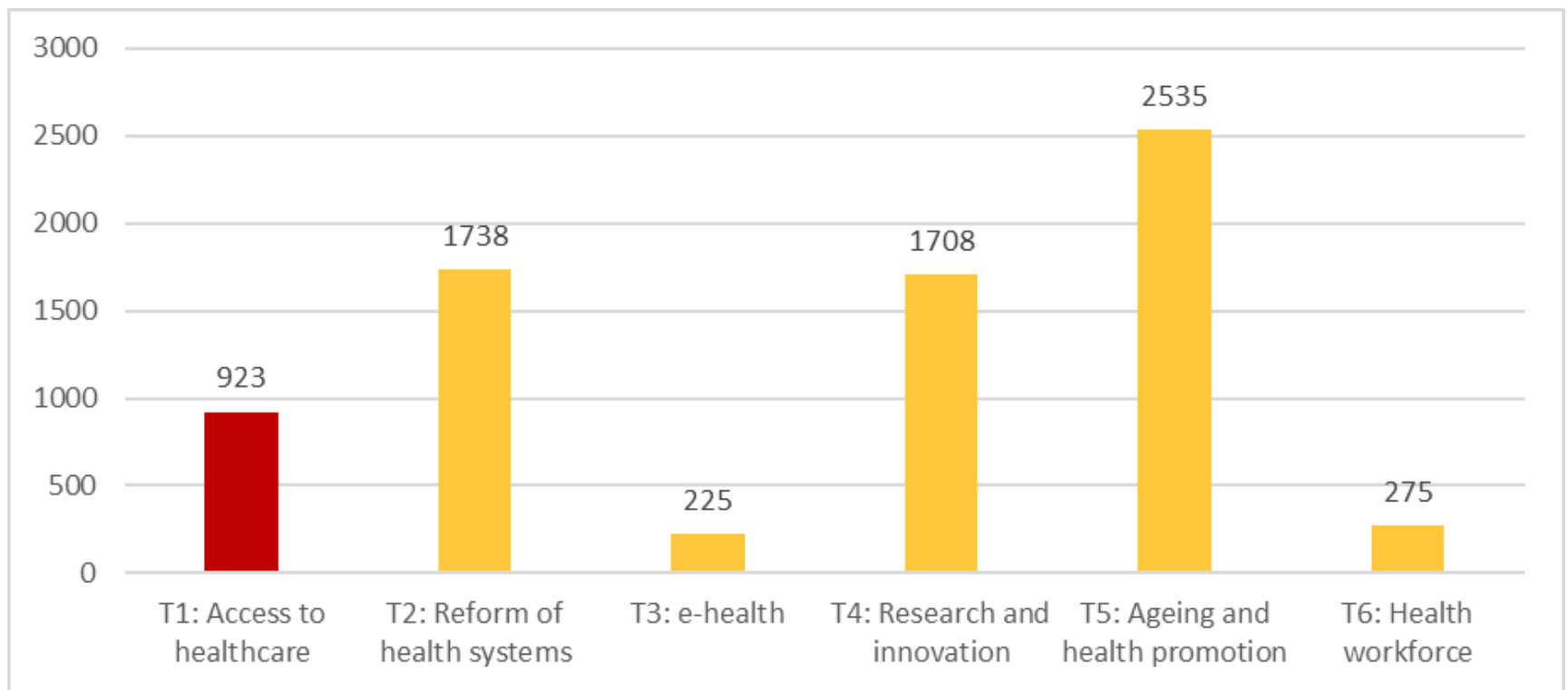
Funded by the European Union in the framework of  
the EU's third Health Programme (2014-2020)

Mapping health access to healthcare  
investments  
across the EU

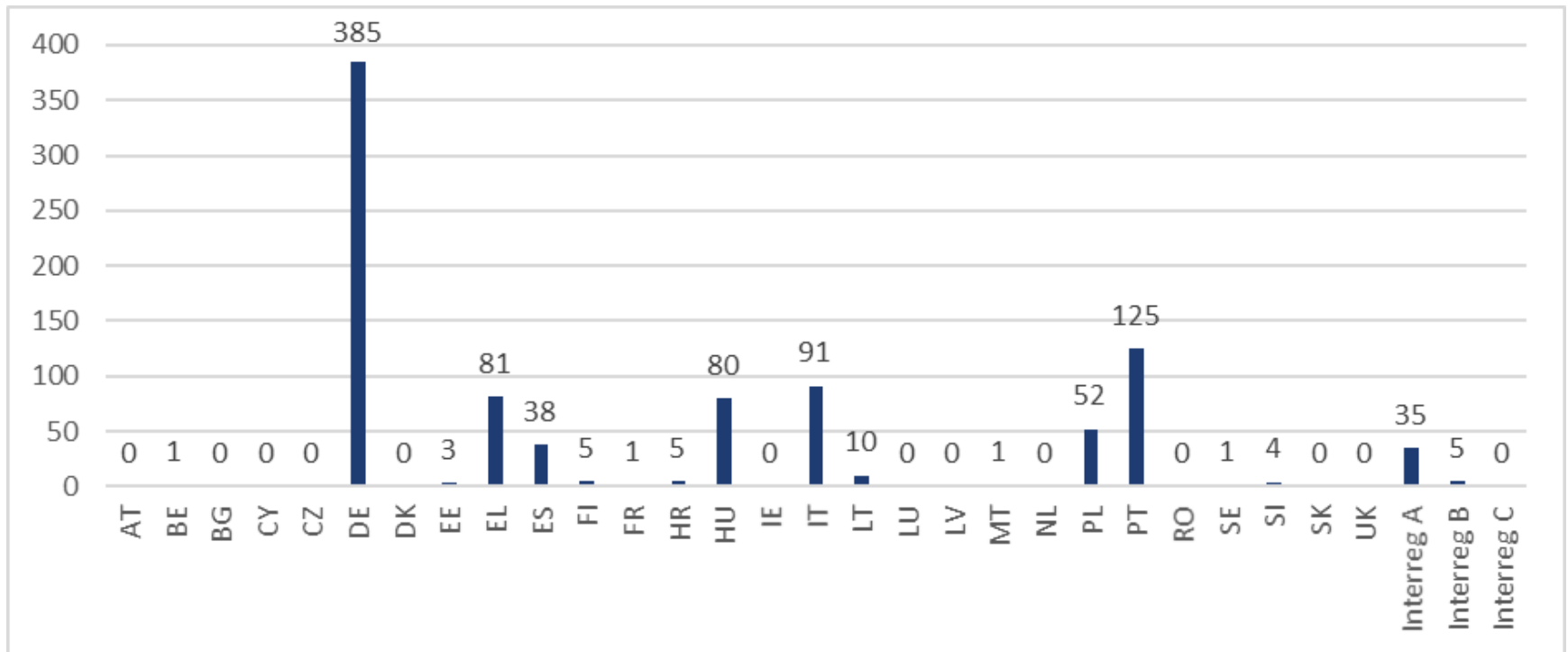
## Access to healthcare projects represent around 12% of the 7,404 projects



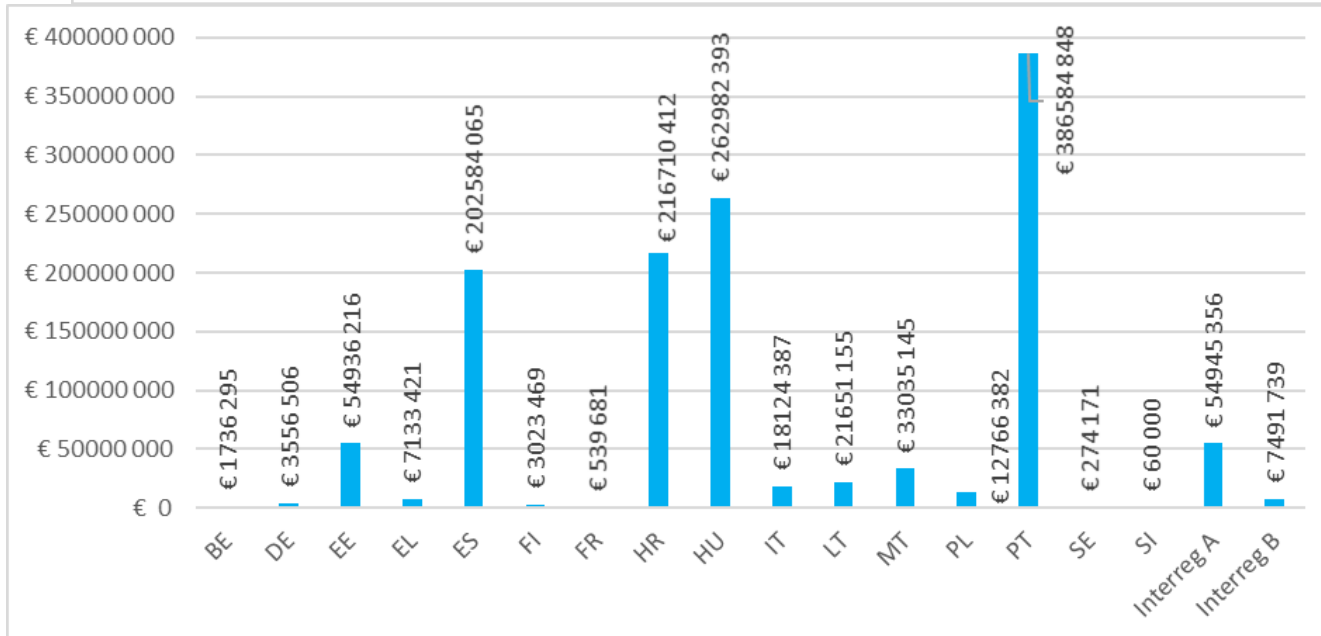
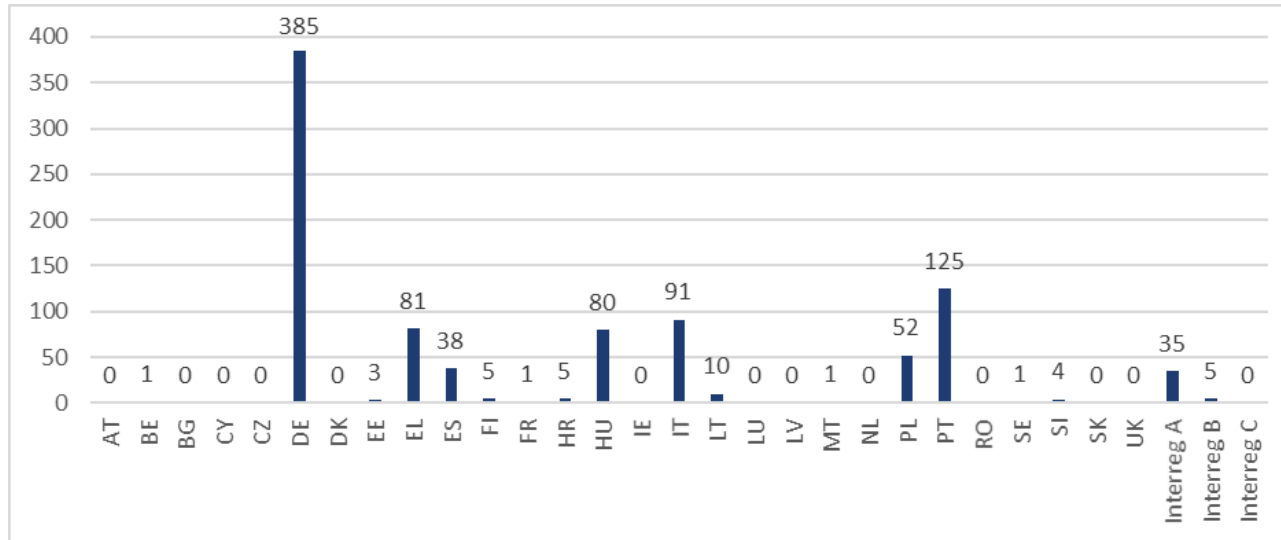
## This corresponds to 923 ESI Funded projects related to access to healthcare



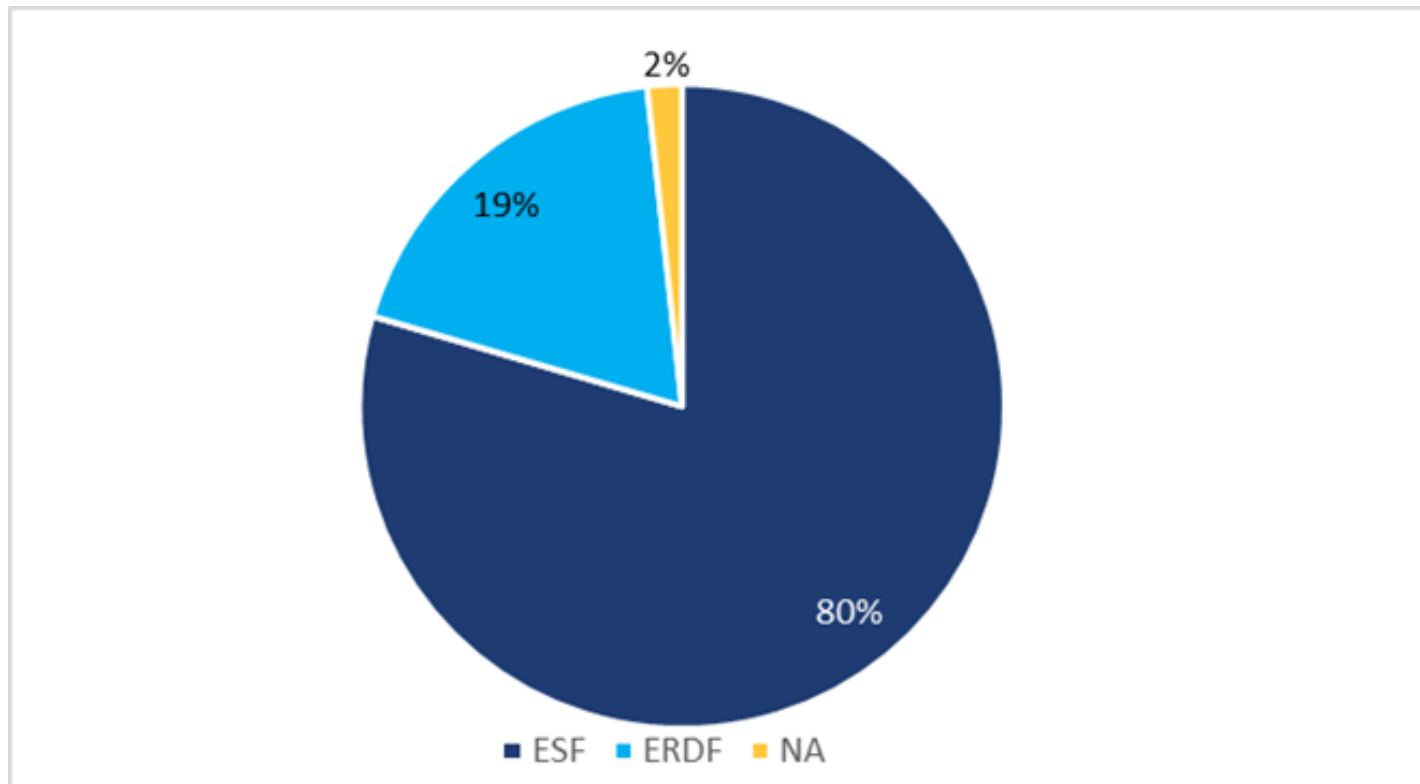
# Access to healthcare projects across MS and Interreg programmes



# Number of projects v. expenditure across Member States and Interreg



## Most access to healthcare projects are funded by the ESF



HOW ARE ESI FUNDS USED TO SUPPORT  
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE DURING 2014-2020?



# Access to healthcare

- Improving the qualifications of healthcare providers to meet the needs of vulnerable groups
- Providing healthcare services and promoting social inclusion in remote areas
- Infrastructure development and improvement (including transport)
- Combining access to health care with digitalisation and innovation

# Programming of health-related projects – **Proximity Health Units project, PT**





- Bringing primary health services to remote areas in the Algarve region
- Training workers
- Promoting employment



# Main findings for access to healthcare projects supported by ESI Funds

# Measuring access in complex but necessary

- Better indicators are needed to monitor the impact of ESI Funds in access to health care
- Most indicators measure outputs and not health outcomes
- Better indicators can also contribute to address health with a holistic view that reduces health inequalities and advances social inclusion while promoting socio-economic sustainability

# ESI Funds play an important role in complementing national funds

- With increasing demographic changes and pressure on health systems across the EU, ESI Funds can complement national budgets to address unmet health needs and increasing inequalities
- ESI Funds can be a source for funding innovative social and health projects that national governments are unable or unwilling to fund at an experimental stage
- ESI Funds' added value goes beyond financial support and also reinforces collaboration between different sectors and levels of government

# Links between access to healthcare and social policies should be strengthened

- Most of the spending for this theme falls within TO 9 (access, social inclusion and poverty)
- Supporting health investments within this broader scope should reinforce the links between social inclusion, poverty and the quality of healthcare that an individual receives
- Investments in this area can have an important return, driving significant spillovers, especially when lack of access is due to underlying socio-economic factors
- A strategic framework (national or regional) that addresses access to healthcare from many perspectives is key to this; as it is also blending 'soft' investments with investments in infrastructure

ESI Funds for Health outputs and website





## 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.

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