



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Investing in people: key results 2007–2013



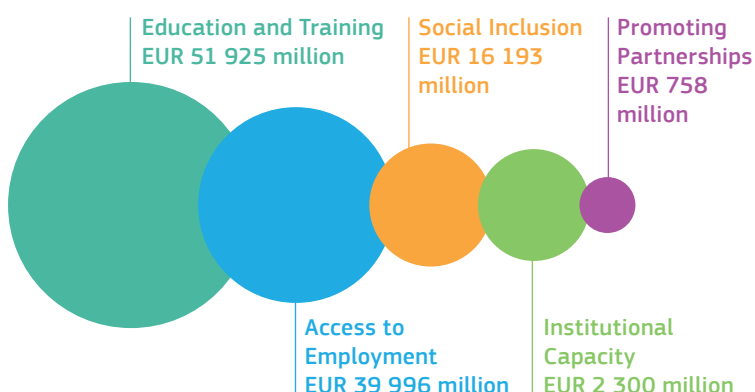
EU-28

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

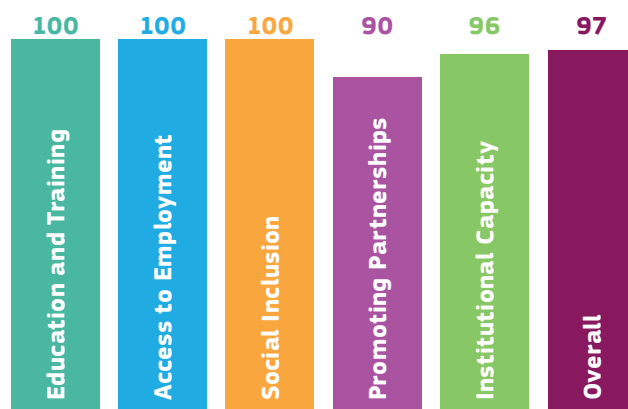
76 341 million

EU contribution (67% of total budget) (EUR)

Allocated Budget by theme*



Estimated implementation rate (%)



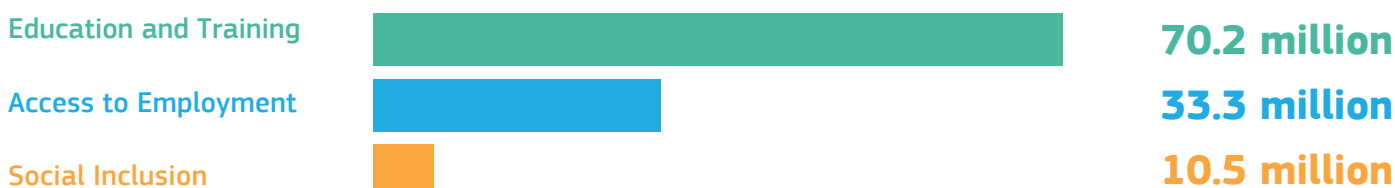
* Excluding Technical Assistance

PARTICIPATIONS**

of which: young people under 25

114 million

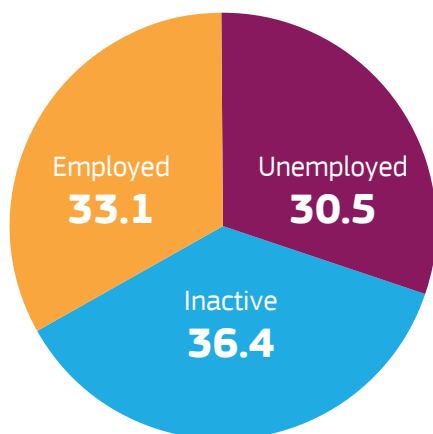
35.1 million



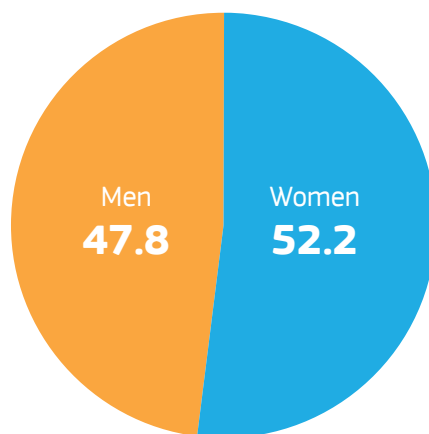
** As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time the number of participations is reported. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

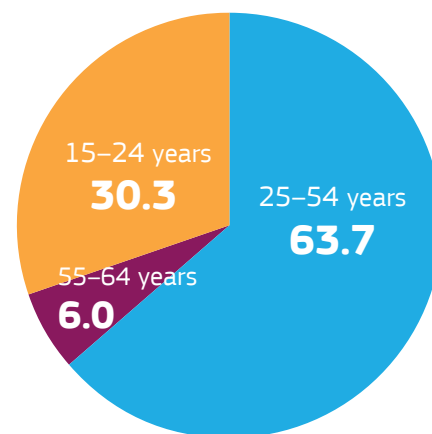
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (%)



GENDER (%)



AGE (%)



MAIN RESULTS*

Participants entering employment

11.5 million

Participants gaining qualifications

14.4 million

Other positive results (e.g. improved skills)

15.1 million

Entities supported

0.4 million

Products developed

0.3 million

MACRO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ESF**

Each **1€** invested in ESF during the 2007–2013 programming period will lead to an estimated **3€** increase in GDP by 2023.



* 1 154 out of a total of 3 468 result indicators (and 172 output or impact indicators) were aggregated into common categories. As not all result indicators could be related to one of the categories, the number of results is possibly under-estimated on this aggregated level.

** Source: Updated ESF Ex-post evaluation 2007–2013 Synthesis Report Calculation method: European Commission, JRC (Joint Research Center), RHOMOLO model, ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/rhomolo

MAIN FINDINGS

The ESF 2007–2013 played a key role to support economic and social policy priorities across the EU and was tailored to the specific challenges faced by the Member States. Its stabilisation role was particularly relevant during the economic crisis: the **flexibility in ESF programming** enabled a swift response and supported anti-crisis measures. This provided much needed resources at a time of budget cuts.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training measures absorbed the **largest share of the ESF 2007–2013 budget (45.5%)**, focusing on a broad range of competencies, from basic skills to vocational training and higher education. It contributed to significant reductions in early school leaving, increased enrolment and qualifications. The ESF helped implement systemic changes, a wider range of professional courses and **better skills matching** through **dual Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems and job mobility initiatives**. Most vulnerable students, such as people with special needs or Roma children, received particular attention. **Adaptability** and employability measures helped workers to retain their jobs.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

ESF promoted **more tailored approaches** towards employment through counselling and guidance, and other **individualised approaches**. A key feature remained **provision of training as a way to increasing employment**, with work-based training being particularly effective. The ESF supported public and private **employment services**, through increased flexibility, IT development, cooperation with social partners and multi-level governance.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Across the majority of MS, ESF funding supported the **most vulnerable individuals**, often characterised by multiple disadvantages. Among these minorities, Roma, people with disabilities, children with special needs, and migrants received particular attention.

PROMOTING PARTNERSHIPS

The ESF contributed to the **creation of national and transnational partnerships** supporting learning between national authorities, social partners and stakeholders. This approach also helped to disseminate information and raise awareness of employment and social policies.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY (Convergence regions)

Organisational changes and schemes targeting human resources in public administration **improved the qualifications** and motivation of civil servants. ESF also promoted the **adoption of structural reforms, helped reduce administrative burden** for citizens and businesses, and contributed to **improving legislation and policy design across the public administration**.

MORE INFORMATION

ESF Ex-post evaluation 2007–2013 Synthesis Report:
ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16808&langId=en

Staff Working Document Ex-post evaluation of the 2007–2013 ESF Programmes:
ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16810&langId=en

The ESF in Europa: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp?langId=en>

