



# ESI Funds for Health

Investing for a healthy and inclusive EU

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# Overview

- Explore the project themes
- Identify the key figures and findings
- Outline core recommendations
- Introduce partners and project
- Present the project methodology

# Partners



- Milieu Consulting
- HealthCluster Net
- Maastricht University

# Project Aims

Explore how the ESIF are used to support health investments under the 2014-2020 programming period

Develop capacities of Member States and regions to support the effective implementation of ESIF for health

# A quick snapshot

7, 404 projects address health in 2014-2020 period

Financial allocations for health investments is around €9 billion

The total budget of the ESI funds is over €645 billion: more than half of the total EU budget

- European regional development fund
- European social fund
- Cohesion fund
- European agricultural fund for rural development
- European maritime and fisheries fund

## Quick Facts

The **average** project budget is EUR **1.2 million**

**57%** of projects main funding source was the **European Social Fund**

# Thematic Areas



Access to  
healthcare



Reform of health  
systems



E-health



Research and  
innovation



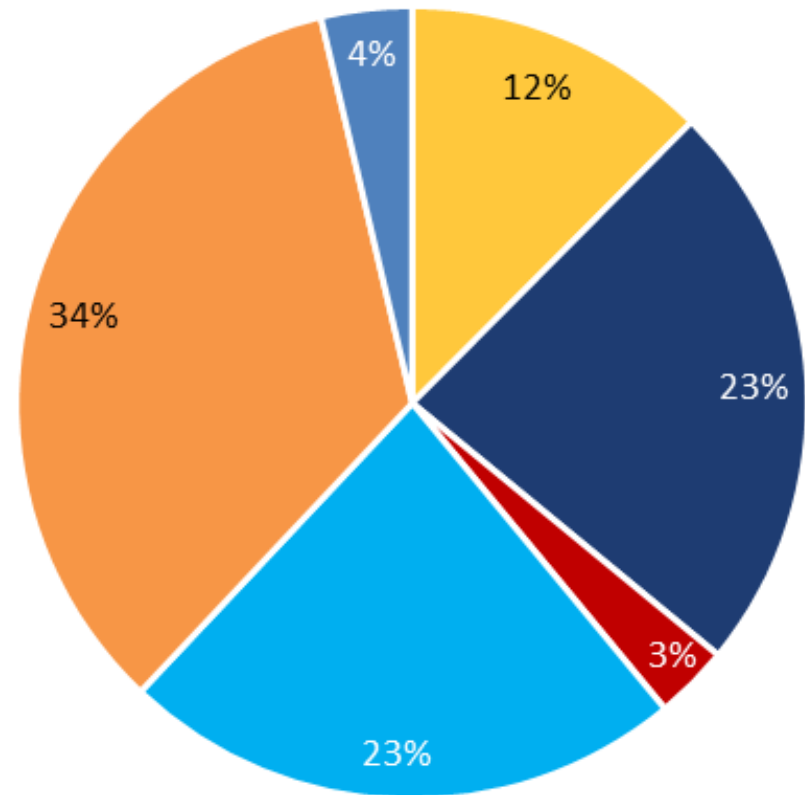
Ageing and health  
promotion



Health workforce

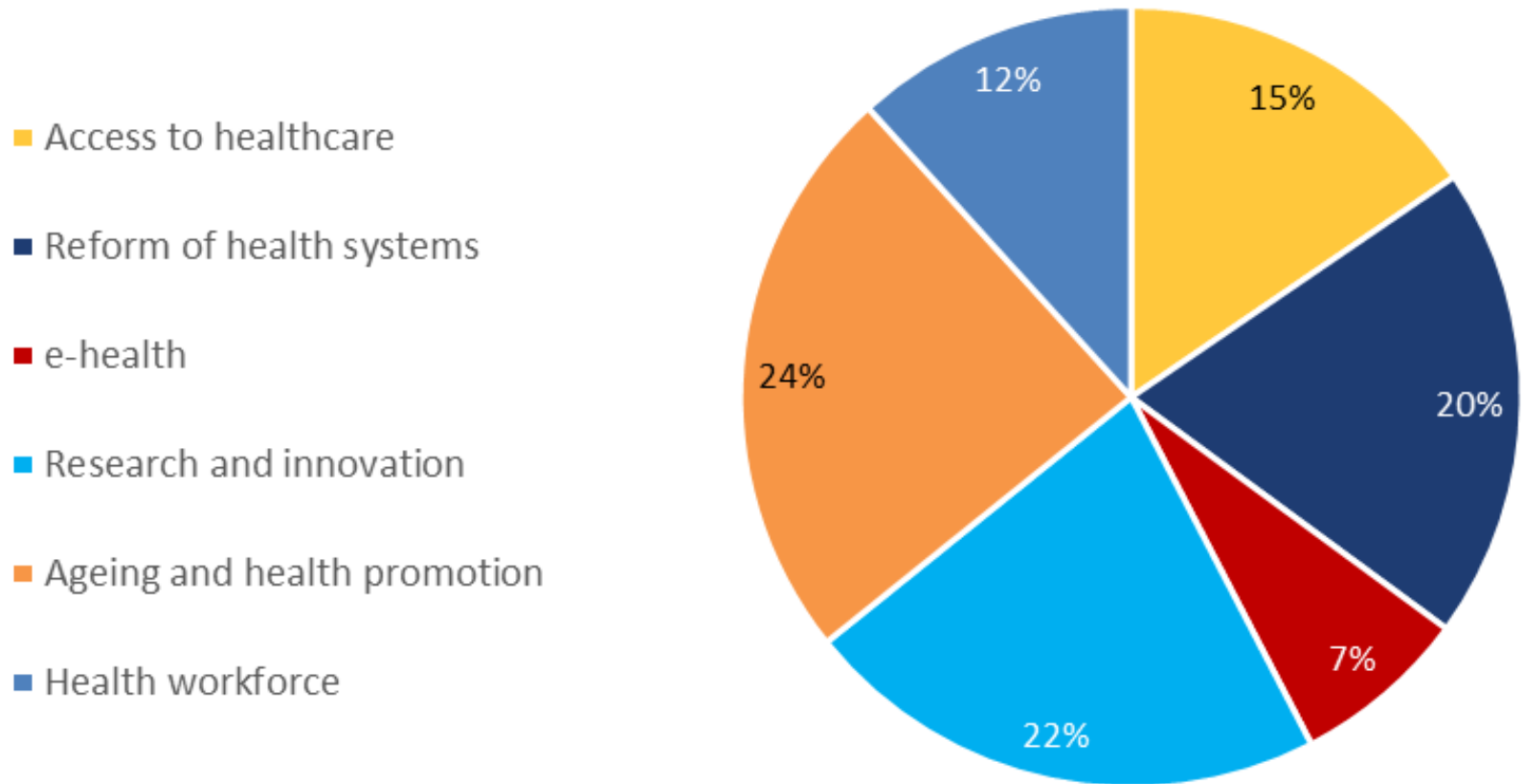
## Distribution of the number of ESI-funded health projects across the six themes

- Access to healthcare
- Reform of health systems
- e-health
- Research and innovation
- Ageing and health promotion
- Health workforce

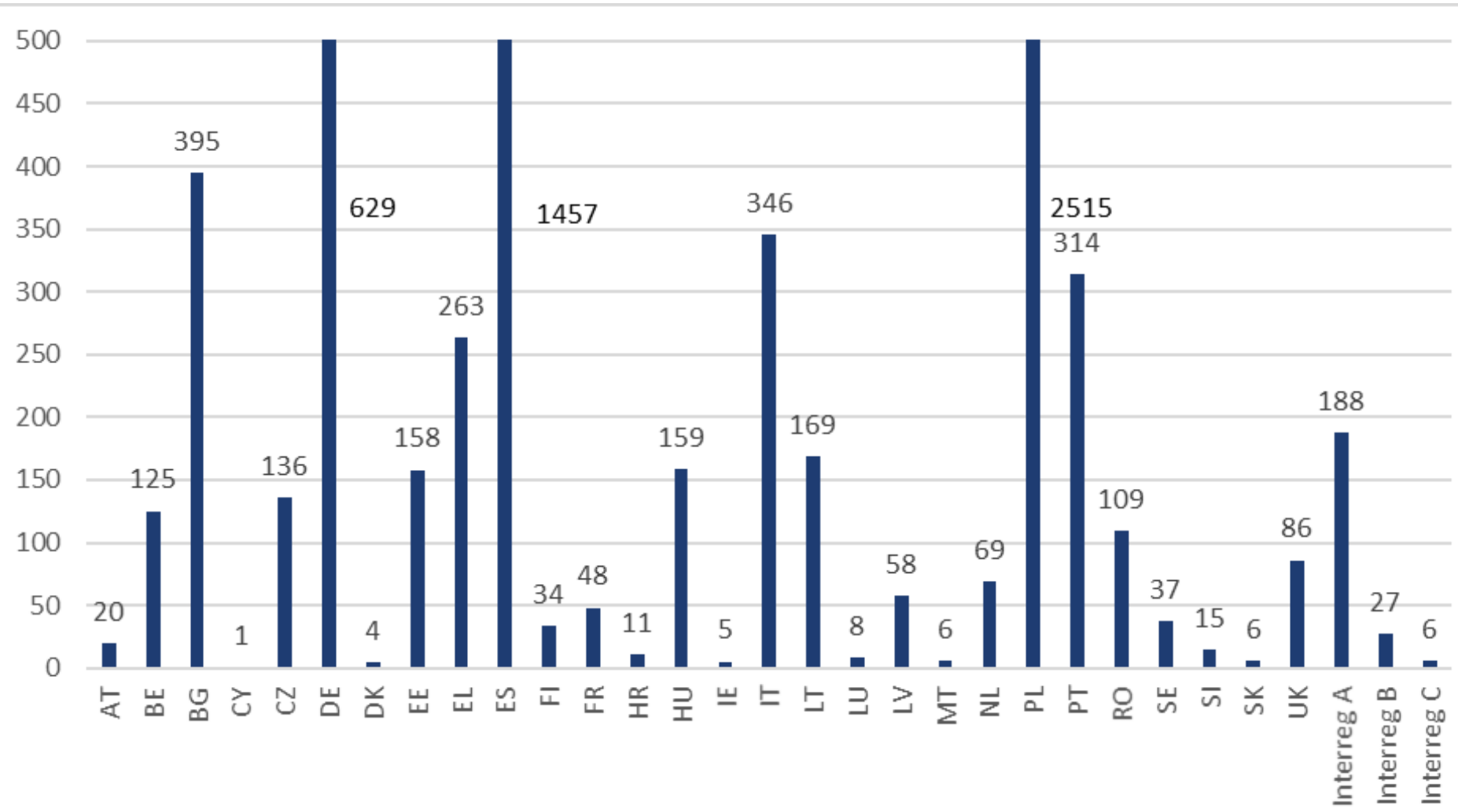




## Distribution of the budget of ESI-funded health projects across the six themes



## Number of ESI-funded health investments in the Member States and European Territorial Cooperation



# Methodology

1. Mapped projects by operational programme
2. Allocated projects to one of six themes
3. Statistically analysed spending by member state, theme, and sub-theme.

Identify and classify all health-related projects supported by ESI Funds across the EU-28 and assess their contribution to EU health policy goals

# Methodology

63 exemplary projects

Showcase the variety of ways in which health needs are targeted

Interviews with project beneficiaries to understand how the projects were conceived, developed, and implemented

- limitations of the published data
- Difficulty assigning projects to themes

# Workshops

- Health Workforce, Sofia
- Health Systems Reform, Prague
- Health Promotion, Zagreb
- Research and Innovation in Health, Breda
- e-Health, Budapest
- Access to Healthcare, Tavira

To share knowledge and build capacities for the development and implementation of EU-funded projects in the area of health.

## Focus on three themes

- Health Systems Reform
- Health Promotion
  
- Access to Healthcare

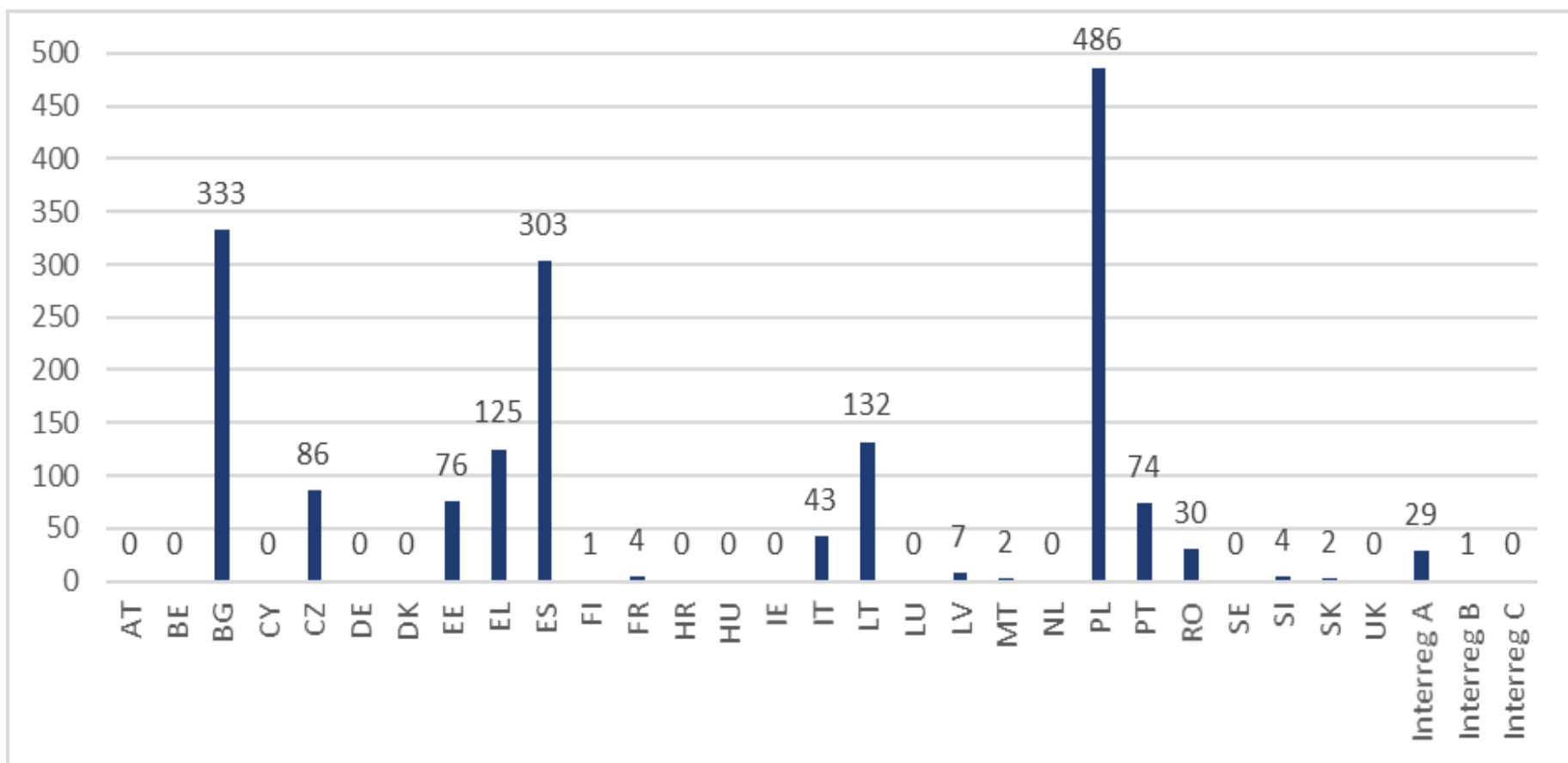
## Health Systems Reform

Investments in health system reform were found in 16 Member States

**Poland:** supporting deinstitutionalisation measures; strengthening primary care; investments in healthcare facilities

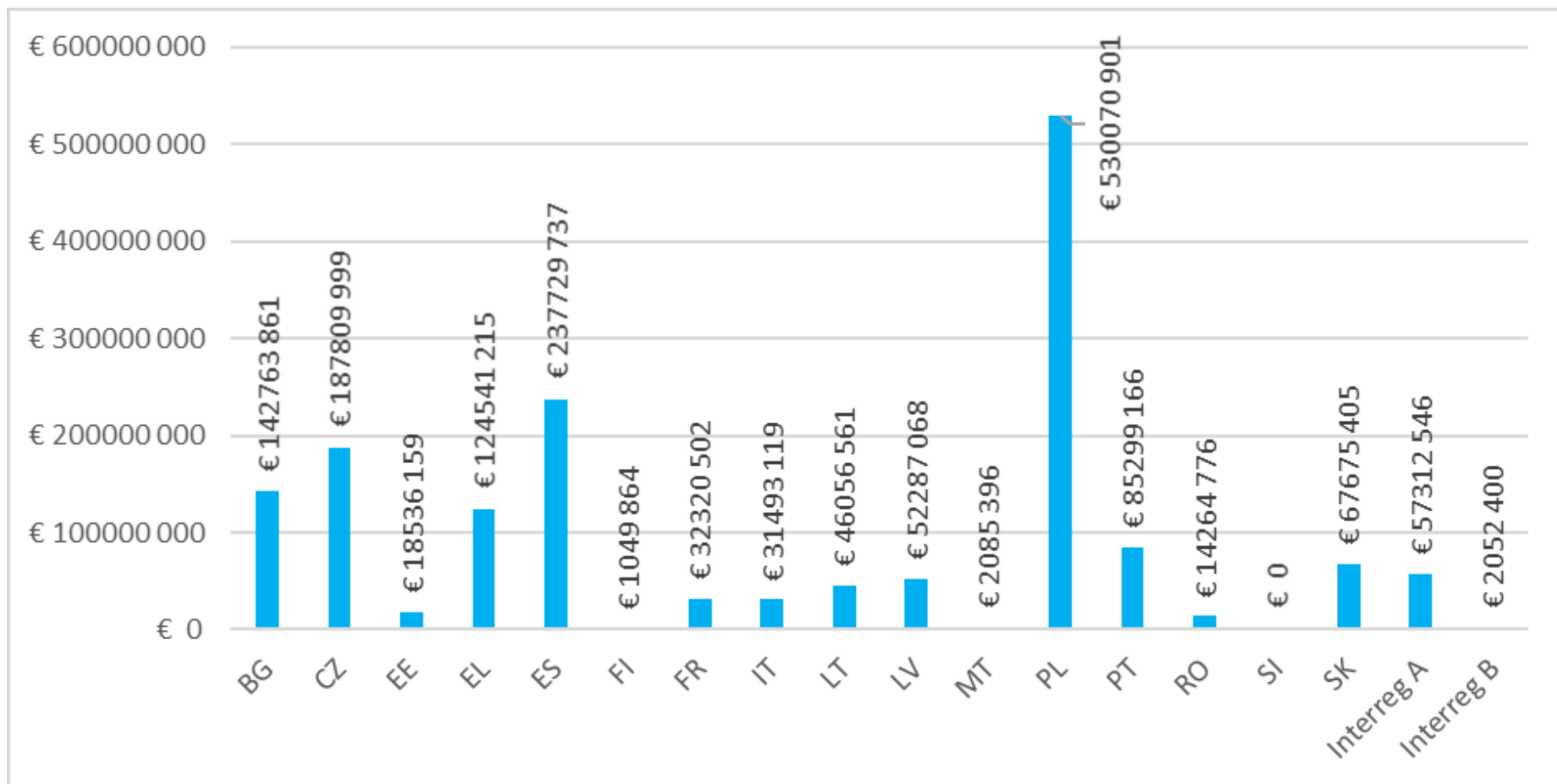
- EUR 1.6 billion
- 1,738 projects
- Poland (486 projects)
- Bulgaria (333)
- Spain (303)

# Health system reform projects by Member State and Interreg programme





# Total budget for health system reform projects by Member State and Interreg programme



## Modern health systems must be accessible, effective, and sustainable

Investment in infrastructure to support health system reform in the Mental Health Centres project in the **Czech Republic**

**Latvia:** the Ministry of Welfare is developing a country-wide model for delivering health and social services for people with disabilities and mental illness outside of institutional settings.

**Finland:** the PoPSTer project is supporting reform to health and social services within one region, Northern Ostrobothnia.

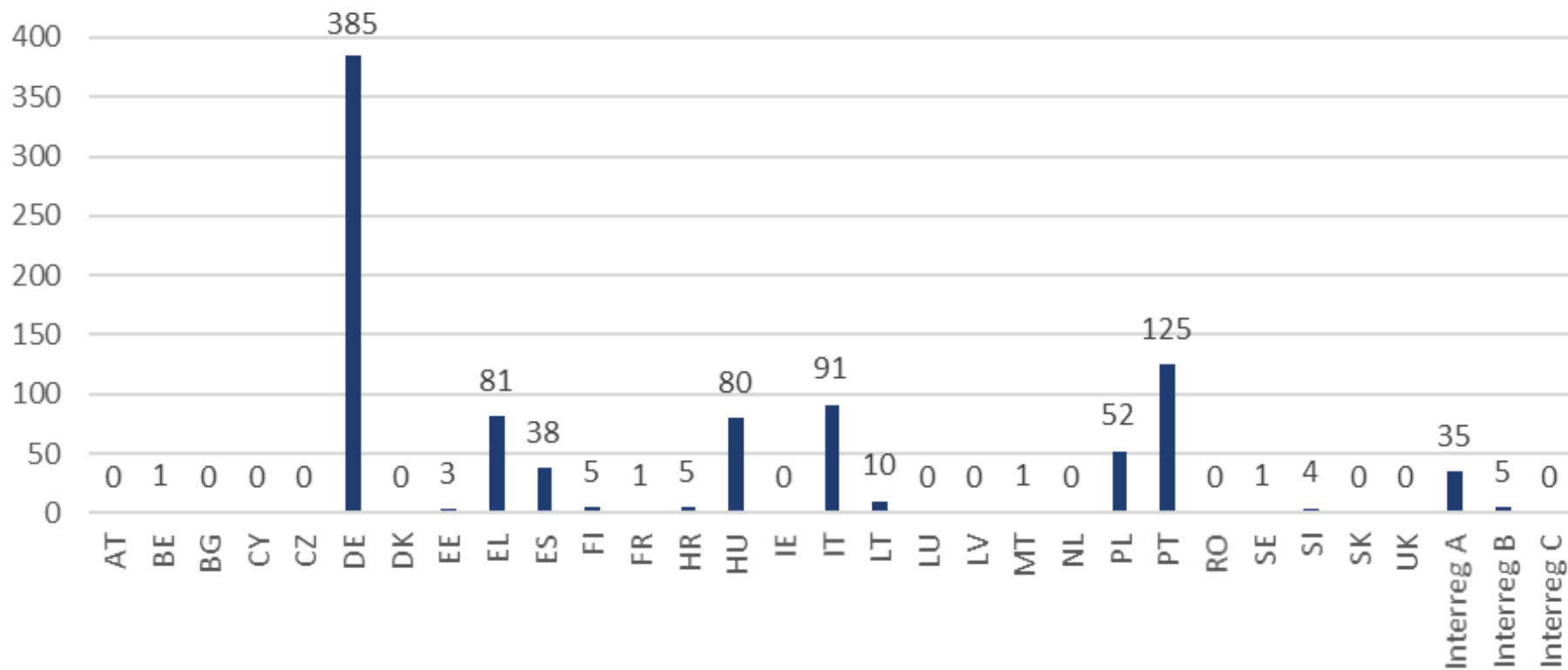
## Access to Healthcare

923 projects in 16 Member States target access to healthcare.

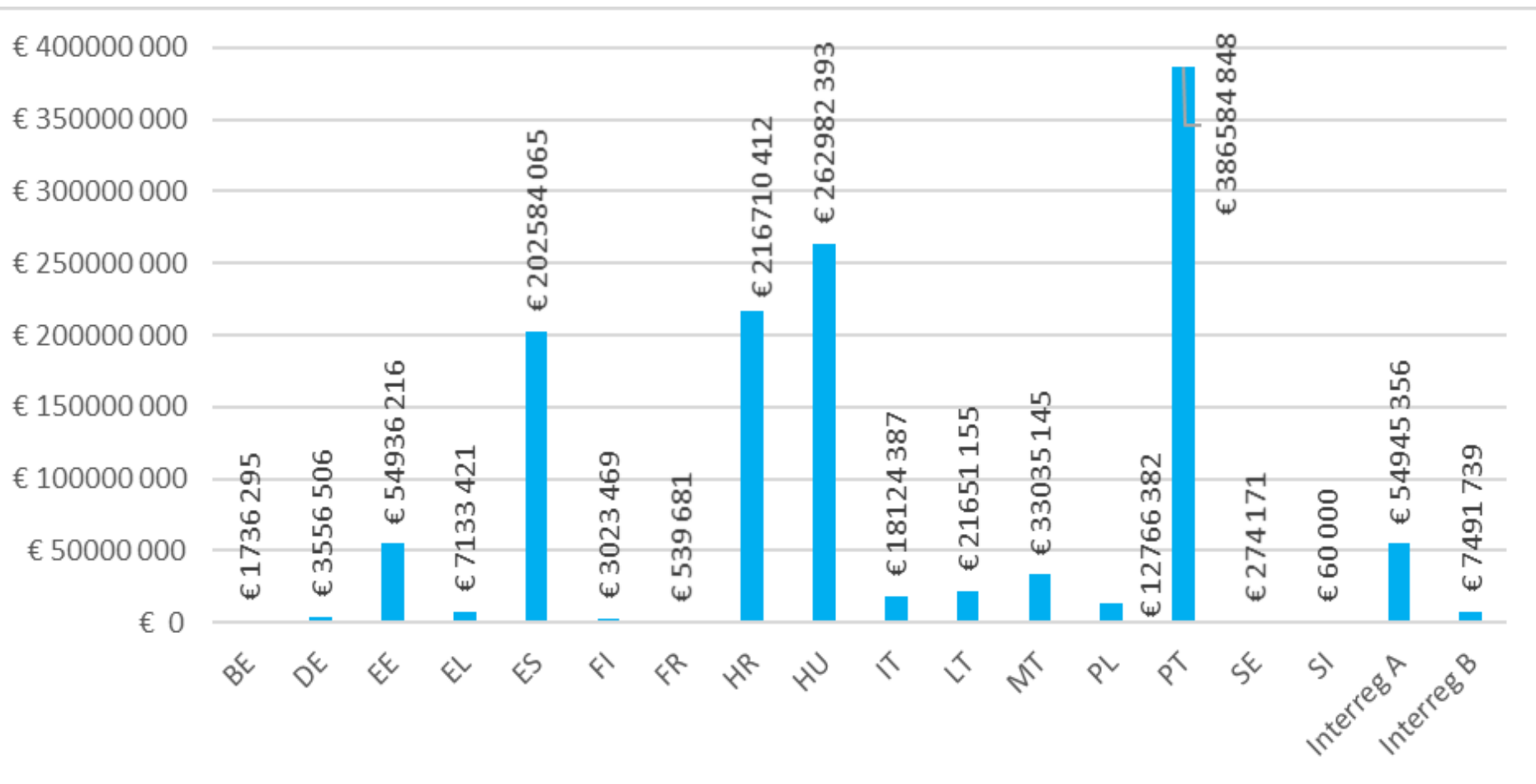
Budget is EUR 1.3 billion: average project budget of approximately EUR 1.5 million.

- EUR 1.3 billion
- 923 projects
- Germany (385 projects)
- Portugal (125)
- Italy (91)

## Improving access to healthcare projects by Member State and Interreg programme



## Total budget for access to healthcare projects by Member State and Interreg programme



## Investment is needed to address health inequalities and improve access to healthcare in the EU

**Portugal:** focus on improving the qualifications of healthcare providers to meet the needs of specific vulnerable groups

**Belgium:** mobile laboratories for patients with chronic diseases, as well as the healthcare communities that serve them, reduces the burden of caring for these patients in a hospital setting

**Greece-Bulgaria Interreg A:** improves access to primary healthcare in the rural cross-border areas with mobile health units staffed by a range of health specialists

- Ensuring access for populations in geographically remote areas
- Reducing out-of-pocket payments for healthcare services
- Shortening waiting times for services
- Ensuring necessary resources and increasing overall funding for healthcare
- Reforms of the system of coverage to healthcare services

# Health Promotion

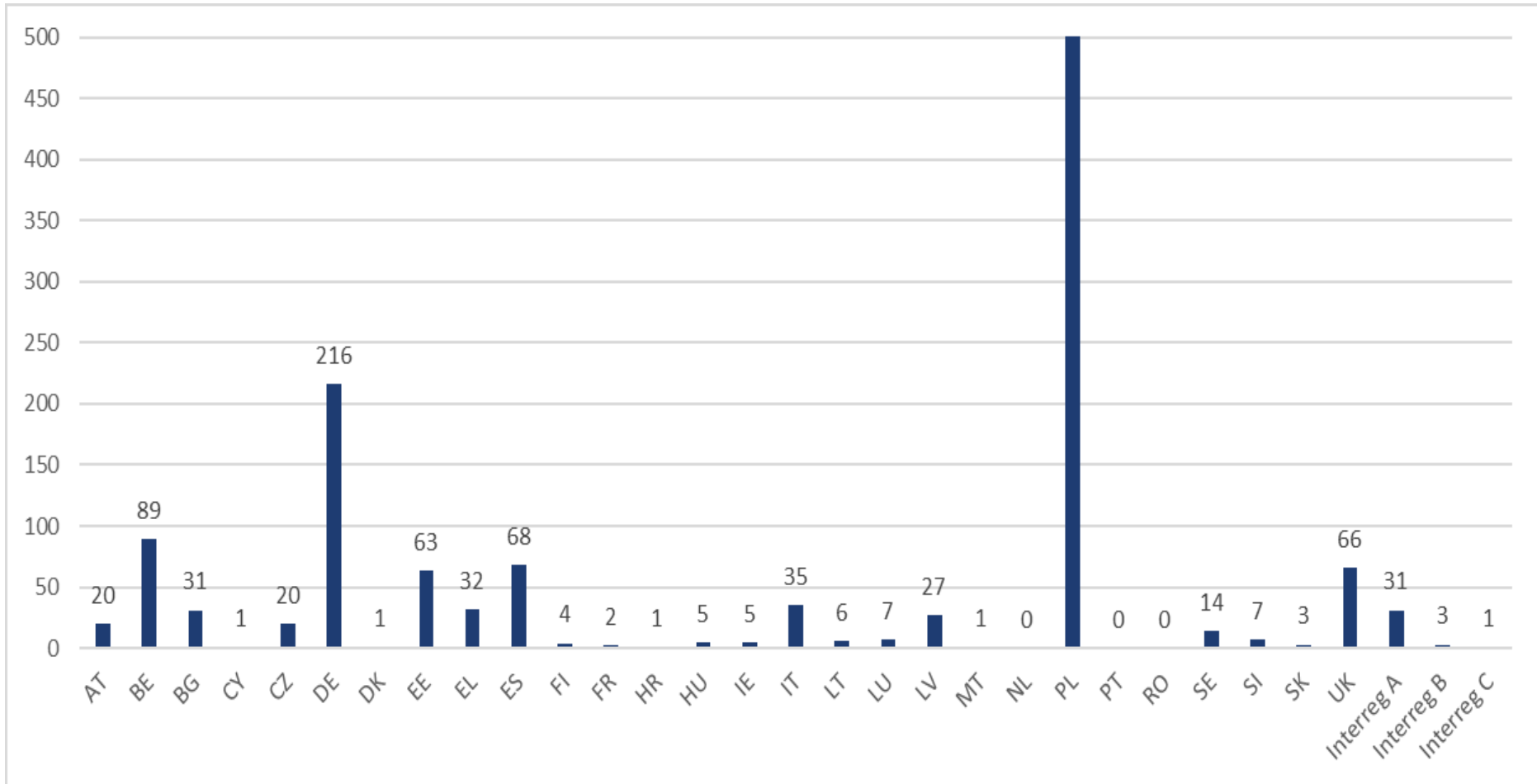
2,535 projects in 25 Member States support health promotion, healthy ageing and workplace health and safety

Greatest number of projects (34% of the total)

Small average budgets (around EUR 0.8 million) = 24% of total budget.

- EUR 2 billion
- 2,535 projects
- Poland (1774 projects)
- Germany (216)
- Belgium (89)

## Health promotion projects by Member State and Interreg programme





## ESI Funds address a broad range of issues, combining health with employability and social integration

**Croatia:** Healthy Living project aims to improve knowledge of and attitudes to the importance of healthy nutrition and physical

**Poland:** the 'Green care farms' main goal is to increase the availability and diversity of care services in rural areas while providing further qualifications for caregivers and tutors

**Slovenia:** SOPA builds capacity for health professionals and social workers to establish an interdisciplinary approach to reduce harmful alcohol-drinking among Slovenian adults

The broad nature of projects in this area is reflected in the diverse approaches of Member States.

## Health promotion and disease prevention are cost-effective and counteract social isolation

- ESI Funds can complement limited national budgets
- ESI Funds have helped national and regional authorities to implement projects that could not be funded from national sources
- More cross-sectoral integration, sustainability and long-term planning is needed

# Recommendations

- More capacity building is needed to support ESI Fund investments across the EU
- Better coordination and blending of different funds and types of investments
- Real need to blend 'soft' elements of interventions with 'hard' infrastructure investment

More holistic and cross-sectoral collaboration

Break away from project based financing to ensure sustainability

# THANK YOU

## Contact us

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## Follow us



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