## Cohesion CAREs – new flexibilities of the EU funds

#### **Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe** (CARE)

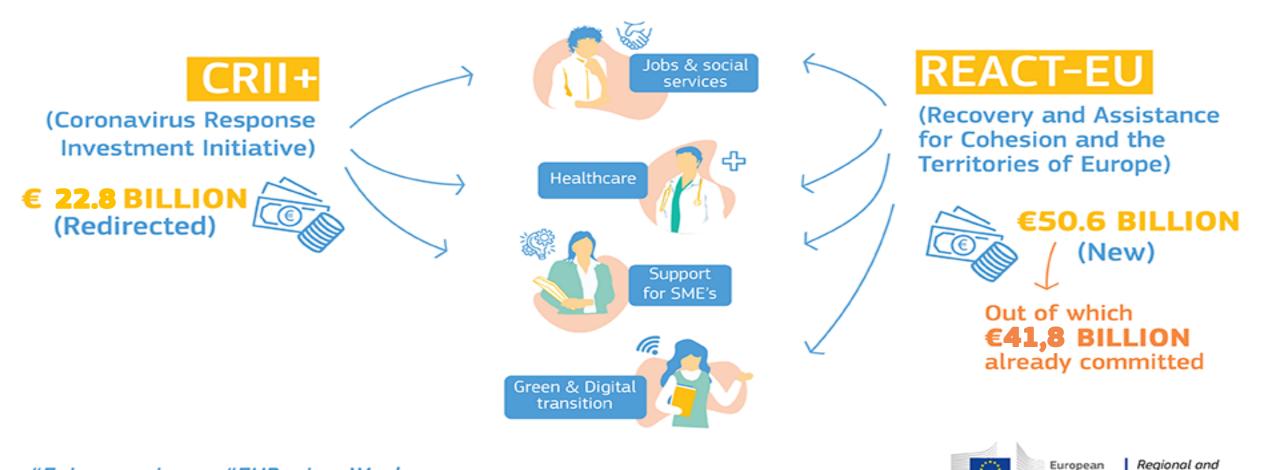
InformEU Network, 25 May 2022, Malta

Witold Willak, Deputy Head of Unit

Coordination of programmes unit



#### COHESION POLICY FOR RECOVERY



European

Commission

Urban Policy

 $^{\circ}$ 

#### #Euinmyregion #EURegionsWeek

#### EU funds 2014-2020

Scope: AMIF, ESF, FEAD, ERDF 2014-2020.

- 1. First reception and immediate relief
- 2. Welcome and integration
- 3. Mainstream support for long-term integration into host society

Key: The primary purpose of the ESF and the ERDF (under Thematic Objective O9) is the integration of these persons in the Member State



### European Social Fund (ESF) support

- Full range of ESF measures available (given access of Ukrainian refugees to the labour market measures in line with the temporary protection Directive)
- ESF can provide support in the following areas:
  - Social inclusion (counselling and psychological support, child care, social services)
  - Education and skills (e.g. language courses for children and parents, recruitment of additional teachers)
  - Employment measures (e.g. vocational education and training, work placements, training, work related language courses)
  - Broad set of measures including emergency measures and transport as part of pathway to integrate Ukrainian refugees into Member State
- Implemented as part of ongoing programmes or as new targeted measures for refugees

European

# Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD)

- Food and basic material assistance (e.g. clothes, hygiene goods, sleeping bags)
- Social inclusion activities for the most deprived (e.g. psychological support, basic language courses, legal interpretation)
- Not for cash transfers (except for vouchers for buying food and basic material assistance) and for access to services (such as refunding utilities bills)
- Operations have to be located in the Member State



## European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support

- **Objective:** integration of people with a migrant background
- Investments in accessible infrastructure (building/ refurbishing/ extending/renting) and related equipment through improved access to services in mainstream non-segregated:
  - Labour market (e.g. Public Employment Services, vocational training facilitates, business incubators, equipment to support interoperability of labor markets etc.)
  - Education (e.g. ECEC, primary, secondary, VET, including ICT etc.)
  - **Social housing** in the mainstream community / non-segregated areas (individual apartments for families, individuals), including for persons with disabilities, older people etc.
  - Social and health care (preventive, primary care etc.), non-residential family- and community-based services, child- care, mobile service units etc.
  - Public transport to facilitate access to the mainstream non-segregated services described above.

#### NB! Should not lead to further segregation/isolation of marginalized groups and building parallel services

#### Legal changes related to CARE

- Regulation (EU) 2022/562 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) <u>EUR-Lex - 32022R0562 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</u>
- Regulation (EU) 2022/613 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 April 2022 amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards increased pre-financing from REACT-EU resources and the establishment of a unit cost <u>EUR-Lex - 32022R0613 -EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</u>



### Mobilisation of cohesion policy

1. Redirecting available resources under **cohesion policy 2014-20** primarily for quick and short-term measures:

#### • MFF ERDF, ESF

- **NextGenerationEU REACT EU** (2021 tranche programmed and 2022 tranche still in programming)
- 2. Under **cohesion policy 2021-2027** long-term measures can be implemented to ensure successful integration of refugees in the Member States. Note: all programmes must be approved in 2022.



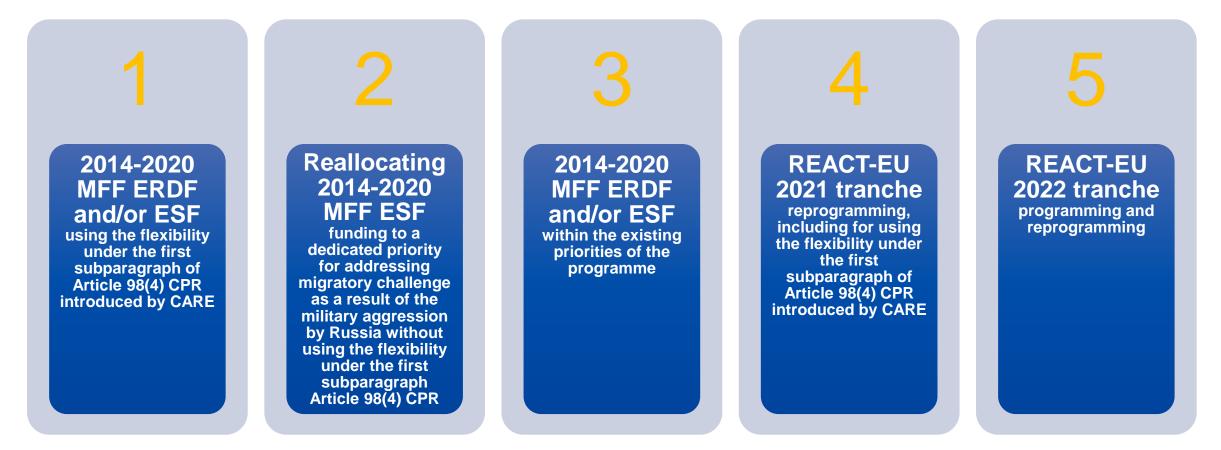
### **CARE** flexibilities

- 1. ERDF-ESF full cross-financing via Article 98(4) one fund can fully finance other fund's activities
- 2. A temporary **100% co-financing rate** for the accounting year 2021-2022 (ERDF, ESF and CF)
- 3. A new **simplified cost option** to cover basic needs of refugees
- 4. An increased initial pre-financing from the REACT-EU 2021 tranche by +4% / 34% - 3,5 bn € paid to MS in April



## 5 pathways of reprogramming to address the migratory challenges of the war in Ukraine

 "The five pathways of reprogramming of 2014-2020 resources to address the migratory challenges resulting from the military aggression by Russia against Ukraine" – the note is available on the <u>EU</u> <u>budget support for addressing the Ukrainian refugee crisis</u> SharePoint website.



### 4 key regulatory factors

- 1. New expenditure for operations addressing the migratory challenges as a result of the military aggression by Russia **shall be eligible as of 24 February 2022** (i.e. the amendment of programme has no impact on the start date of eligibility)
- 2. The scope of support of ERDF and ESF remains unchanged in the Fund-specific Regulations (see <u>the eligibility table</u> for a list of examples per funds)
- 3. Financial transfers between ERDF and ESF, categories of regions and between programmes are not possible at this late stage of the programming period, except for the transfers of REACT-EU resources for 2022
- 4. REACT-EU 2022 can be freely allocated and reallocated to the Funds (including FEAD) and programmes until the end of 2022.



### Article 68c CPR unit cost

- An off-the-shelf unit cost for reimbursing expenditure of MS with operations addressing migratory challenges of Russian aggression to the UA
- 40 euros per person and week in the Member State
- For persons <u>who have been granted temporary protection</u> under the temporary protection Directive.
- To cover costs of basic needs
- It can be used for a maximum of 13 weeks
- MS should be able to prove a number of supported persons by using appropriate registers in the MS or region



#### Audit trail for CARE unit cost: Simplification in action

#### Rationale



Different forms of basic support

3.

data



We don't go at

individual level

aggregate

2. Budget can cover only a fraction of the amounts MS spend







## Thank you

