

The **Structural funds** are funding instruments that allow the [European Union \(EU\)](#) to grant financial assistance to specific sectors, regions, or combinations of both, to resolve structural economic and social problems.

At present, there are four structural funds:

- The *European regional development funds (ERDF)* , whose main objective is to promote economic and social cohesion within the EU by addressing imbalances between regions or social groups.
- The *European social fund (ESF)* , the main financial instrument allowing the EU to realise the strategic objective of its employment policy.
- The *European agricultural guidance and guarantee fund (EAGGF - Guidance Section)* , which contributes to the structural reform of the agriculture sector and to the development of rural areas.
- The *Financial instrument for fisheries guidance (FTGC)* , the specific fund for the structural reform of the fisheries sector.

Further information

- [European Commission - Regional Policy - Glossary](#)
- [OECD glossary](#)

Related concept

- [Structural indicators](#)

Statistical data

- [Regional yearbook introduction](#)