Digital Single Market

Funding for digital skills

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition does not have a specific budget line to support its activities, but several funds at European and national level are available to support projects boosting digital skills.

European Structural and Investment Funds

In October 2013 the European Council [1] highlighted that "part of the European Structural and Investment Funds (2014-2020) should be used for ICT education". The following funds may 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.

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