



Next Multiannual Financial Framework and investment in support services

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- Established in 1996
- Represents 17.000 support services in Europe
- Mission: promote equal opportunities through high quality support service systems
- Accredited to the conference of States Parties to the UN CRPD
- EASPD is part of the European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care (EEG)

Key areas in which reforms are needed

- Training and re-training of staff
- Development of person-centred community-based services
- Innovation (co-production, person-centred planning, digitalisation, etc.)
- New support systems to meet new needs
- Development of services in rural areas

Objective: Delivery of community-based care systems

- **Main use of ESIF**
 - Sustain the sector in periods of cuts
 - Complement national resources
 - Boost innovative practices
- **Examples**
 - Employment and education support
 - Training of staff
 - Set up of new care and support facilities
 - Running of activities

- **What does InvestEU bring for Social Services**

- The InvestEU Fund will act as a public guarantee to facilitate their access to better quality loans, in particular via its €4 bln “Social Investment & Skills” Window (to unlock €40 bln of total investment).
- InvestEU will support financial capacity-building in the sector via a dedicated €500+ mln budget

- **What Social Infrastructure projects can it help finance?**

- The creation and transformation of social sector buildings
- Energy efficiency measures of social sector buildings
- Digitalisation in social services
- Accessibility in social services
- Facilitation of community-based services

- **Other EU funds (Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Erasmus+, Solidarity Corps, etc.)**
 - Research in the sector (collection of data, etc.)
 - Lifelong learning opportunities
 - Uptake of assistive technology
 - And much more

Key messages

1. Investment Needs in Support Services
2. Social Inclusion as a Target
3. Improve Access to EU funds
4. EU Budget = Quality Investments

1. Investment Needs in Support Services & EU Budget

- **Support for Reform of Services** (ESF+, ERDF, InvestEU, Erasmus+, etc)
- **Innovation & Research** (ESF+, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, etc)
- **Digitalisation** (Digital Europe, ESF+, InvestEU, etc)
- **Train staff & improve attractiveness of the sector** (ESF+, Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps, etc)
- **Invest in new community based infrastructure** (InvestEU, ERDF, etc)

2. Social Inclusion as a target and mainstreamed

- **ESF+:** Earmarking for Social Inclusion is positive and essential
- **InvestEU:** Creation of Social Investment & Skills Window is positive and adequate amount
- **HorizonEurope:** Even more narrow approach to health & Inclusion than previously. In current form, it will limit research into social support.
- **Digital Europe:** Risks leaving aside digitalisation needs in social care & support. No reference to Assistive Technology; or inclusion and accessibility.

3. Improve Access to EU Programmes

- **CPR & ESF+:** Overall approach to simplification is the right direction.
 - Simplification should benefit beneficiaries, not just managing authorities
 - Decrease in co-financing rates could lead to less projects being funded
 - Positive strengthening of partnership principle
- **InvestEU:** Capacity building budget is a positive. Important to ensure it reaches those who need it most; sectoral involvement is crucial.

4. EU Budget = Quality Investments

- **EU** plays leading role in the reform of support services. It must be coherent in which projects it supports.
- **ESF+**: strengthening of enabling conditions is positive
- **ERDF**: does not exclude the use of funds for building or renovating segregating institutional care
- **InvestEU**: Investment Guidelines must include quality principles too, developed with sectors involved.

Concluding observations

- The provision of support services has huge differences between and within countries
- The transition and the development of community-based care services faces many obstacles with concrete risks of re-institutionalisation and fragmentation of society
- Adequate, accessible, affordable and adaptable support systems are the way forward
- There is a need to improve cooperation between different sectors

Recommendations

- The Next MFF can promote positive developments when supported by strong legal frameworks
- Monitoring of MFF use and expenditure should be improved
- Improve access and management of funds by smaller organisations
- Cooperation with users (partnership principle) is essential to develop projects addressing real needs

- EASPD position on next Multiannual Financial Framework

ANY QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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