Comprehensive Analysis of EU Fund Utilization and Financial Trends

Ishan Surdi

Disclaimer

This research and its findings are based solely on independent analysis and do not represent the views, opinions, or positions of any organization, whether governmental, educational, corporate, or otherwise. The conclusions drawn are entirely my own and are not intended to harm, mislead, or misrepresent any entity or individual.

The visualizations and analyses rely on data obtained from the dataset provided by "European Data," available at http://data.europa.eu/88u/dataset/vs2b-dct3.

The dataset is licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, as stated in the copyright notice at https://data.europa.eu/en/copyright-notice. This license allows use, sharing, and adaptation of the dataset, provided proper attribution is given to the original source. This research complies with these licensing terms to the best of my understanding.

This work is purely for educational and non-commercial purposes and is conducted with respect for intellectual property rights. While the analysis and content of this research may be original, any referenced resources, trademarks, or materials are the property of their respective registered owners. Their inclusion is intended solely for illustrative or analytical purposes and does not imply endorsement, affiliation, or ownership.

No intention exists to infringe upon any copyrights or intellectual property rights. Any concerns regarding copyright or ownership can be addressed, and corrections will be made if required.

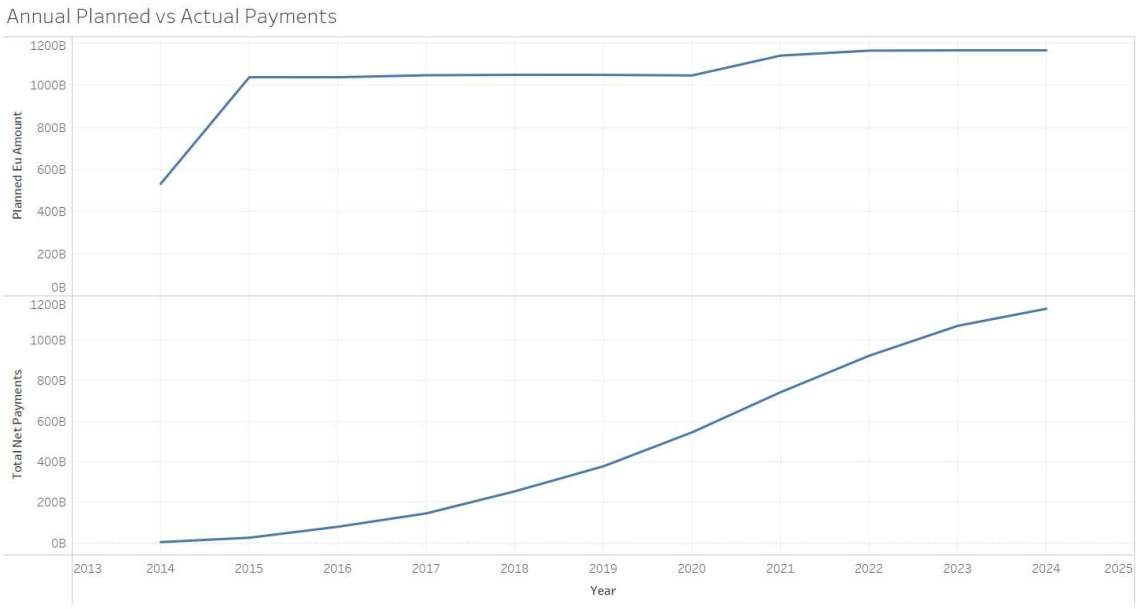
For further clarification on the licensing and terms of use for the dataset, please refer to https://data.europa.eu/en/copyright-notice.

Note: In case of reduced image quality, kindly go through the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cN2hH8zLpDM5BbATYuDF4JhOZBYFSOag/view?usp=sharin

Thank you

Index

1.Analysis of EU Planned vs. Actual Payments for Regional Policy (2014–2025)



1. Trends Observed in the Graph

1.1 Planned EU Funding

- The planned EU funding remains consistent from 2015 to 2025.
- The graph indicates that the planned funding was determined early and stayed unchanged throughout the period, representing the fixed allocation of funds for this programming cycle.

1.2 Actual Payments (Cumulative Progress)

- Actual payments show a steady increase from 2014 to 2025.
- The cumulative nature of the data ensures that each year reflects all payments made up to that point since the programming period began.
- The gradual upward slope reflects ongoing project implementation and funding distribution.

---

2. Analysis of Gaps Between Planned and Actual Payments

2.1 Initial Discrepancy (2014–2016)

- A significant gap is evident between the planned funding and actual payments in the initial years.
- This delay can be attributed to the time required to initiate projects and complete administrative procedures for fund allocation.

2.2 Narrowing Gap (2017–2025)

- From 2017 onwards, the gap between planned and actual payments begins to narrow.
- This trend highlights the increasing pace of payments as projects progress toward completion.
- By 2025, a significant portion of the planned amount is expected to be disbursed, showing effective program execution.

---

3. Insights and Conclusions

3.1 Effective Resource Utilization

- The steady increase in actual payments demonstrates the EU's systematic approach to disbursing funds for regional development.
- The narrowing gap signifies progress in program implementation and funding utilization.

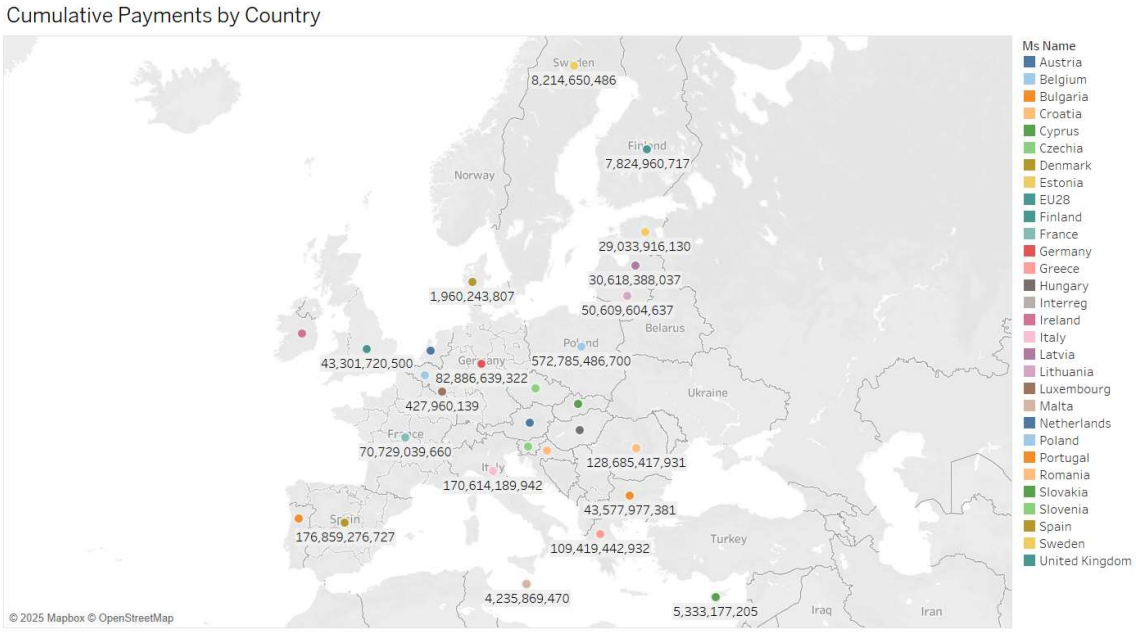
3.2 Cumulative Reporting Significance

- The cumulative nature of the data emphasizes the need for continuous monitoring to ensure funds are used efficiently and within the planned timeline.

3.3 Long-Term Implications

- The consistent planned funding and increasing payments indicate successful alignment with the EU's regional policy objectives.
- Future updates should focus on ensuring that the planned amount is fully utilized by 2025, avoiding any surplus or underutilization.

2. Analysis of Cumulative Payments by Country (Regional Policy 2014–2020)



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows details about Ms Name. The marks are labeled by sum of Cumulative Interim Payments.

1. Trends Observed in the Map

- Significant disparities in payments are evident between countries.
- Large economies such as **Germany (€ 82.88 billion)** and **Spain (€ 176.86 billion)** receive the highest cumulative payments, reflecting their large-scale regional programs.
- Smaller nations like **Luxembourg (€ 427 million)** and **Estonia (€ 2.88 billion)** received much smaller payments.

1.2 Geographic Concentration of Funds

- **Southern Europe (e.g., Spain, Italy, Greece)** shows substantial funding, likely due to regional development priorities.
- **Northern Europe (e.g., Sweden, Finland)** receives moderate payments, possibly due to lesser reliance on regional funding for economic development.

1.3 Steady Increase in Cumulative Payments

- As this dataset is cumulative, the growing payments reflect steady project implementation over time.
- Countries with larger populations and higher infrastructure needs dominate funding totals.

---

2. Insights from Payment Distribution

2.1 Factors Influencing Payment Totals

- **Population Size and Economy:** Larger payments correspond to countries with greater populations and development needs, such as **Germany** and **Spain**.
- **Regional Development Priorities:** Countries with significant structural challenges or regional disparities, such as **Greece** and **Portugal**, received notable support.

2.2 Efficiency of Fund Utilization

- The map highlights how countries vary in absorbing allocated funds, which may relate to administrative capacity and project implementation efficiency.

2.3 Implications of Cumulative Reporting

- Reporting payments cumulatively allows clear tracking of progress and trends over time.
- Countries lagging behind, such as **Luxembourg**, may need strategic adjustments to optimize fund utilization.

---

3. Key Observations for Policy and Development

3.1 Effective Utilization of EU Funds

- The steady increase in payments reflects a well-coordinated disbursement process.
- Countries like **Poland (€ 28.68 billion)** and **Italy (€ 170.61 billion)** highlight efficient absorption of funds for large-scale regional development.

3.2 Geographic Disparities

- Payment disparities underscore the varying needs and capacities of EU nations.
- The data suggests prioritization of economic cohesion and bridging regional inequalities.

3.3 Recommendations for Future Monitoring

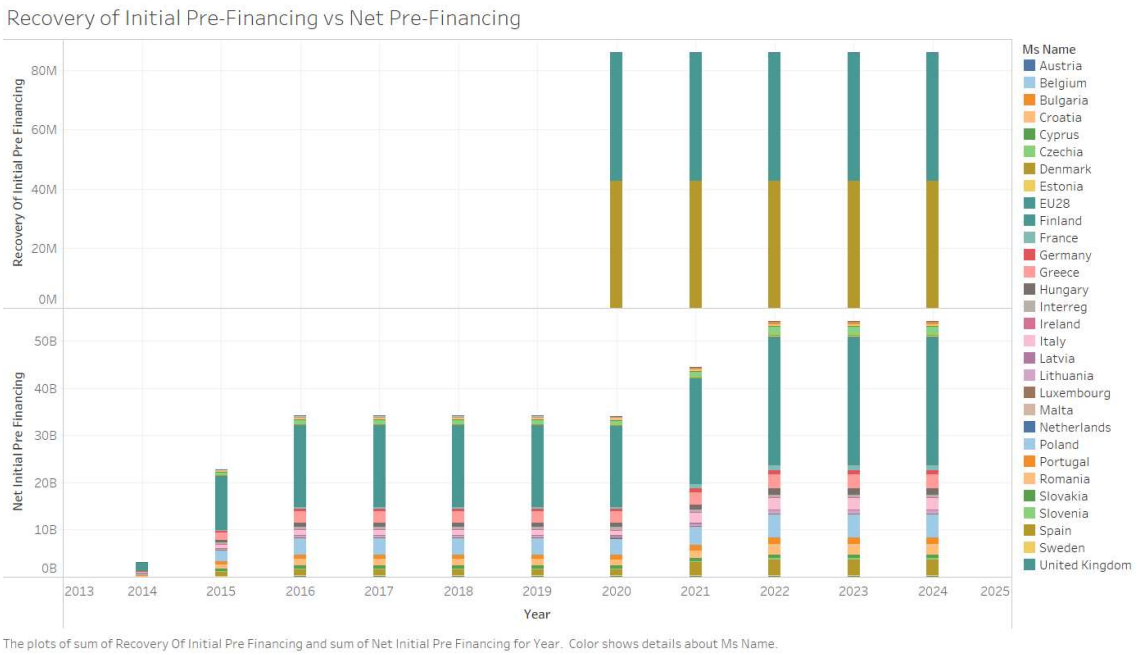
- Enhance support for countries with low absorption rates.
- Focus on ensuring that all allocated funds are utilized effectively before the end of the programming period.

---

4. Conclusions

- The EU's regional policy funding demonstrates a systematic approach to addressing regional inequalities and fostering economic development.
- While larger economies dominate the payment totals, the targeted approach ensures fair distribution based on needs and priorities.
- Continued monitoring and strategic adjustments will be essential to achieving policy objectives and maximizing the impact of these funds.

3. Analysis of Recovery of Initial Pre-Financing vs Net Pre-Financing



1. Overview of the Chart

The chart compares two critical components of EU financial management:

- **Recovery of Initial Pre-Financing**: Funds initially advanced by the EU and later recovered.
- **Net Initial Pre-Financing**: The total pre-financed amount distributed by the EU across countries over the years.
  The analysis spans from **2013 to 2025**, with color-coded bars representing individual member states.

---

2. Key Observations

2.1 Net Initial Pre-Financing Trends

- A noticeable rise in net initial pre-financing is observed from **2014 to 2020**, indicating the EU's strategic efforts to finance regional programs.
- From **2020 onward**, the net pre-financing levels stabilize, showing that the programming period reached maturity, with most initial advances being made.
- Countries like **Germany, Poland, and Spain** consistently receive larger shares, reflecting their larger-scale projects and regional development requirements.

2.2 Recovery of Initial Pre-Financing

- Recovery remains minimal in earlier years (2013–2015), suggesting the focus was primarily on distributing funds rather than recovering them.
- A significant increase in recovery levels starts around **2020**, indicating that projects have begun concluding, and funds are being recovered.
- The recovery pattern demonstrates efficient financial oversight by the EU to ensure accountability.

2.3 Country-Specific Distribution

- Countries with smaller economies (e.g., **Luxembourg, Malta, Cyprus**) receive much smaller allocations compared to larger nations, emphasizing tailored funding based on project size and economic needs.
- Despite this, even smaller countries show consistent pre-financing, ensuring regional development initiatives in all member states.

---

3. Analysis of Financial Dynamics

3.1 Phases of the Programming Period

- **2013–2016:** Initial phase focused on project initiation, with minimal recoveries.
- **2017–2020:** Peak financing phase, where most funds were disbursed to member states.
- **2021–2025:** Recovery phase, as financial flows shift from distribution to recovering pre-financed amounts.

3.2 Efficiency in Fund Utilization

- Countries with stable recovery levels post-2020 showcase effective fund utilization and project closure.
- Lower recovery rates in some countries may indicate delays in project completion or administrative inefficiencies.

3.3 Equity in Funding

- The consistent distribution across all member states highlights the EU's commitment to balanced regional development.
- Larger economies understandably dominate the funding, reflecting their infrastructural and developmental needs.

---

4. Key Observations for Policymakers

4.1 Financial Oversight

- Timely recovery post-2020 underscores effective financial management.
- Monitoring recovery levels can help identify lagging projects or administrative bottlenecks.

4.2 Stabilized Pre-Financing

- The stabilization of net pre-financing after 2020 reflects program maturity and adherence to planned funding allocations.

4.3 Recommendations

- Focus on ensuring smaller countries maintain efficient recovery to avoid delays in closing projects.
- Maintain flexibility in future funding programs to address unexpected economic challenges.

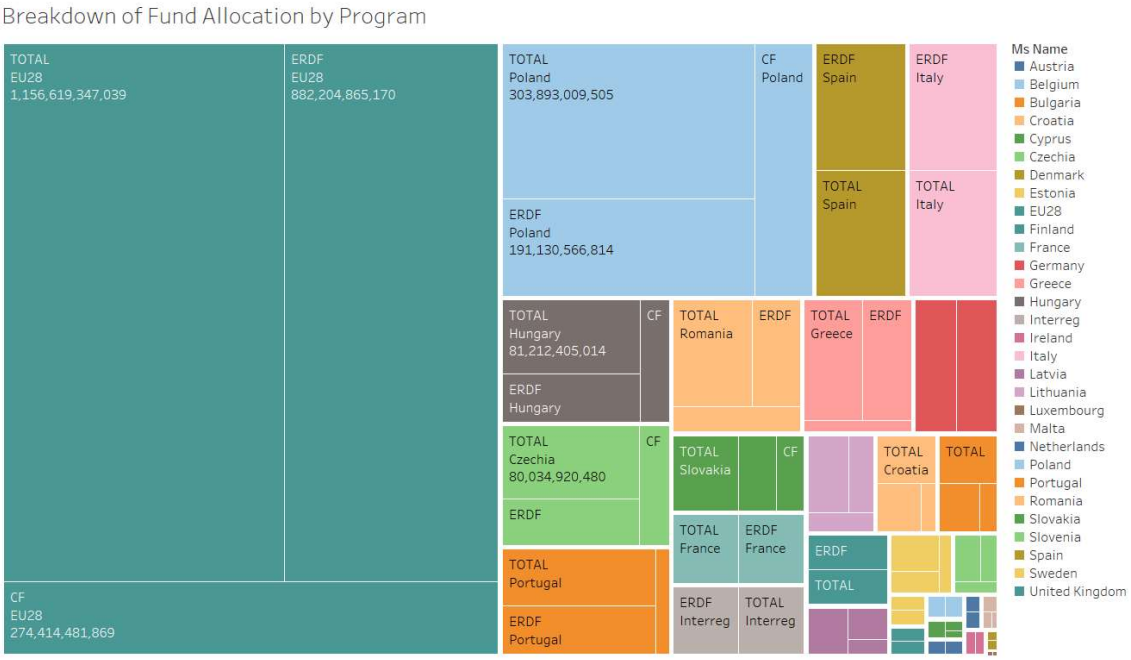
---

5. Conclusion

The chart highlights the EU's strategic financial distribution and recovery process during the **2014–2020 programming period**.

- The steady increase in net pre-financing followed by growing recoveries demonstrates a balanced approach to funding and accountability.
- Continued monitoring of recovery trends and country-specific needs will ensure the effectiveness of future EU programming cycles.

4. Analysis of EU Fund Allocation by Program



Fund, Ms Name and sum of Net Interim Payments. Color shows details about Ms Name. Size shows sum of Net Interim Payments. The marks are labeled by Fund, Ms Name and sum of Net Interim Payments. The data is filtered on Year, which ranges from 2014 to 2024.

1. Trends Observed in the Graph

1.1 Total EU Allocation Overview

- The graph presents the breakdown of the EU's funding allocation for Regional Policy programs during the 2014–2020 period.
- The total planned allocation across the EU28 nations stands at €1.16 trillion, with ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and CF (Cohesion Fund) as the primary funding sources.
- A significant portion of the funds is allocated under the ERDF program, totaling €882 billion, while the CF program accounts for €274 billion.

1.2 Country-Specific Trends

- Poland receives the largest share of funding at approximately €303 billion, emphasizing its significance in the EU's regional policy objectives.
- Hungary, Czechia, and Romania also show substantial funding, each exceeding €80 billion.
- Countries such as Portugal, Greece, and Slovakia exhibit relatively smaller allocations but are still notable in the EU funding landscape.

---

2. Analysis of Funding Distribution

2.1 Disparities Among Member States

- A notable variance exists between the allocations for member states, likely influenced by economic disparities and developmental needs.
- Poland, Spain, and Italy collectively dominate the funding landscape, receiving allocations significantly higher than smaller economies like Malta or Cyprus.

2.2 Program-Specific Allocations

- The ERDF program is the dominant funding channel across most countries, highlighting its role in supporting sustainable development and job creation.
- The CF program is more targeted and appears to focus on specific member states with substantial infrastructural needs.

---

3. Insights and Conclusions

3.1 Effective Distribution of Resources

- The EU's allocation strategy prioritizes economic cohesion, targeting nations with higher developmental needs, such as Poland and Hungary.
- The dominance of ERDF funding suggests a focus on long-term growth, innovation, and infrastructural development.

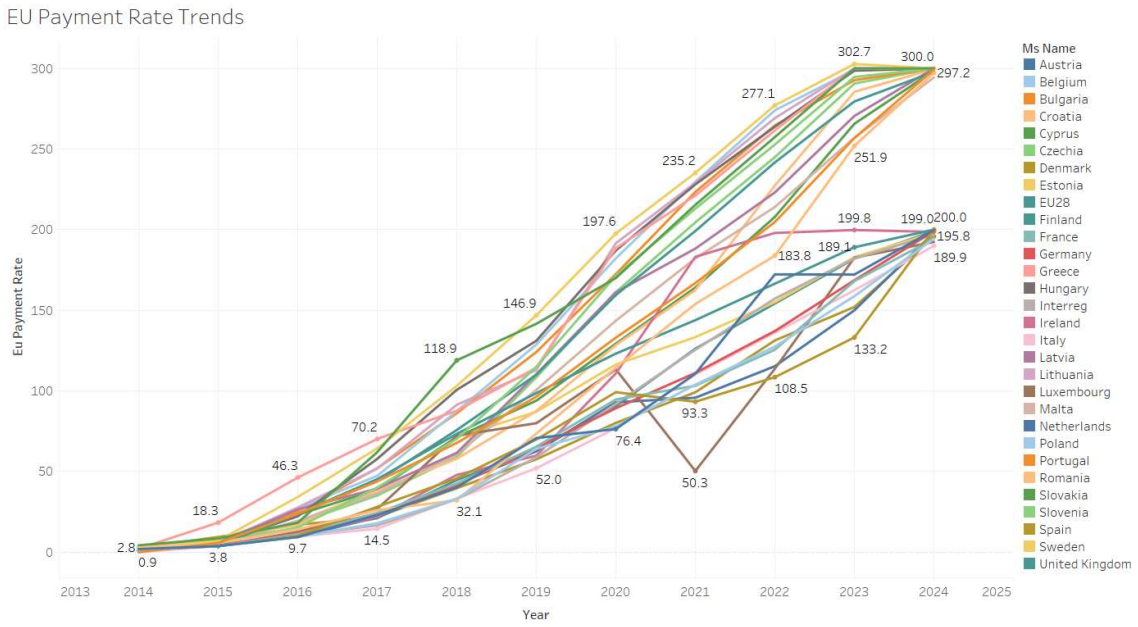
3.2 Importance of Cumulative Reporting

- Since the data is cumulative, it provides a clear picture of ongoing fund disbursement, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- The steady allocation trend also indicates an organized approach to fund management throughout the programming period.

3.3 Recommendations for Future Analysis

- Continuous monitoring of fund utilization is essential to identify underutilized resources or bottlenecks.
- Analysis of specific project outcomes under ERDF and CF funding would provide insights into the effectiveness of fund allocation.

5. EU Payment Rate Trends Analysis



The trend of sum of Eu Payment Rate for Year. Color shows details about Ms Name. The marks are labeled by sum of Eu Payment Rate. The view is filtered on Ms Name and Year. The Ms Name filter keeps 30 of 30 members. The Year filter ranges from 2014 to 2024.

1. Chart Overview

The line chart displays the **EU Payment Rate Trends** from **2013 to 2025**, illustrating how payment rates have evolved for various member states (Ms Name). The data showcases disparities in payment growth and provides insight into financial performance across the EU region.

---

2. Key Observations

2.1 General Growth Pattern

- Most member states show a **steady increase** in payment rates over the years.
- A significant jump in rates is evident between **2015 and 2020**, reflecting enhanced fund disbursements during this period.
- By 2024, most countries have converged towards a payment rate of approximately **200 to 300 units**, indicating a consistent approach to financial distribution.

2.2 Early Trends (2013–2016)

- The payment rates started at **negligible levels** in 2013, with very slight growth in the initial years (e.g., **Austria: 2.8, Belgium: 0.9** in 2014).
- This period primarily focused on the **planning and launch** phase of regional projects.

2.3 Acceleration Phase (2017–2020)

- A sharp increase in growth is visible during these years. For example:
    - **Czechia** jumped from **32.1 (2017)** to **146.9 (2019)**.
    - **Poland**, a major recipient, surged to **over 200 units** during this phase.

- This growth phase coincides with intensified EU efforts in executing regional funding objectives.

2.4 Stabilization Phase (2021–2025)

- Growth plateaus for most countries by **2023–2024**, as the programming period matures.
- Outliers like **Hungary (93.3 in 2021)** suggest delays or unique funding conditions that required time to align with EU trends.

2.5 Country-Specific Insights

- **Poland and Spain** lead consistently, likely due to their larger funding allocations for regional projects.
- Smaller nations like **Luxembourg and Malta** exhibit more modest growth but maintain consistent upward trajectories.

---

3. Anomalies and Variations

3.1 Hungary's Dip in 2021

- Hungary shows a **notable dip (93.3)** during 2021, diverging from the general trend. This could be attributed to administrative challenges, project delays, or financial re-alignments. 3.2 **EU28 Trends**
- The aggregated EU28 rate highlights a balanced approach, aligning closely with the larger member states.

---

4. Implications for Policy and Planning

4.1 Efficiency in Implementation

- The chart reflects the EU's structured approach to fund distribution, with most countries converging towards similar payment levels.

4.2 Addressing Anomalies

- Variations like **Hungary's 2021 dip** should be further analyzed to ensure alignment with broader trends.

4.3 Future Focus

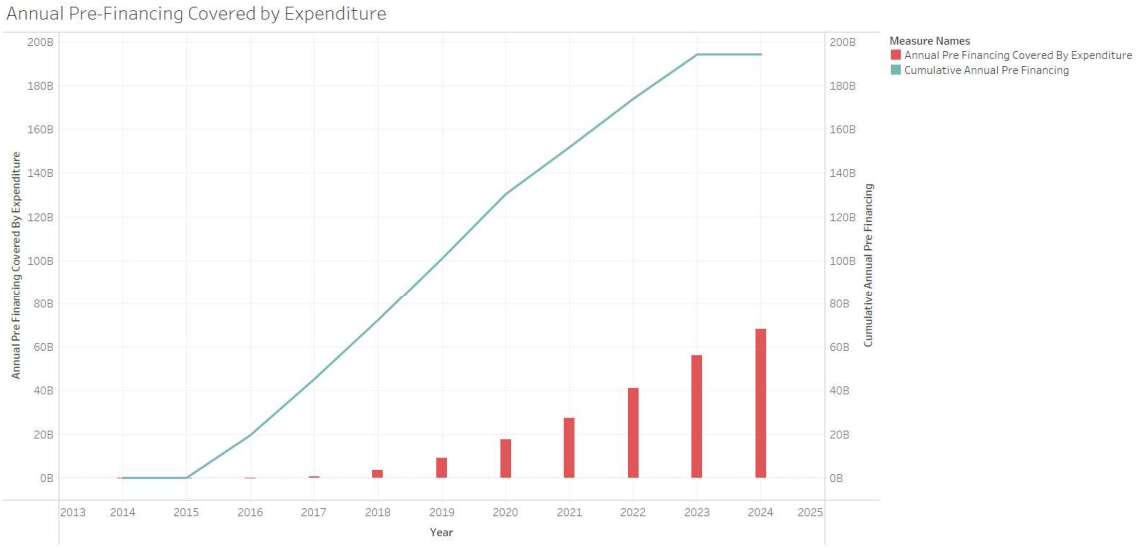
- Continued monitoring is essential to sustain stable payment rates and address lagging countries in the upcoming cycles.

---

5. Conclusion

The EU Payment Rate Trends reveal a structured and effective fund distribution strategy, with most member states achieving consistent growth over the years. While some anomalies like **Hungary's 2021 dip** raise questions, the overall trend indicates strong financial management and equitable fund allocation.

6. Analysis of Annual Pre-Financing Covered by Expenditure



The trends of Annual Pre Financing Covered By Expenditure and Cumulative Annual Pre Financing for Year. Color shows details about Annual Pre Financing Covered By Expenditure and Cumulative Annual Pre Financing. The data is filtered on Ms Name, which keeps 30 of 30 members. The view is filtered on Year, which ranges from 2014 to 2024.

1. Overview of Trends

1.1 Steady Growth in Pre-Financing Covered by Expenditure

- The chart highlights a clear upward trend in annual pre-financing covered by expenditure between 2014 and 2024.
- The cumulative pre-financing (green line) shows a steady and significant rise, crossing €200 billion by 2024.
- Red bars indicate annual pre-financing covered, which increases sharply post-2020, signaling an accelerated expenditure pattern in the later years of the funding period.

---

2. Detailed Observations

2.1 Early Years (2014–2017)

- Minimal pre-financing is covered in the initial years, with almost no significant expenditure from 2014 to 2016.
- This slow start is expected due to the time required for project initiation, fund allocation, and administrative setup.

2.2 Steady Increase (2018–2020)

- From 2018 onwards, pre-financing covered begins to grow consistently.
- The cumulative funding curve shows a steep upward trajectory starting in 2019, indicating an efficient allocation of funds to projects during this period.

2.3 Peak Activity (2021–2024)

- Annual pre-financing covered by expenditure reaches its highest levels between 2021 and 2024, with a consistent annual increase of approximately €40 billion in these years.

- This sharp rise reflects the implementation of large-scale projects as the funding period nears its conclusion.

---

3. Analysis of Trends

3.1 Acceleration in Fund Utilization

- The significant increase in pre-financing covered post-2020 suggests improved efficiency in fund disbursement and project execution.
- This trend aligns with the EU's typical funding cycle, where the bulk of expenditures occurs closer to the end of the programming period.

3.2 Importance of Cumulative Reporting

- The cumulative nature of the data (green line) provides a clear view of how pre-financing grows over time. It reflects the EU's commitment to ensuring funds are fully utilized within the programming window.

3.3 Delays in Initial Years

- The flat trend from 2014 to 2016 highlights delays in initiating projects, likely due to administrative or procedural bottlenecks. This pattern underscores the need for improved planning during the early phases of future programming periods.

---

4. Insights and Recommendations

4.1 Optimizing Initial Phases

- Efforts should be made to streamline administrative processes in the early years of funding cycles. Early disbursement and project implementation would reduce last-minute surges in expenditure.

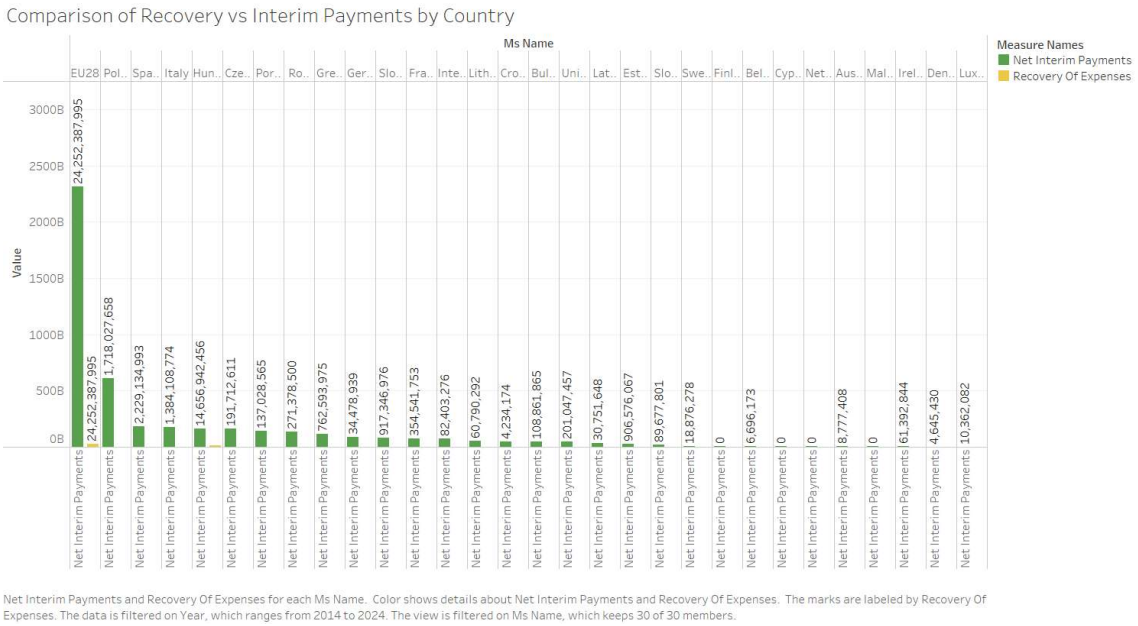
4.2 Sustaining Efficiency in Later Stages

- The later years demonstrate effective fund utilization. Lessons from these periods should be documented and applied to future programming cycles.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

- Continuous monitoring of pre-financing coverage ensures funds are being utilized effectively. Implementing adaptive strategies for fund reallocation in underperforming regions could improve overall efficiency.

7. Comparison of Recovery vs Interim Payments by Country



1. Chart Overview

The bar chart compares **Net Interim Payments** (green) and **Recovery of Expenses** (yellow) for each EU member state (**Ms Name**) from **2014 to 2024**. It highlights the financial performance and recovery efforts across all 30 members.

---

2. Key Observations

2.1 EU28 Dominance

- The **EU28 aggregate** overshadows all other countries, with net interim payments exceeding **2400B**, indicating its central role in the overall budget and funding operations.

2.2 Significant Recipients

- Countries like **Poland, Spain, Italy, and Hungary** stand out with **notable green bars**, indicating higher allocations of interim payments.
- **Poland**, in particular, receives the largest funding after EU28, followed closely by **Spain** and **Italy**.

2.3 Minimal Recovery of Expenses

- The yellow bars (Recovery of Expenses) are **negligible** across all countries, highlighting a disparity between fund recovery and fund disbursement.
- This indicates either low recovery focus or an inherent delay in expense recovery cycles.

2.4 Smaller Countries

- Smaller nations like **Luxembourg, Malta, and Cyprus** receive minimal funding and show almost no recovery of expenses. Their financial needs appear significantly lower than the larger economies.

---

3. Anomalies and Variations

3.1 Imbalance Between Recovery and Payments

- The lack of yellow bars across most countries points to **poor recovery efficiency**, or a systemic delay in achieving expense recovery.

3.2 Country-Specific Trends

- Some countries, like **Germany and France**, despite their economic size, have proportionally lower interim payments compared to nations like **Poland and Spain**.

3.3 Homogeneous Recovery Trends

- The uniform absence of strong recovery (yellow bars) across countries suggests a **common systemic issue** affecting all member states.

---

4. Implications for Policy

4.1 Addressing the Recovery Gap

- The disparity between payments and recovery calls for a detailed investigation into fund utilization and repayment processes.
  4.2 **Strategic Fund Allocation**

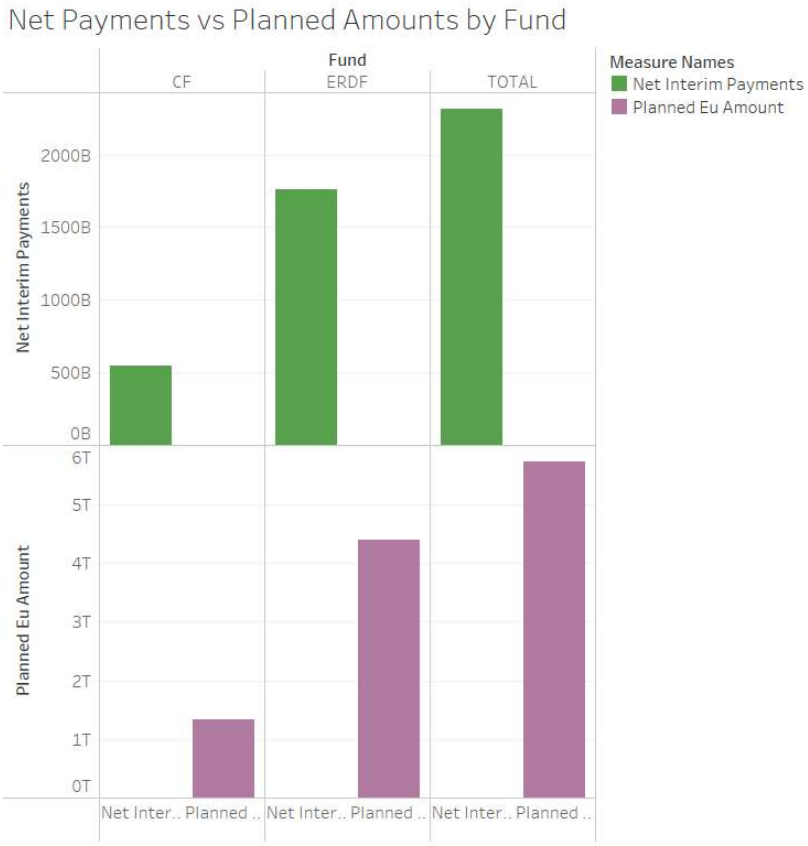
- Rebalancing fund allocations may be needed to ensure equitable distribution while maintaining fiscal efficiency.

---

5. Conclusion

The chart underscores the need for **improved recovery mechanisms** across the EU while highlighting the **dominance of major recipients** like Poland, Spain, and Italy in interim payments. Addressing the recovery gap will be critical for ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

8. Net Payments vs Planned Amounts by Fund



Net Interim Payments and Planned Eu Amount for each Fund. Color shows details about Net Interim Payments and Planned Eu Amount. The data is filtered on Year, which ranges from 2014 to 2024.

1. Overview

The graph shows how **Net Interim Payments** (green bars) compares to the **Planned EU Amounts** (purple bars) across 3 fund types: **CF**, **ERDF**, and **TOTAL**, over the period of **2014 to 2024**. It gives a clear picture of the gap between what was planned to be distributed and what was actually paid.

---

2. Detailed Insights

- **CF Fund (Cohesion Fund):**
  The payments in CF fund are really low. They don't even cross **500B**, while the planned amount is way more, going above **2T**. This shows a massive difference between the planning and execution.
- **ERDF Fund (European Regional Development Fund):**
  Payments are slightly better in this fund compared to CF. They are above **1500B**, but still, the planned amount is more than twice that, sitting close to **4T**. This shows that even though this fund performs better, there's still a lot of catching up to do.
- **TOTAL Fund (All Combined):**
  When everything is combined, the **TOTAL fund** has the highest values. The planned amount

reaches almost **6T**, while the payments stay below **2.5T**. It's evident that there is a serious lag in terms of funds being paid out vs what was originally planned.

---

3. Observations

- There is a clear mismatch in the data, with **Net Interim Payments** falling short in every category.
- The gap between the planned and paid amounts is alarming, especially for **CF fund**, where the gap is too big.
- Even though **ERDF** and **TOTAL** perform slightly better, they are still far away from the expected planned amounts.

---

4. Possible Reasons for the Gap

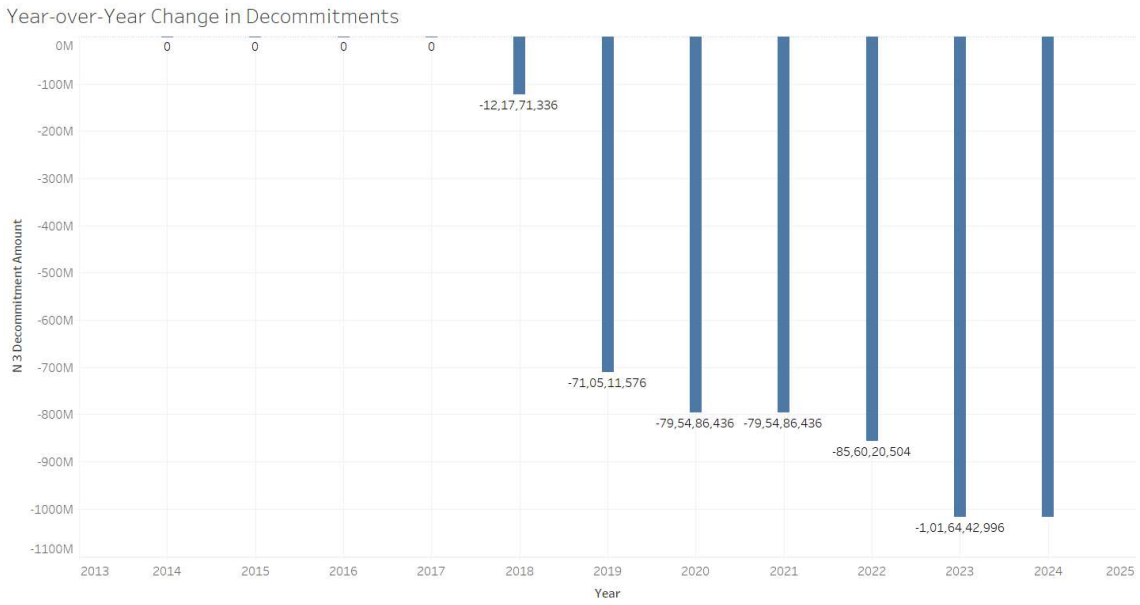
1. **Delays in Payment Processing:**
   There might be administrative or bureaucratic delays in transferring funds.
2. **Lack of Utilization Plans:**
   Some member countries might not have clear plans on how to utilize the funds, leading to delays.
3. **Economic or Political Instability:**
   In some regions, political issues or economic problems could delay fund distribution and usage.

---

5. Conclusion

The chart clearly shows that while the EU has ambitious funding plans, the execution part is lagging behind. Funds like **CF** especially need attention, as the gap there is huge. Steps need to be taken to speed up processes, improve fund allocation methods, and reduce delays. This will help ensure that the planned amounts are actually utilized and not just numbers on paper.

9. Year-over-Year Change in Decommitments Analysis



The plot of sum of N 3 Decommitment Amount for Year. The marks are labeled by sum of N 3 Decommitment Amount.

1. Overview of the Chart

The graph represents the yearly changes in decommitments within the programming period from 2018 to 2024. It reflects the amount of funding withdrawn or not utilized due to unmet conditions or uncompleted projects. The negative bars depict the decommitment amounts in millions of euros, highlighting a clear downward trend over the observed years.

---

2. Key Observations

2.1 Initial Years (2018–2019)

- **2018**: Decommitments began modestly, with approximately €-121.7 million withdrawn, reflecting the early identification of underperforming programs or unused funds.
- **2019**: The amount increases significantly to €-710.5 million. This sharp rise indicates tighter enforcement of conditions or challenges in meeting the funding requirements.

2.2 Stabilized Phase (2020–2021)

- **2020 and 2021**: The decommitment values stabilize at around €-795.5 million annually. The stability suggests consistent project monitoring and adherence to financial rules during these years.

2.3 Increasing Decommitments (2022–2024)

- **2022**: A further increase is observed, with €-856.0 million decommitted, reflecting potential delays or underachievement in project execution.
- **2023**: Decommitments peak at €-1,016.4 million, indicating significant non-utilization of allocated funds during this period.

- **2024**: The amount remains high, emphasizing the need for corrective actions or improved project planning in future cycles.

---

3. Analysis of Trends

3.1 Rising Decommitments Over Time

- The trend shows a growing issue with funds being decommitted as the programming period progresses. This could result from delays in project implementation or failure to meet milestones.

3.2 Stabilization in Mid-Period

- The years 2020–2021 reflect a period of stability, suggesting that lessons learned from earlier years may have been applied to improve fund utilization temporarily.

3.3 Challenges in Later Stages

- The sharp increase in decommitments post-2021 highlights inefficiencies in fund absorption, possibly due to overly ambitious project scopes or unforeseen external factors like economic disruptions.

---

4. Insights and Recommendations

4.1 Enhancing Project Monitoring

- Strengthening oversight mechanisms during the project lifecycle can help identify risks early and reduce future decommitments.

4.2 Flexible Reallocation of Funds

- Introducing systems to reallocate unused funds to performing programs or regions can optimize overall fund utilization.

4.3 Capacity Building

- Supporting member states with technical expertise and training in project planning and execution can prevent delays and ensure better compliance with funding criteria.

4.4 Learning from Successes

- The stabilization in 2020–2021 indicates that effective practices were implemented. These strategies should be analyzed and replicated where applicable.

Conclusion

Based on the visualizations shown in the document, the analysis gives a clear picture of trends related to financial management and fund usage. The key observations are like this:

1. **Year-over-Year Changes in Decommitments**:
   The bar chart shows a steady negative trend in decommitments from 2018 to 2024. It's clear that the decommitment amounts are growing year after year, showing inefficiency in using the allocated funds. The jump in decommitments from 2022 to 2023, which is more than 1 billion units, makes it obvious that better planning and execution is needed to avoid this wastage.

2. **Annual Pre-Financing Covered by Expenditure**:
   The graph with bars and lines show how pre-financing covered by expenditure has grown over time. The cumulative line grows steadily, meaning funds and spending are matching better over the years. But the yearly bar graph shows ups and downs, with some years having big increases and others being slower. This shows that while there's progress, the way funds are spent each year still has issues.

3. **Financial Performance Over Time**:
   From the visualizations, it looks like there are efforts to improve fund use and spending management. But the rise in decommitments, along with small improvements in pre-financing, shows a disconnect. Even though financial systems are getting better, project execution and fund usage still face delays or inefficiencies.

Conclusion

The visual data shows mixed results in financial performance. While there is improvement in matching pre-financing with spending, the rising decommitments prove there's still work to be done in using budgets properly. A focus on fixing delays and making project execution smoother can help close the gaps and use resources better in the future.

Credits

Dataset:

Regional Policy 2014-2020 EU Payment Details by EU Countries (daily update) [Internet]. European Commission; 2024 [cited 2024 Dec 31]. Available from: http://data.europa.eu/88u/dataset/vs2b-dct3