

# The European Social Fund Plus



# Policy context

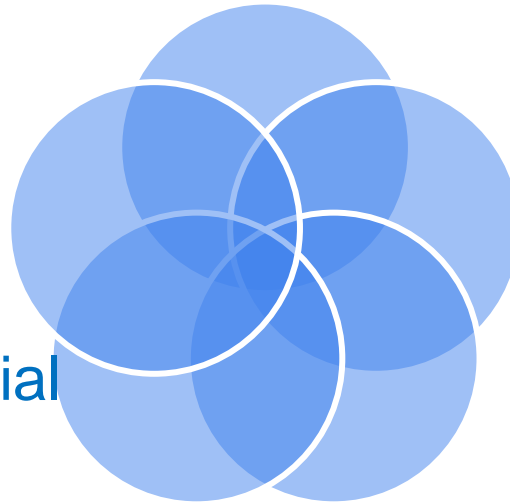
Rome Agenda:  
pledge to work  
towards a social  
Europe

Gothenburg  
Summit  
November 2017

White paper and  
reflection papers  
on the future of  
Europe

European pillar of social  
rights &  
UN sustainable  
development goals

MFF Proposal  
2 May 2018





# The ESF+ in the MFF 2021-2027



## II COHESION & VALUES

### 5 Regional Development & Cohesion

- European Regional Development Fund
- Cohesion Fund
- Support to the Turkish-Cypriot Community

### 6 Economic & Monetary Union

- Reform Support Programme including the Reform Delivery Tool and Convergence Facility
- Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting

### 7 Investing in People, Social Cohesion & Values

- European Social Fund + (incl. Integration of Migrants & Health)
- ERASMUS+
- European Solidarity Corps
- Justice, Rights & Values
- Creative Europe (incl. MEDIA)

European  
Solidarity  
Fund

European  
Investment  
Stabilization  
Function

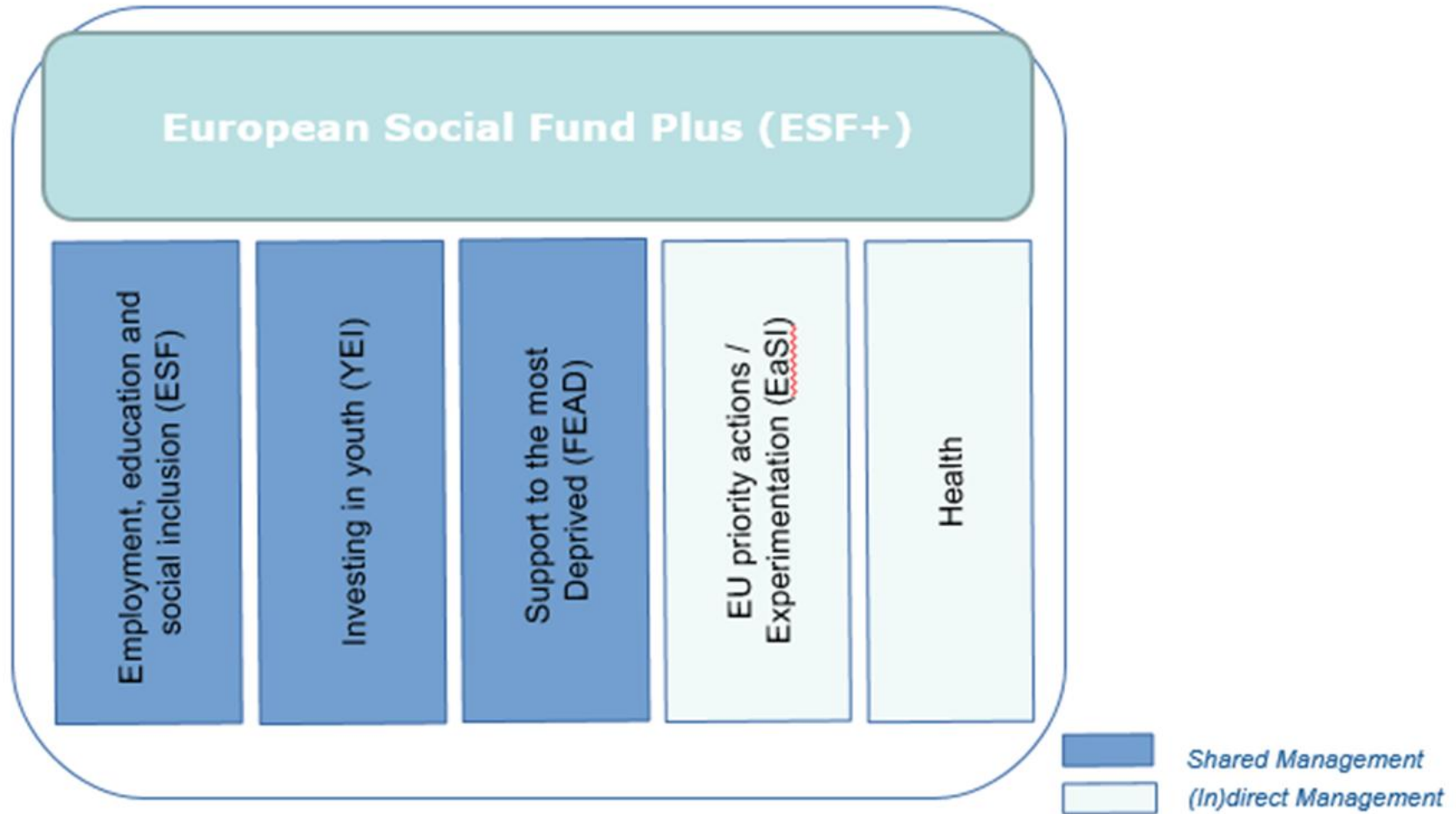
Globalization  
Adjustment  
Fund



European  
Commission



# The ESF+: 5 funds coming together



# Structure of the ESF+ Regulation proposal



# Structure of the ESF+ Regulation

- **Part I** – General provisions (applicable to all)
- **Part II** – Implementation under the ESF+ strand under shared management
- **Part III** – Implementation under direct and indirect management
- **Part IV** – Final provisions
- **Annexes**

# Part I: General provisions and main objectives



## General objectives of ESF+ - Art. 3

- All strands: Support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Shared management strand: also the Employment Guidelines and challenges identified in country-specific recommendations and in the European Semester
- Health strand: ensure a high level of health protection in the Union





## Specific objectives (SO) of ESF+ (Art. 4)

- 11 SO under “**a more social Europe**” (the CPR policy objective) in the policy areas of employment, education and inclusion including health;
- Wording closely follows the principles of the Pillar
- Specific references to third country nationals and basic material assistance
- ESF+ also contributes to other CPR policy objectives (a smarter Europe and a greener Europe)

# ESF+ 2021-2027



**European Social Fund Plus**  
Support to the most deprived

**€100 Billion**  
at least 4%

**Employment and Social  
Innovation strand**

**€761 Million**

**Health strand**

**€413 million**

**Total Budget**

**€101,2 Billion**





# Budget – Art.5

	EUR (current prices)	EUR (current prices)
<b>ESF+ total budget 2021-2027</b>	<b>101 174 000 000</b>	
Transnational cooperation	200 000 000	
Outermost regions and norther sparsely populated regions	400 000 000	
Employment and Social Innovation and Health strands	1 174 000 000	EaSI: 761 000 000 (indicative) Health: 413 000 000 (indicative)



## Horizontal principles – Art. 6

- Mainstream and targeted actions to support:
  - equality between men and women
  - equal opportunities
  - non-discrimination
- Promote the transition from residential/ institutional care to family and community-based care.
- The ESF+ should not support any action that contributes to segregation or to social exclusion.

# Part II: Common provisions for the ESF+ shared management strand



## Key changes

- Stronger alignment with the European Semester and alignment with the European Pillar of Social Rights
- More flexibility on thematic concentration requirements: adjusted to MS needs
- The scope of the ESF+ is broader (basic material assistance and social integration measures) but fewer specific objectives
- Introduction of conditions for eligibility of direct staff costs and purchase of equipment, furniture and vehicles
- Obligations on monitoring and reporting are simplified and indicators are reduced



## Consistency & thematic concentration

- ESF+ resources have to be concentrated on challenges identified in NRP and European semester and take into account the Pillar
- Appropriate amount of ESF+ resources under shared management to support CSRs and challenges under the EU Semester



***Programmed under one or more dedicated priorities (Art. 11)***



## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(1)

- Ensuring coordination, complementarity and coherence between the ESF+ and other Union funds or programmes.
- Avoid duplication of effort

### *How?*

- Authorities of relevant programmes should be involved in the preparation and implementation of ESF+ programmes.

*e.g The ESF can be used to top-up support by Erasmus, for instance, for students with a disadvantaged background*





## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(3)

- **At least 25% of MS ESF+ resources** has to be dedicated to social inclusion, i.e. :
  - Active inclusion
  - Socio-economic integration of third country nationals and marginalized communities
  - Equal access to services; modernisation of and access to social protection systems; healthcare and long-term care services
  - Social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion
  - Material deprivation



***Out of which, at least 2% for the most deprived***



## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(4)

- At least 2% of the ESF+ resources of a MS has to address material deprivation (specific objective xi), but:

**In duly justified cases, this may include support to the social integration of the most deprived (specific objective x)**



***Programmed under dedicated priority (Art. 9)***



## Consistency & thematic concentration - Art. 7(5)

- MS with high NEET rates (above the Union average) in **2019** should programme at least **10%** of their ESF+ resources for **2021-2025** to support youth employment.
- As part of the **midterm review**, MS will allocate at least 10% of their ESF+ resources for 2026-2027 to support youth employment if they have a high NEET rate in **2024**.
- For the **outermost regions** with high NEET rates: **15% of the ESF+ resources in their programmes.**



***Programmed under dedicated priorities  
(Art. 10)***





## Partnership - Art. 8

- MS to ensure adequate participation of social partners and civil society organisations in the delivery of employment, education and social inclusion policies supported by the ESF+.
- Member States to allocate an appropriate amount of ESF+ resources in each programme for the capacity building of social partners and civil society organisations.



# Chapter II: General support of the ESF+ shared management strand



## Support to policy innovation - Art. 13

- Member States shall support actions of social innovation and social experimentations and strengthen bottom-up approaches based on partnerships
- Member States may support up-scaling of innovative approaches tested on a small-scale (social experimentations) developed under the Employment and Social Innovation strand and other Union programmes.
- Can be done under any of the ESF+ specific objectives (i) to (x)



***Programmed under dedicated priority -  
higher EU co-financing rate***



# Eligibility of costs - Art. 14

## Ineligible costs:

- purchase of land
- purchase of real estate
- purchase of infrastructure

## Purchase of furniture, equipment and vehicles is **only eligible** if they are either:

- necessary for achieving the objective of the operation,
- or they are fully depreciated,
- or the purchase of these items is the most economic option.

**Direct staff costs** are eligible provided that the level is not higher than 100% of the usual remuneration for the profession.

**Specific additional allocation outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions:** to be used for the achievement of the specific objectives (i) to (xi)



# Indicators and reporting – Art. 15

- **Common output and result indicators** are set out in Annex I
- Shorter list of common indicators: decreased from 44 to 23
- Indicators are :
  - to be reported on by specific objective
  - to be broken down by gender (M/F/non-binary)
- When data are available in registers or equivalent sources, **MS must enable MA to obtain data from these registers or equivalent sources.**
- MS can only transmit data on a participant if his/her record contains the data for all **common output indicators for participants** (i.e. employment status/age/education level)
- **Other common output indicators:** if data for these indicators cannot be collected from registers, the values can be determined based on informed estimates by the beneficiary.



# Chapter III: ESF+ Support for addressing material deprivation



## ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation – Art. 16 - 22

- **Objective:** distribution of food and goods in conformity with the Union law on consumer product safety
- **Direct or indirect provision** (e.g. vouchers) of food and material assistance to the most deprived people, which can be accompanied by social integration measures (e.g. social services).
- Due to the target group and the type of support certain requirements are simpler, e.g. audit (Art. 22), and indicators and reporting (Art. 21).

# Eligibility of expenditure - Art. 20 (1)

The **eligible costs** of the ESF+ support for addressing material deprivation are:

- **Cost of purchasing food and/or basic material assistance, incl. cost related to their transport to the beneficiaries** delivering the food/basic material assistance (point a)
- Where transport costs to beneficiaries are not included under point a: **flat rate of 1%** on purchase costs to cover transport + storage **or real costs** when duly justified (pt b)
- **administrative, transport and storage costs borne by beneficiaries: flat rate of 5%** on purchase costs (point c)
- **cost of collection, transport, storage and distribution of food donations** (point d)
- **cost of accompanying measures: flat rate of 5%** on purchase costs (point e)

# Eligibility of expenditure - Art. 20 (2)

## Ineligible costs:

- interest on debt
- provision of infrastructure
- costs of second-hand goods.

# Part III: Common provisions for the ESF+ direct and indirect management strands



# Specific rules for the Employment and Social Innovation strand - Art. 23-25

- 10 operational objectives
- Eligible actions under 4 main areas:
  - policy analysis;
  - policy implementation;
  - capacity building of networks and partners;
  - communication and dissemination
- Eligible persons and entities (including third countries listed in the work programme and international organisations)



## Specific provisions for the Health strand – Art. 26-29

- Operational objectives in 4 areas:
  - crisis preparedness;
  - empowering health systems;
  - supporting EU health legislation;
  - integrated networks and practices
- Eligible actions under 4 main areas:
  - policy analysis;
  - policy implementation;
  - capacity building of networks and partners;
  - communication and dissemination
- Eligible entities (incl. third countries and international organisations) and costs



## Common provisions for the EaSI and Health strands - Art. 30-37

- In addition to the specific rules for each programme, some common rules are also established concerning:
  - Participation of third countries associated to the EaSI and Health strands
  - Forms of funding and methods of implementation
  - Work programme and coordination
  - Monitoring and reporting, evaluation
  - Protection of the financial interests of the Union
  - Audit
  - Information, communication and publicity





# Part IV: Final provisions



## Final provisions - Art. 38-43

- **The comitology committee** for the ESF+ shared management strand is the one established by the future CPR
- **ESF+ committee under Art. 163 TFEU** for all ESF+ strands (incl. working groups for the different strands)



# THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

“

*Our social funds are indispensable bricks in the new architecture of the EU budget, to empower people, make sure they can make the best out of our changing world of work, and accompany those who need it most.*

*Marianne Thyssen*

#EUBudget