

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **Development of diversified and integrated services** along the entire spectrum of early childhood intervention (from pregnancy to the schooling period)
- **Prevention:** integrated-holistic approach, community-based and co-produced including ESF, NA and local authorities
- **Assets-based/empowering approach:** grow informal networks, supporting families before and during schooling period



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

ESF should be used to expand and create services for families with young children with a view to improve outcomes.

The design and delivery of ESF projects should focus on the child's development. To this extent cooperation with families, children and professionals is essential to meet identified and individual needs.

Key success factor in the project should be the strong cooperation with local authorities so that ESF projects can prepare the basis for more sustainable future State interventions.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. **MOTIVATION OF PARTICIPANTS**
2. **BOOSTING SELF-CONFIDENCE and SOFT SKILLS**
3. **SUPPORT IN ALL STAGES of the PROGRAMME**
(before, during, after)
4. **CLEAR EVIDENCE of POSITIVE RESULTS**



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

ESF continues to financially support transnational mobility for ALL – particularly disadvantaged - young people



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Participants in job carving initiatives need a safety net if an open labour market integration is unsuccessful

Lack of awareness of carving in many member states, in others carving initiatives are in place but not defined



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Job carving requires holistic support, sufficient resources are needed for this to be provided.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- What is meant by active ageing?
- Life-long learning as a driver of social participation, inclusion, health, ...
- Support has been focused on older people in vulnerable situations and outside labour market. Need to turn to *prevention* rather than amelioration.
- Conducive to sustainable, quality and meaningful employment
- LLL, healthy ageing and mobility are key dimensions of active ageing.
- Thinking outside of the box by looking at all funds or programmes, based on a territory's need (Interreg, ESF(+), Erasmus, ...)



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Recognise the breadth of needs:

- **Of learners: unemployed, retired, people with health or family problems, isolated, unskilled/underskilled ... and ordinary people!**
- **To create a common understanding between employers, Public Employment Services, Managing Authorities, use ESF to trigger partnership with social partners, civil society**



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **Need for recognition**
- **Need for information about support and services available**
- **ESF often supports carers only if it leads to employment**
- **Diversity of carers (young, parents, older etc) with common needs (health, mental health, financial issues, isolation)**
- **Partnerships needed: integration between social and medical care, schools, carers associations, service providers**
- **Caring is a gender issue**



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Acknowledge informal carers as a legitimate target group in ESF and ESF+

Support partnerships between medical and social care, service providers, schools and carers themselves, especially at local level



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Respect the ECCP and CLLD principles - moving beyond themes to place

Ensure flexibility at local level with more relaxed administrative frameworks

More awareness-raising, guidance and capacity-building including transnational and cross-fund exchange

Allowing for experimentation and learning



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Focus on building trust by turning ESF upon its head and empowering local communities with long-term CLLD approaches



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. Structural funds can't solve homelessness but can support a shift from managing to ending
2. Need synergies between erdf, esf & fead
3. Housing needs to be at the heart of solutions to homelessness
4. Need to scale up Housing First model but it's not a panacea
5. No one size fits all but also not anything goes
6. Most developed regions = concentration of homelessness but less resources
7. Partnership with organizations working with homeless people is essential



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Let's use the opportunity to make homelessness a real priority in the programming of the next period

Continue transnational learning & exchange to support shift from managing to ending homelessness



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Synergies between different EU and national funds on approach to green entrepreneurship
- Sharing good practices and capacity building
- Big opportunity to be more strategic and anticipate major changes in the job market toward circular economy and green jobs
- Communicating impact of the individual projects and how are they in line with circular economy strategies and targets
- Need for political will to orientate the ESF funds to support green jobs programmes like the one in Spain



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

The desing of the ESF Programmes and calls for projects should be aligned with the regional, national and EU strategies related to circular economy.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Involving target groups (designing the project, ambassadors, empathy, accountability).

Accountability: Make beneficiaries responsible for results (results-based approach and sustainability of results).

Individualised tailor-made support and involvement of social partners.

Practical solutions diversity management in the workplace



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

ESF should build on its good track record but at the same allow projects to take a risk in order to be more innovative, creative and make real impact on target groups.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **People-centred approach is central to inclusive future labour markets**
- **Re-thinking and re-valuing of different (soft) skills and working models**
- **Education is key**
- **Partnerships including all stakeholders are essential to trigger dialogue on future of labour markets**
- **Exchange of promising practices across multiple levels**



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Keep a long-term, people-centred focus and try to deepen innovative approaches for sustainability



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Dialogue between financial and social world (common language)
- Actual rules and procedures are complicated, long and strict
- Need to combine financial and non-financial services
- Need for capacity building, trust and partnerships
- Develop and evaluation and audit culture



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Financial instruments should adjust themselves to the needs of beneficiaries and not the opposite



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Life event of „being released from the prison“ is typically not the best part of the public policies. There is no explicit „right to start again after a big mistake“ in the EPSR. Reoffending causes big societal costs.

Often they are also low skilled, drug addicts, mentally ill or heavily indebted and have unhealthy family/social background. => One of the most disadvantaged groups with complex needs.



They are not just former criminals.

ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Complex problems needs tailor-made integration of services.
Their needs are sometimes difficult to predict.
ESF projects need good ability to deal with uncertainty and unpredictability

⇒ **more flexible ESF.**



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Change your mindset and give results-based approach a chance
- Be imaginative about the stakeholders involved (Audit Authorities, beneficiaries, line Ministries and different administrative levels).
- Keep it simple throughout the process (including financial reporting and monitoring and evaluation)
- Clear simple, stable and mutually understood definitions
- Ensure sustainability by working in partnership in an ongoing manner (co-creation)
- There are several risks but evidence show they can be effectively addressed



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Results based approaches are being used successfully. We need to share and learn from these experiences.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. Challenges:

- Lack of communication, cooperation and coordination between ESF MAs & E+ NAs
- Administrative burdens & fear of mobility leading to brain drain

2. Inspiring examples from: PL, BG, LV

3. Added value: Inclusiveness of E+ through ESF; broader access & focus on beneficiaries (disadvantaged youth)



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

EU framework, guidance to create spaces for cooperation and experimentation between ESF & E+ authorities at national & regional levels

Then, agents of change can train peers for more systemic cooperation



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **Need to raise awareness about MRS as a concept and strategic framework**
- **Need for capacity building**
- **Need to make the different levels of governance (local, regional, national and EU) understand the added value of developing solutions together about common challenges**
- **The added value is to bring more effectiveness and efficiency to our solutions (do not reinvent wheels)**
- **Need to reach out and engage partners that are not the usual suspects**



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Raise awareness about the concept of MRS, how it works, and how it contributes to your work at local / regional / national / EU level (different DGs), breaking silos between Programmes or Funds and Institutions



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Need for technical assistance support to help organizations to apply for EU funds
- Transparent communication between all stakeholders including the target groups (community groups, patients...)
- Better involvement by intermediary bodies at national level beyond priority setting and into implementation
- Increased focus on monitoring quality of life improvements generated by projects
- Ensuring sustainability of the learning, assets and expertise generated during projects (engagement with those responsible for mainstreaming funding decisions)

Need to reduce hospitalisation and enhance quality of life at home and communities



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

- All projects should ensure from start that they are making the connections and building the understanding with key stakeholders to enable the results, assets and expertise generated by the projects can be adopted at systems, organizational and community levels.



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Definition of SI
- Complexity of the challenges – risk, open-minded approach, not assuring results
- Good practices: PORTUGAL
- Research made in SWEDEN and SIC (H2020)
- **Need-orientation** and involvement of many stakeholders and users
- Conservatism in social innovation vs technological innovations
- **Barriers** : legal frameworks, low awareness, political timeframes, education system
- Need for safe space (patrons, sponsors, task forces with specific mandate to boost SI)



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

Lets move from fear-driven efforts to dream path!



KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

ESF and EFSI can be complementary in specific cases (EFSI loan for building new social infrastructure, ESF grant for training of staff)

Bottlenecks:

- **Lack of capacity, expertise (use of private finance, doublefunding, etc)**
- **Organisational (whose responsibility to develop these complementarity, lack of partnership principle)**
- **Sector specific needs not recognised**



ONE KEY RECOMMENDATION

**Learn from the ESF and BE
PROACTIVE in developing
complementarities**

