

European Social Fund 2014–2020

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What is the ESF?

- The ESF is one of the EU's Structural Funds, set up to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across EU Member States and regions, and therefore promoting economic and social cohesion.
- The ESF supports policies and priorities aiming to:
 - achieve progress towards full employment
 - enhance quality and productivity at work
 - increase the geographical and occupational mobility of workers within the EU
 - improve education and training systems
 - promote social inclusion to achieve economic, social and territorial cohesion

In support of the EU 2020 Strategy

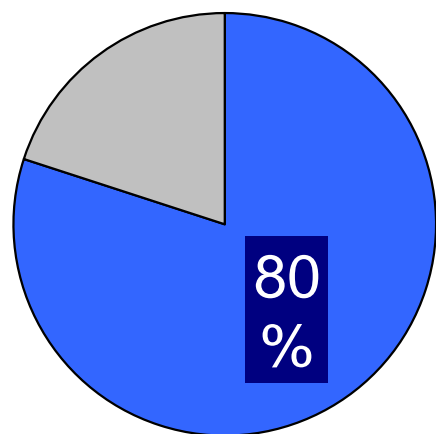
- The ESF is a key financial instrument to support of the Europe 2020 Strategy targeted at improving the lives of EU citizens by giving them better skills and better job prospects
- Direct contribution to 3 out of 5 headline targets:
 - Employment: 75% of the 20–64 year-olds to be employed
 - Education: Reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10% and at least 40% of 30–34-year-olds completing third level education
 - Fighting poverty and social exclusion: at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- Expression of European solidarity
 - Reaching some 10 million people per year
 - Investing in people and systems

Strategic funding

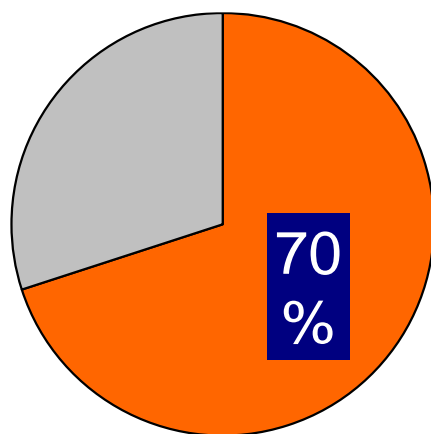
- Coherence with Europe 2020: translation of CSRs into investment priorities; 3 relevant targets
- Investment in human capital is crucial; thus ESF minimum share: 23.1%, i.e; more than 80 Bio EURO, some MS going even beyond
- Concentration and focus

ESF thematic concentration

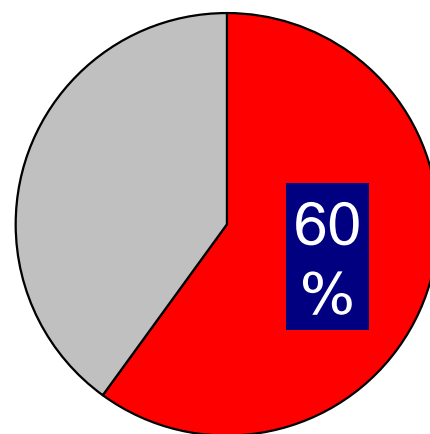
- 20% of ESF resources in each Member State for social inclusion, fight against poverty and any discrimination (TO9)
- Thematic concentration of each OP on up to 5 investment priorities (out of 19) for employment/mobility, education/training, social inclusion & institutional capacity:



more developed



transition



less developed

Scope and investment priorities

Scope

defines what can and cannot be funded – is set out in the thematic objectives

Investment priorities

the more detailed and focused objectives for which the Fund should be used – they are important for setting specific objectives; set out in relation to each thematic objective and main needs and challenges identified.

The programmes should focus on what the programme should achieve (investment priorities),

not on what MS/regions want to finance (scope).

ESF thematic objectives (8–11)

- Sustainable and quality employment and labour mobility: Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people; integration into the labour market of young people; self-employment, entrepreneurship; equality between men and women; adaptation of workers and enterprises; active and healthy ageing; modernisation of labour market institutions.
- Social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination: Active inclusion; integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma; equal opportunities; enhancing access to services; social entrepreneurship; CLLD
- Education and training : Preventing early school leaving and equal access to early-childhood, primary and secondary education; access to tertiary education; life-long learning, vocational education and training
- Institutional capacity : support to reforms and better regulation, capacity building for public sector and stakeholders.

Youth Employment Initiative

- **Resources for the YEI** consist of EUR 3,2 bn from the specific budgetary allocation for the YEI and at least EUR 3,2 bn corresponding ESF support
- YEI supports only measures directly for individuals (i.e. NEETS aged <25 years, or <30 years); not systems/structures reforms
- Only for eligible regions (at least 25% youth unemployment)
- Programming of YEI is fully integrated into ESF programming
- MS may choose to programme YEI as either:
 - – a dedicated operational programme
 - – a dedicated priority axis or
 - – a part of one or more priority axes
- Specific allocation for YEI does not require national co-financing
=> co-financing is required only for matching ESF

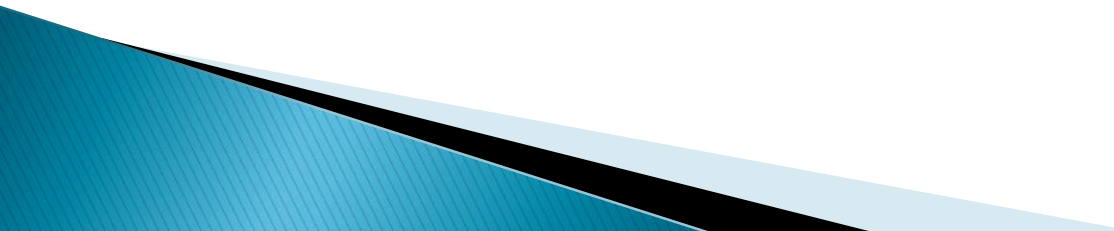
Building blocks for result orientation

Intervention logic at programming stage

Indicators – common and specific

Performance framework

Evaluation and Reporting



Transnational cooperation

- Compulsory for MS (derogation for MS with 1 OP)
- Coordinated approached (common themes)– new
- Flexible approach (partners from at least 2 MS involved)
- Combined approach

Commission to act as facilitator

- Common Framework
- EU platform

Partnership and multi-level governance

MS to organise partnership with the competent regional and local authorities for Partnership Agreements (PA) and each programme, also including

- – competent urban and other public authorities
- – economic and social partners
- – relevant bodies representing civil society

Partners to be involved in preparation of PAs and progress reports and throughout preparation and implementation of programmes, incl. participation in monitoring committees

European code of conduct for partnership (Delegated Regulation)

Expert Group on structured dialogue

COM to consult organisations representing partners at Union level on the implementation of the Funds + report to EP and Council on the outcome

ESF Committee

- Article 163 TFEU
 - Article 25 ESF
 - MS and Social partners, and other stakeholders upon request
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