



EaSI call for proposals VP/2018/008

Support for the deployment of
skills assessments
in the implementation of
“Upskilling Pathways”

DG EMPL Unit E3 “VET, Apprenticeships and adult learning”

Info session (29 May 2018)

Webinar programme

Making "Upskilling Pathways" a reality

The call for proposals: objectives, expected results, activities

Technical and financial issues

Question and answer session

Challenges

- In 2017, **61.3 million Europeans (25-64) low-qualified**
- **Similar proportions (16-65):**
low level of proficiency in
literacy,
numeracy
problem-solving in technology-rich
environments
in 20 Member States
- Big **variations** between Member
States, regions



Challenges

- **Upskilling/reskilling strategy** crucial for individual/society
- Yet
 - **Limited Adult learning take up**
(various obstacles: too costly, lack of time...)
 - **Limited provision of outreach, tailored support, flexible and accessible offer and guidance**
(even more for low-qualified adults)

Policy context

Communication “A new Skills Agenda for Europe” (2016)

- *Aim of the Skills Agenda: equip citizens with the right skills, make them more visible and comparable => **10 actions***

Among them: “Upskilling Pathways” Recommendation (2016)

- *In line with **European Pillar of Social Rights:***
- *principle of quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning*

Offer access to upskilling pathways for adults with a low level of skills, knowledge and competences without upper secondary education

3 steps



Implementation by Member States



Set priorities



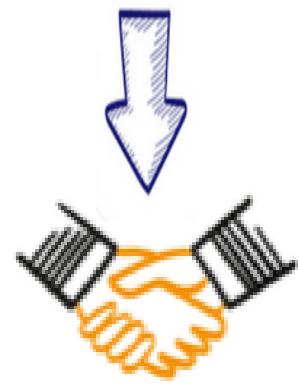
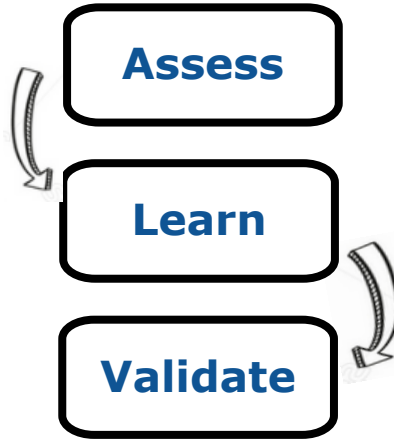
Identify beneficiaries



Identify implementing measures



Policy evaluation



Outreach, Guidance, Support

Partnership, Cooperation, Coordination

Focus: skills assessments

(first step of Upskilling Pathways)

- **identify and analyse** an individual's **knowledge, skills and competences**
- help the individual to:
 - **analyse his/her career background**
 - self-assess his/her position in the labour environment
 - **define a career project / pathway** and/or plan a professional **reorientation or training** project
 - or, in some cases, prepare for **validation** of non-formal or informal learning outcomes"

Skills assessments: key features



Methods and tools

- **Initial skills assessment & diagnosis** to identify learning needs
- **Support** of a trained advisor / counsellor
- **Availability of adapted tools** for extracting and presenting evidence of skills (e.g. screening tools, portfolios)

Pre-conditions / enablers

- centred upon the individual and **empowering** her/him
- relationship of **trust**/ensure the individual understands
- convince stakeholders of the value of tools
- ensure effective **coordination** of all parties involved
- delivery in **environment most suited** to target group

Output: a document/ portfolio that

- states the level of the individual's skills
- identifies next steps required and sets out a plan to achieve them

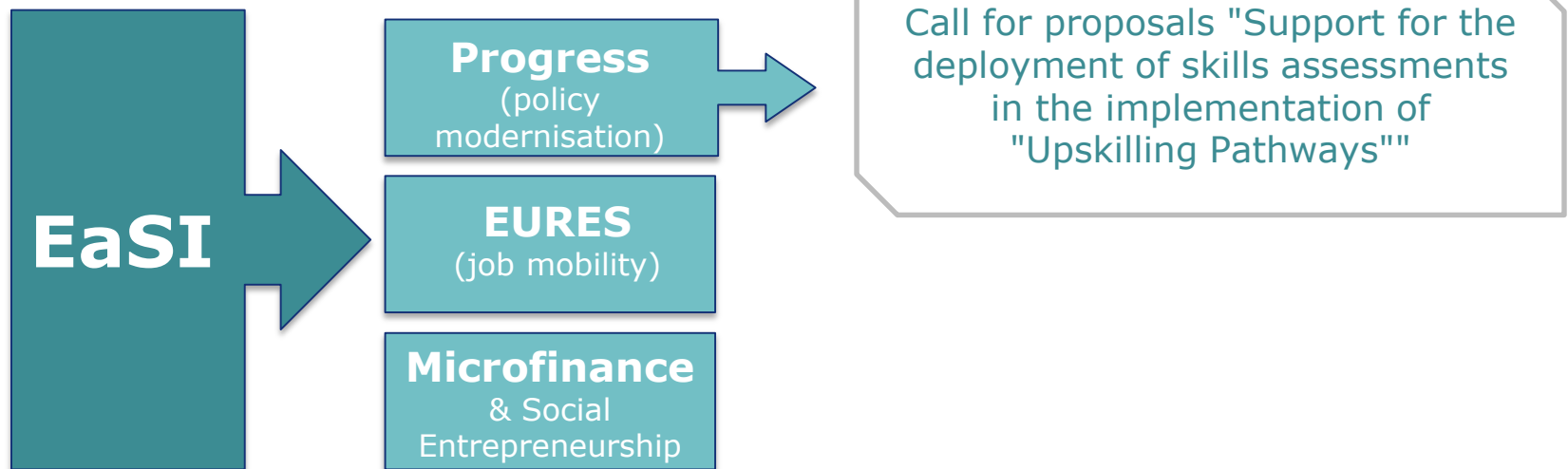


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The EaSI programme

- EU financing instrument 2014-2020 to promote **quality and sustainable employment** and working conditions, social protection and inclusion, combatting poverty (€920m)



Call for proposals: objectives

General objective:

support implementation of “Upskilling Pathways”

Specific objective:

support the deployment by national and/or regional authorities, as an integral element in their implementation of the Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways, of the **provision of individual skills assessments** (including literacy, numeracy and digital skills) **for low skilled / low qualified adults** (and in particular for priority groups identified by countries in the framework of the Recommendation, where relevant).

Call for proposals: objectives

The 'skills assessments' deployed should:

- **Identify and document** the individual's existing **basic** (and if possible wider) **skills**, to make them visible
- **Identify and document** any specific **learning gaps** in each individuals' basic (and if possible wider) skills
- Provide the **basis for designing a learning offer** adapted to the specific needs of each individual.
- **Be easily accessible and available** to low-skilled adults (and to priority groups identified by the country, where relevant)

Call for proposals: objectives

The provision of skills assessments should:

- be based on effective and sustainable **coordination of** relevant public and private **actors**
- be **complemented by guidance** and support the **take up of further learning opportunities;**
- where available, provide individuals with **opportunities to validate/certify his or her skills**, whether acquired through prior learning or through the proposed learning offer, and whether leading to a qualification or not.

Activities to be funded:

Centred around one of the 2 or a combination of...

Tools for assessing the skills of low-skilled / low qualified adults (or priority targets groups)

AND/OR

Arrangements for providing such assessments to low-skilled / low qualified adults (or priority targets groups)

Activities to be funded:

Must include one or more of the following...

Enlarging the scale/scope of existing assessment tools and arrangements for low-skilled / low-qualified adults that are considered to be effective

OR

Adapting to the needs of low-skilled adults existing assessment tools and arrangements that are considered to be effective

OR

Developing new assessment tools and arrangements for low-skilled adults and/or testing them on a scale that allows conclusions to be drawn about their effectiveness

Activities to be funded:

Can include in addition one or more of the following...

Supporting organisations dealing with low-skilled adults to offer skills assessments and to motivate low-skilled adults to undertake them

OR

Creating or improving mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among stakeholders for the design or provision of skills assessments

OR

Supporting the use of the results of skills assessments in the design of tailored offers of learning opportunities



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Budget

Maximum EU co-financing rate: 80% of total eligible costs

- **Applicants shall finance the 20% left** with their own resources or other sources than EU Budget (third party)

Maximum EU grant amount: €1,500,000

- Applicants can request between €250,000 and €500,000
- Between 3 and 6 actions will be funded

How will applications be assessed?

- Admissibility
 - SWIM + mail submitted in time
 - Application form (including budget) and annexes
- Eligibility and exclusion criteria
- Selection criteria (financial and operational capacity)
 - Financial and operational capacity of each applicant assessed (except public bodies)
- Award criteria

NB: For some documents: copies accepted, but keep originals

Eligibility criteria

- **EaSI countries:** (EU28, EFTA/EEA, AL, ME, MK, RS, TR)
- **Applicant/lead applicant:** **public entities** in charge of national or regional policies/actions for up/re-skilling adults
- **Co-applicants (in case of regional/national/trans-national consortium):** public or private entities (profit or non-profit making) involved in the organisation and/or financing and/or provision of services to adults
 - **The application must make clear what the focus country is**
- **Affiliated entities and associate organisations** allowed

Award criteria

Criteria	Points
Relevance of proposal to call objectives	Max 35 pts
Quality of methodology	Max 20 pts
Expected impact and sustainability	Max 30 pts
Cost-efficiency	Max 15 pts

Total score must reach at least **70%** of maximum possible mark.
For each focus country: only the application receiving the highest score will be recommended for award.



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Read also carefully...

- Financial Guidelines for Applicants (**Call annex 1**)
- Model Grant Agreement for mono and multi-beneficiaries (**Call webpage**)
- EaSI final technical report (**Call webpage**)
- Glossary of terms (**Call annex 2**)
- Model for tender specifications for subcontracting external expertise (**Call annex 3**)

And the **checklist** p.21-22 of the Call indicating all documents to provide

- In particular the **Template for the Description of Action and Work Plan**

Financial provisions

- To be eligible, costs must be:
 - incurred during the duration of the action
 - indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action
 - necessary for the implementation of the action
 - identifiable and verifiable = real costs (except daily allowance)
 - reasonable and justified (sound financial management)

We want to apply!

Where to find the call (ref. **VP/2018/008**)

- ec.europa.eu/social (Policies and activities => Funding => Calls for proposals)

When to apply

- Until 13/07/2018 (action should start between 11/2018 and 01/2019)
- The action's duration should indicatively be between 12 and 24 months

How to apply

- Online with the SWIM tool **AND** by mail: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim>
- Technical SWIM support: empl-swim-support@ec.europa.eu

Whom to contact

- EMPL-VP-2018-008@ec.europa.eu



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Thank you for your attention!

