

# Experiences from the Netherlands

Michiel Rijsberman

Regional Minister for the Province of Flevoland  
Chair of the AER taskforce on the future of cohesion policy

Varaždin, 13/02/2020



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Osnovni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## ESI Funds in the Netherlands

- How it works?
- Difference with Croatian regions
- Results?

1

2

## How it works?

- Netherlands is a decentralised unitary state, 12 different provinces
- Regional innovation policy started as national competence with national funding
- With the introduction of cohesion policy, national funding stopped. Line of reasoning NL government: regions have EU funding now for regional innovation
- 
- 4 different operational programmes, 4 different management authorities
- The province of Flevoland is part of the Operational Programme Western Netherlands
- OP W-NL: 4 provinces and 4 cities (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, the Hague and Utrecht) together with the MA prepare and implement funds
- Focus on innovation, a low-carbon economy and sustainable urban development



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Osnovni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## Diference with Croatian regions

- Dutch Regions only spend ERDF
- Dutch Municipalities use ERDF and ESF
- Netherlands not eligible for Cohesion Fund
- No competences on healthcare, primary and secondary education for Dutch Regions
- Regions, cities and MA are in the driver's seat in the Netherlands for implementation of cohesion policy
- We just completed a draft Smart Specialisation Strategy for 2021-2027. Little to no interference from the national government

3

4

## Results

- Results from 2007-2013 period of ERDF:
  - €826.7 million euros from the ERDF invested in the Netherlands
  - Resulted in €2.76 billion euros private and public investment in projects
  - Support to 25.336 SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups
  - ERDF created 31.058 new jobs
  - Every euro from ERDF resulted in €3.34 euro of investment
- Where we are in the 2014-2020 period of ERDF:
  - €510 million, of which €159 million is being spent so far (35% allocated, 65% to go till 2023)
  - Delay in EU decision-making for 2014-2020 programming period
- Future programme for 2021-2027 top priority in advocacy towards our national government and the EU institutions



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK.10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varadinski uprave



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## How has the Province of Flevoland used ERDF?

- Flevoland and ESF funds
- Examples for innovation, sustainability and Interreg cooperation
- Tips and things we like to see different



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK.10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varadinski uprave



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## How has the Province of Flevoland used ERDF?

- Built from the sea up
- Flevoland grew up with ERDF and ESF
- Up to 2006 Flevoland was an objective 1 region [least developed region], large influx
- 2007-2014 Flevoland received ~ €34 million euros EU ERDF funding
- 2014-2020: we have spent €8.6 million [1 May 2018] of an allocation of €15 million
- 2014:2020: Every ERDF Euro for Flevoland is planned and decided
- Shrinking allocation but still high ambition and added value!



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK.10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varadinski uprave



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## ERDF projects in Flevoland

- **ERDF projects for innovation in Flevoland**
- Innovation Incentive Lelystad
- Proof of concept funding for start-ups and SMEs
- 
- **ERDF projects for sustainable solutions in Flevoland**
- Vertical Farming, Dronten
- Power Parking, Lelystad



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK.10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varadinski uprave



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHEZIJA

## Towards the next programming period advocacy experiences

- 2015-2020. Target now: national government
- Positions in the Netherlands
- Positions in Brussels
  - CoR Rapporteur on simplification of financial rules
  - CoR Rapporteur for European Regional Development Fund
- Advocacy actions



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
IKOHORŽJA

## Flevoland and international cooperation

- Interreg Deutschland – Netherlands
- Interreg Europe Foodchains 4 EU
- Interreg Europe – EV Energy
- New: Interreg North West Europe cooperation on decentralised water treatment plants – project approval in March 2020



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
IKOHORŽJA

9

10

## Tips for implementation

- Plan more projects than funds are allocated.
- Last programming period we exceeded 100% ERDF spending because another Dutch region underspend
- We have more project plans lined up for this period



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
IKOHORŽJA

## Things from 2014-2020 we like to see different in 2021-2027

- More **clarity and legal certainty**
- **Goldplating** should be avoided
- Lower the administrative burden of **ex-ante assessments**
- **Proportionate control system** – towards a **single audit system**
- Use and trust national control system for audit if appropriate
- Introduction of **simplified cost options**



PROJEKT Suradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije



Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
IKOHORŽJA

11

12

## Latest developments and new challenges for the next period

- Trialogue on policy priorities, implementation rules and control
- Negotiating box of the MFF
- Can we start in time?
- Effect of the Just Transition Fund



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTIČKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
IKOHEZIJA

13

## Towards the next programming period – advocacy experiences

### ➤ Timing lobby:

- Start in 2015
- Lobby continues into 2020. Target: our national government

### ➤ Making positions in the Netherlands:

- Joint position on cohesion policy of the 12 provinces (2016)
- Joint position on (the implementation, focus and simplification of) cohesion policy made by the national ministry, the 12 provinces, cities. No shared position on budget



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTIČKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
IKOHEZIJA

14

## Towards the next programming period – advocacy experiences

### ➤ Making positions in Brussels:

- CoR rapporteur on the simplification of the financial rules of ESIF 2014-2020
  - Lowering the administrative burden
  - A simpler proportionate audit system, single audit principle
  - Legal certainty and clarity
  - Combined use of ESIF and EFSI (now InvestEU programme)
  - Result: elements are included in the review and fully taken on board for 2021-2027
- CoR rapporteur for European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund
  - Focus on regional thematic concentration
  - Regional Initiative for cohesion policy
  - AER taskforce on cohesion policy, position papers and cohesion alliance



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTIČKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENTNOST  
IKOHEZIJA

15

## Towards the next programming period – advocacy experiences

### ➤ Efforts towards our national government:

- Threat: NL does not want to contribute more to MFF, cutbacks for cohesion policy
- Twice a year meeting with state secretary responsible for cohesion policy
- Contact with the minister of foreign affairs, minister of internal affairs
- Working visit to Brussels for spokesperson for European Affairs of National Parliament
- Letters from the Dutch regions, articles in newspaper, use of media when appropriate

### ➤ Efforts towards the European institutions:

- Direct contact with European Commission during preparation of the proposals
- Contact with Members of European Parliament and rapporteurs to convince them of our point of view



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČNI  
INVESTIČKI FONDOVI



16

## Latest developments and new challenges or opportunities for the upcoming period

### In the decision-making process of the future of cohesion policy

- 1.) Trialogue on policy priorities, rules for implementation and control
- Topics that will be decided upon:
  - who is responsible?
  - how can we use the programmes to deliver results?
- Trialogues on part of articles have been completed
- Council (Netherlands and Croatia as members) and European Parliament have equal decision power on priorities, implementation and control



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTITSIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHORIJA

## Latest developments and new challenges or opportunities for the upcoming period

### 2.) The negotiating box of the MFF (everything financial of cohesion policy)

- Focus will be on:
  - The EU budget for cohesion policy
  - The allocation of funds between regions
- Charles Michel as EU president of the Council is in charge
- Our Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance have been preparing an agreement.
- Our prime ministers will discuss a political deal:
  - 20 February: special summit on MFF
  - 26/27 March: European Council meeting on MFF
- European Council decides MFF; European Parliament only has right of consent



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTITSIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHORIJA

17

18

## When can we begin with the implementation of the next programming period?

- An agreement on cohesion policy and MFF in mid/end 2020 possible.
- Delays start implementation likely
- European Parliament calls for a transition period.
- European Commission prefers to wait for outcome council summits on negotiating box



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTITSIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHORIJA

19

## The effect of the Just Transition Fund

- Part of Green Deal, new money required
- Aimed at smoothing social and economic setbacks of energy transition
- Every Euro from JTF needs €1,5 to 3 euros cofinancing from ERDF and ESF+
- Netherlands: 220 million of JTF / Croatia: 66million of JTF
- **Administrative burden and less flexibility** for implementation of regional investment projects? Or opportunity to green energy intensive sector with extra money?



PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ogovor: KK-10.1.3.03.0002  
Sadržaj publikacije isključivo je odgovornost JURA-e



Javna ustanova za  
regionalni razvoj  
Varaždinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj



EUROPSKI STRUČURNI  
INVESTITSIJSKI FONDOVI



Operativni program  
KONKURENČNOST  
I KOHORIJA

20

**Thank you**

**Michiel Rijsberman**  
Regional Minister for the Province of Flevoland  
Chair of the AER taskforce on the future of cohesion policy

PROJEKT Saradnja za razvoj  
Br. ugovora: KK-16-1.3.03.002  
Sredstvo putem poticanja sektora je odgovornost JURA-e

Javna ustanova za  
razvoj i investicije  
Varadzinske županije

Projekt je sufinancirala Evropska unija iz  
Evropskog fonda za regionalni razvoj

EUROPSKI STRUKTURALNI  
INVESTICIJSKI FONDOVI

Operativni program  
Saradnja za razvoj  
Koncept