



EUROPEAN WEEK OF  
REGIONS & CITIES

2003 - 2022

# EU funding programmes for the social economy

2021-2027

New Challenges for  
Europe's Cohesion



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# European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



€26.2 billion



**Inclusion,  
connectivity and  
sustainable  
development**

## Topics

- development and upscaling of social enterprises
- provision of risk capital to start-ups
- strengthening the **culture and tourism sectors'** capacity to drive economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

## Delivery

**grants** and **financial instruments** granted by regional and national authorities

Additional Info:



European  
Commission

## MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW COHESION POLICY FRAMEWORK



### A FOCUS ON FIVE INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, WHERE THE EU IS BEST PLACED TO DELIVER

Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027:



a more **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses



a **Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change



a more **Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks



a more **Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare



a **Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

**Regional development investments will strongly focus on objectives 1 and 2.** 65% to 85% of ERDF and Cohesion Fund resources will be allocated to these priorities, depending on Member States' relative wealth.



# 2021-27 ERDF investments in social economy

## ERDF Specific objective 4.1.

Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to **quality employment** through developing **social innovation** and infrastructure:

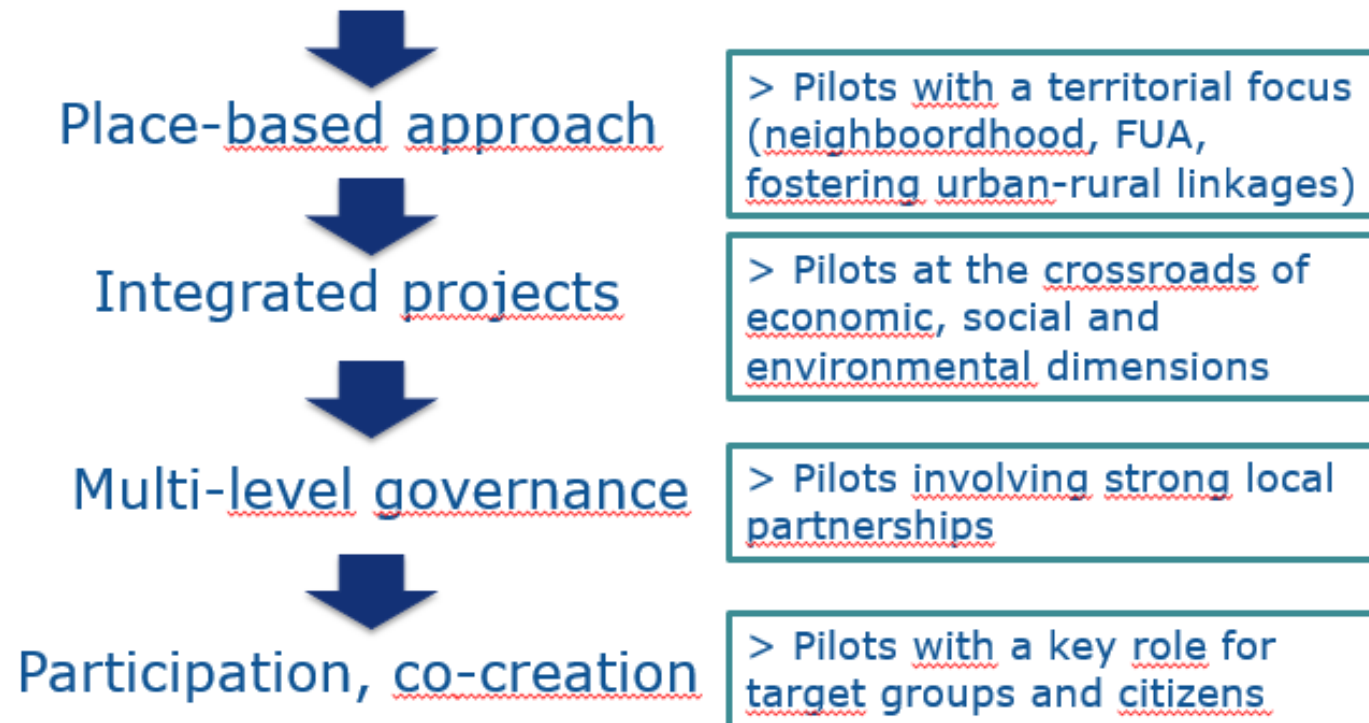
- Business incubators and investment support for self-employment, SMEs, business/jobs creation, social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

## ERDF Specific objective 4.6.

Enhancing the role of culture and tourism in **economic development**, **social inclusion and social innovation**

# 2021-27 ERDF investments in social economy

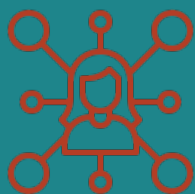
## ERDF Policy objective 5: A Europe closer to the citizens



# European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)



€99.3 billion



**Employment,  
skills and  
inclusion**

## Topics

- social economy ecosystems
- **transnational cooperation** to scale up social innovation
- **development of social enterprises**
- emergence of a social investment market and of an ecosystem around the provision of microfinance;
- social experimentation; guidance for the development of social infrastructure

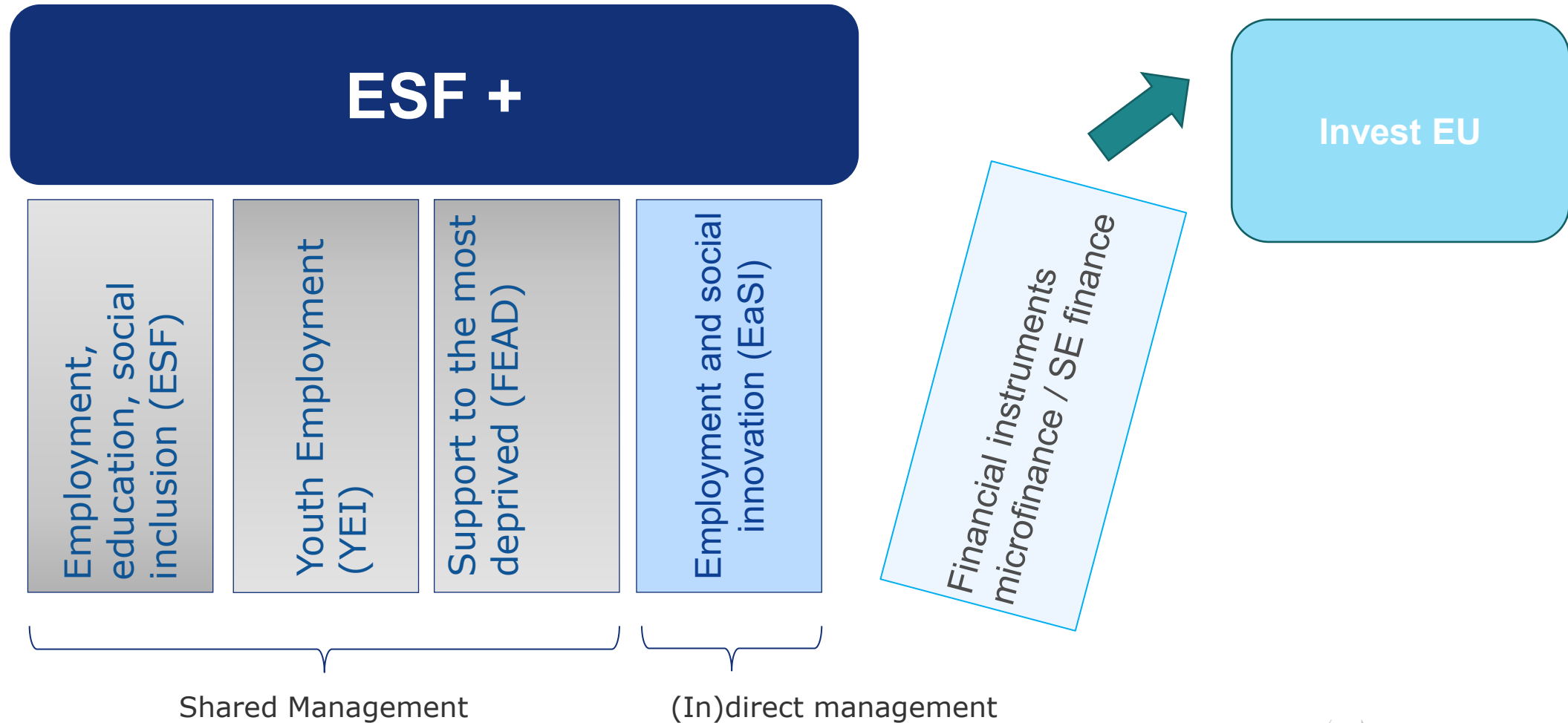
## Delivery

grants and financing granted by regional and national authorities

Additional Info:



# ESF+: 4 funds coming together



# ESF+ and its 11 specific objectives

A more social Europe (European Pillar of Social Rights)

## EMPLOYMENT

- Access to employment
- Modernising labour market
- Women's labour market participation, work/life balance, childcare, working environment, adaptation of workers, active and healthy ageing

## EDUCATION TRAINING

- Quality and inclusive education and training
- Labour market relevance of Education and training systems
- Lifelong learning, upskilling, anticipating change and new skills requirements

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Active inclusion
- Integration of migrants and marginalised such as Roma
- Access to services; social protection healthcare systems and long term care
- Social integration of people at risk of poverty;
- Addressing material deprivation

Horizontal principles: Gender, Equal opps. Non-discrimination

Contribution to Smarter Europe; Greener, low-carbon Europe



# Support to social innovation in ESF+

## Social enterprises can be social innovators

- At least one priority per Member State
- Co-financing up to 95%
- For up to 5% of the national ESF+ envelope

# Single Market Programme

The Single Market Programme (SMP) is the EU funding programme to help the single market reach its full potential and ensure Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With **€4.2 billion** over the period of **2021-2027**, it strengthens the single market and supports the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular SMEs, in 14 industrial ecosystems key for recovery and the green and digital transitions.



# Single Market Program (2022)

## Upcoming calls

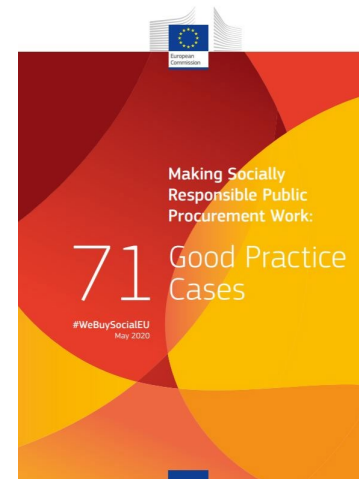
### B2B “Buy Social” Markets

- Promoting sustainable procurement “buy social” practices by companies as well as business partnerships SE & mainstream companies.
  - Boost SE’s inclusion in economic value chains, boost market access and economic performance.
  - Create local partnership to promote buy social markets: chambers of commerce, social economy federations, business schools, public authorities + Transnational component
  - Conduct market research, matchmaking, capacity building & training, setup buy social platforms,...
- ✓ **Role for local/regional authorities**
- ✓ **Currently open, DDL: 7/12, Info session: 20/10**



### Sustainable Responsible Public Procurement (SRPP)

- Enhanced SRPP enabled by the 2017 regulation on Public Procurement.
  - This call succeeds the 2019 call promoting social clauses and sustainable PP
  - Two lots:
    - Measuring Positive Impact in Socially Responsible Public Procurement
    - Training and Awareness-raising Activities in Socially Responsible Public Procurement: capacity building civil servants “how to apply” and best practice sharing (awareness, communication, capacity building and training).
  - Guide with 71 best practices
  - Limited countries and their regions/ localities targeted.
- ✓ **Role for local/regional authorities**
- ✓ **Currently open, DDL: 15/12**



# Single Market Program (2022)

## Upcoming calls

### Greening the Proximity & Social Economy

- Promoting green transition of P-SE businesses
- Create local partnership to promote green transition: social economy federations, research, incubators, green knowledge hubs, public authorities + Transnational component
- Capacity building, support for green certifications and labels, feasibility studies, energy efficiency analysis and production process assessments, investment opportunities, awareness and training).
- ✓ Role for local/regional authorities
- ✓ Opens 9/11/22 DDL: 14/02/23 Info session: 12/12

More calls to be announced in 2023...

# Further funding programmes

| Available programmes                    | Topics   |
|---|--|
| <b>European Urban Initiative</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EU-wide <b>urban experimentation</b> to test the suitability, feasibility and acceptance of <b>social change</b></li><li>• support cities that demonstrate their potential for <b>social innovation</b> and transformation</li></ul> |
| <b>Interreg Europe Programme</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• opportunities for <b>regional and local public authorities</b> to share ideas and experience on support to the social economy</li></ul>  |
| <b>European Solidarity Corps</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>direct funding</b> to programmes with relevance for the social economy</li></ul>  |
| <b>Recovery and Resilience Facility</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reforms and investments in <b>social and inclusive entrepreneurship</b></li></ul>  |

# Erasmus + Programme



€26.2 billion



Training, skills,  
employment and  
transnational  
cooperation

## Topics

- developing **entrepreneurial skills**
- social innovation
- tackling societal challenges
- policy **experimentation and reform**

## Delivery

funds actions with relevance for the social economy

Additional Info:



# Thank you for your attention!



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# Horizon Europe



€1.9 billion



**Social innovation &  
addressing societal  
challenges**

## Topics

- **research** on the social economy in the context of inclusive growth and other policy targets of the EU
- support to **social innovation**.

Additional Info:





# InvestEU – Employment and Social Innovation Strand



€2.78 billion



**Repayable finance  
for social  
enterprises &  
advisory initiatives**

## Topics

- **repayable finance** for social enterprises and microenterprises
- advisory in the fields of social enterprise finance, microfinance, **impact investing** and **social outcomes contracting**

## Delivery

grants and financing granted by regional and national authorities

Additional Info:



# Further funding programmes II

| Available programmes                                   | Topics  |
|--|---|
| <b>LIFE Programme</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>initiatives that address both environmental/climate and social aspects; transition to a <b>circular economy</b></li></ul>   |
| <b>European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>development of social economy in <b>rural areas</b>, investment for <b>farmers</b> and in basic services</li><li>diversification and cooperation and the <b>local development method LEADER</b></li></ul>   |
| <b>Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>promoting <b>equality and rights</b></li><li><b>fighting violence; citizens engagement and participation</b></li><li>promoting <b>European values</b>, including town-twinning, networks of towns and remembrance actions, European networks, relevant civil society organisations and European think-tanks</li></ul> |
| <b>Digital Europe Programme</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>supercomputing, <b>artificial intelligence, cybersecurity</b>, advanced <b>digital skills</b></li></ul>   |

# Funding programmes III

## Available programmes

## Topics

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### Single Market Programme

- functioning of the internal market, **competitiveness** of SMEs

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### Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

- **integration of third-country nationals; transnational projects** focused on cooperation with local authorities, NGOs and migrant-led organisations

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### Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

- partnerships with **third countries**, including **sustainable and inclusive economic growth** and human development
- improving business environment and investment climate
- developing a **socially and ecologically responsible local private sector**, and building the **capacity, competitiveness and resilience** of local SMEs and start-ups

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### European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus

- development of social economy in **neighbourhood countries**