



# **How the European Social Fund can contribute to social enterprises?**

**Workshop 7:  
Structural funds (ESF, ERDF) for social enterprises  
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# The ESF: general information

*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

# The ESF: general information

- The ESF helps Member States to make Europe's workforce and companies better equipped to face new and global challenges.
- Funding is spread across the Member States and regions, in particular those where economic development is less advanced.
- It is a key element of the Europe 2020 Strategy targeted at improving the lives of EU citizens by giving them better skills and better job prospects.
- Together with EUR 3 billion special allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative, more than EUR 74 billion will be invested in people over the next 7 years.
- Allocating at least 20% of the ESF to social inclusion will mean that people from disadvantaged groups will get more support to have the same opportunities as others to integrate into society.

# The ESF: an essential part of Cohesion Policy

*Expression of European solidarity*

- **Reaching some 10 million people per year**
- **Investing in *people* and systems**

*Essential for delivering on 2020*

- **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

## How does the ESF promote social enterprises?

*The ESF is actively supporting the establishment of social enterprises as a source of jobs, for people who find it difficult to get work including young long-term unemployed, disabled people and people in rural communities.*

*Forms of support:*

- management training for those who will run the enterprises,*
- offering trainings in human resources, employment law, health and safety*
- developing technical skills and know-how in advising local start-up companies*
- helping in finding funds for their activities and ensuring their sustainability in the long term.*

## Examples of how the ESF supported social entrepreneurship:

Member State	Short description	ESF Contribution
<b>Poland</b>	The project 'We can achieve more by cooperating' is addressed for disadvantaged people who receive training and advice on opening and managing a social enterprise.	€285 000
<b>Belgium</b>	The organisation Job&Co unites the expertise of three social enterprises that promote access to employment and implements the project 'Work as the key to social integration'.	€675 000
<b>Slovenia</b>	Work Factory is a non-profit social enterprise working in the textile recycling sector to give jobs to disadvantaged people at risk from social exclusion.	€ 249 942

# **The ESF in the programming period 2014- 2020**

## A scope in line with Europe 2020

### *19 Investment priorities in 4 thematic objectives*

*Promoting sustainable and quality  
employment and supporting labour  
mobility*

*Promoting social inclusion,  
combating poverty and any  
discrimination*

*Investing in education, training  
and vocational training for skills  
and lifelong learning*

*Enhancing institutional capacity of  
public authorities and stakeholders  
and efficient public administration*

### *ESF contribution to the other thematic objectives:*

*Supporting an environmentally  
sustainable economy*

*Enhancing the accessibility, use and  
quality of ICT*

*Strengthening research,  
technological development and  
innovation*

*Enhancing the competitiveness of  
small and medium-sized enterprises*



## Thematic objective: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

- 1. Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people*
- 2. Sustainable integration of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training*
- 3. Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation including innovative small, medium sized and micro enterprises*
- 4. Equality between men and women in all areas*
- 5. Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change*
- 6. Active and healthy ageing*
- 7. Modernisation of labour market institutions*

## Thematic objective: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

- 1. Active inclusion*
- 2. Integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma*
- 3. Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities*
- 4. Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services of general interest*
- 5. Promoting social entrepreneurship and vocational integration in social enterprises and the social and solidarity economy in order to facilitate access to employment**
- 6. Community-led local development strategies*

## Thematic objective: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

- 1. Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education*
- 2. Improving the quality, efficiency and access to tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged people*
- 3. Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways*
  - 3a. Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality*

## Thematic objective: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

*1. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at national, regional and local level with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance*

*Eligible only in Member States, which have at least one less developed region or Cohesion countries*

*2. Capacity building for all stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectoral and territorial pacts to mobilise for reform at national, regional and local level*



**Thank you for your attention!**

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf>