

# Cohesion policy good and bad practices

Life



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

**Introduction**

Lithuania (along with the other Baltics) is the success story of EIJ structural fund absorption. Bulgaria (along with Romania) is the worst performer.

Lithuania has contracted projects for 87% of available funds as of November 2012 and paid out 54% to beneficiaries. Bulgaria absorbed only , 2 billion of an available, 9. 5 billion between 2007 and 2011.

**Human resources**

Knowledge of available funds corruption and transparency. Is It Just a question of TIME (and size)?

Bulgaria: Joined EU in 2007 having spent very little of its pre-accession aid. Multiple corruption and transparency scandals: funds are withheld and projects are delayed. Change government in July 2009 with the creation of new administrative units to handle structural funds. The quality of human resources is low in regional/municipal administrations: 4% speak English, the same people used for planning as for valuation, 201 1 sees improvements: 27 municipal information centers set up, the number of prosecutions over misappropriation of funds increasing (but the absorption rate slightly lower than 2010).

Lithuania: EIJ member since May 2004. Population 3. 2 million compared to Bulgaria's 7. 5 million. Flexible economy: experienced rapid growth before the 2009 crisis (with help of pre-accession funds and rebounded relatively quickly after huge contraction. In 2004-06 priority was accorded to spending EIJ money according to all rules and procedures. The start of the 007-2013

programming period absorption rate was similar to the EUIO average (approx. 45%).