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The Grand Coalition does not have a specific budget line to support its activities, but there are several funding sources at European and national level to support projects boosting digital skills. A number of funding instruments are available to stakeholders as well as non-financial support can be obtained. Share this

## European Structural and Investment Funds

This possibility was highlighted at the conclusions of the October 2013 European Council [1], which stated that "part of the European Structural and Investment Funds (2014-2020) should be used for ICT education". The following funds could be considered:

- The European Social Fund [2] is one of the EU's Structural Funds, and the main tool for creating more and better jobs in Europe. More than €80 billion is earmarked for human capital investment in Member States between 2014 and 2020. Organisations interested in ESF funding for a project should contact the ESF Managing Authority in their country or region. Check the ESF local contact points [3].
- The Youth Employment Initiative [4] aims to support young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) aged below 25, residing in regions experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25 % in 2012. Between 2014 and 2020, € 3.2 billion will come from targeted investment from the European Social Fund.
- The European Regional Development Fund [5] aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. You can apply for regional funding to the authority managing the relevant regional programme. That body will evaluate your project and decide whether to grant funding. Find your managing authority [6]

Have a look at other types of funds [5]

## Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ [7] programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernise Education, Training and Youth work. €14.7 billion is dedicated for Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020. Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training and Youth institutions and organisations in order to tackle the skills gaps. Organisations interested in Erasmus+ funding can contact the National agencies for Erasmus [8].

## Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme [9] is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. The total budget for the EaSI programme 2014-2020 is €919.47 million.

As of January 2014, programmes form the three axes of EaSI support the following areas:

- the modernisation of employment and social policies with the PROGRESS axis [10] (61% of the total budget);

To apply for funding, eligible organisations must respond to a call for tender [11] or/and to a call for proposals [12].

- job mobility with the EURES axis [13] (18% of the total budget);

To apply for funding, eligible organisations must respond to a call for tender [11] or/and to a call for proposals [12].

- access to micro-finance and social entrepreneurship with the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis [14] (21% of the total budget).

### Your first EURES Job

Your First EURES Job [15] is a job mobility scheme to help young Europeans find a job, traineeship or apprenticeship in other EU countries. The scheme is part of the Youth on the Move [16] package and the Youth Opportunities Initiative [17]. It could be incorporated into national Youth Guarantee [18] schemes that include cooperation with other EU countries. The 2015 target for Your first EURES job is to help some 5 000 people find jobs in EU countries other than their own. The initiative involves only a limited number of employment services.

### E-skills for jobs: communication and awareness-raising campaign

The European Commission has published a call for tenders, which aims at selecting a service provider for the organisation of a new major communication and awareness-raising campaign in Europe on 'E-skills for jobs'.

The duration of the campaign will be 2 years (2015–2016). The budget available in this call for tenders is EUR 2,000,000. The deadline for applying is 7 October 2014.

For more information click here [19].

## Support for the Grand Coalition

Several projects are in place to support the Grand Coalition, in particular:

- The Secretariat of the Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs [20] was created in 2014, with a budget of €1 million from the Competitiveness and Innovation programme over 2 years.
- The e-Skills Communication and Awareness Raising Campaign 2014 [21] is a major cross sector, multi-stakeholder campaign of the European Commission, which aims to raise awareness of the need for citizens to improve their command of information and communication technology (ICT) skills for work.
  eSkills for Jobs 2014 is coordinated on behalf of the European Commission by DIGITAL EUROPE and European Schoolnet [22].

  If you would like to join, please fill in the contact form [23] or get in contact via e-mail [24].

## Tags:

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