



**EU Recovery Plan: opportunities or action – time to engage!**



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# I. What are the investment needs?

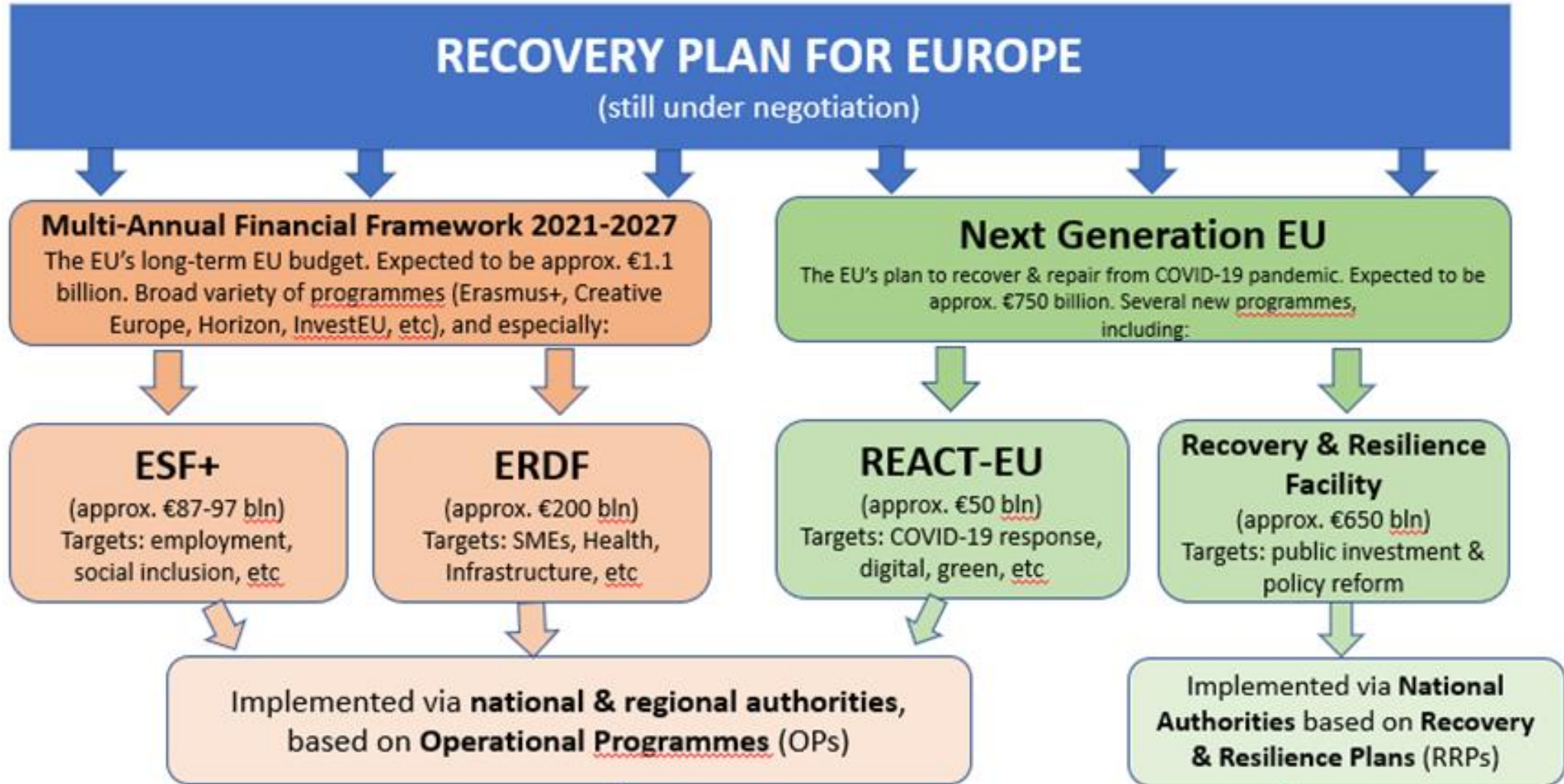
## **Structural Investment Needs:**

- Modern community-based service provision, prevent medicalised services and re-institutionalisation
- Investment in staff (tackle staff shortages, re & upskilling staff, health & safety, etc)
- Investment in infrastructure (accessibility, day care, respite care, supported housing, accessibility, social economy enterprises, etc)
- Investment in ICT (equipment, training, accessibility etc)
- Investment in innovation and new approaches (co-production, non-profit online platforms, etc)

## **COVID-related Investments:**

- Accelerate the transition to community-services and inclusive services
- Supporting social economy enterprises and employment support
- Covering additional costs of service providers (personal protective equipment, testing, new ICT equipment, additional staff, etc) to provide services in safe conditions
- Training of staff and people who use the services on health and safety measures, etc
- Accessibility of COVID19 response

## II. What is the EU Recovery Plan?



# III. What is the European Social Fund +?

- the next budget's main « **social** » programme for 2021-27
- Have a budget between **€87 & 97 billion** (less than previous ESF, but REACT-EU is in addition)
- Fund projects linked to impl. Of **European Pillar of Social Rights**: employment, education, and social inclusion, etc
- **25% earmarked for social inclusion projects**, min. 10% to help tackle youth unemployment in countries with high YU
- **Ex-ante conditionalities: UN CRPD!**

ESF will be managed by national/regional Managing Authorities, through a partnership agreement with the European Commission.

## Examples of ESF 2014-2020

Large Scale **de-institutionalisation** project in Bulgaria for children with disabilities: closing institutions, building community services (€10 million from ESF)

**Employment training** for young people with learning disabilities in Spain (€4.8 million from ESF)

Additional support to **make education more inclusive** in Greece (€7.7 million from ESF)

**Purchasing ICT equipment** to facilitate communication between the deaf community & local authorities in Czechia (€128.096 from ESF)

# IV. What is the European Regional Development Fund?

- Strengthen **economic & social cohesion** in the EU
- Have a budget of approx. **€200 billion** for 2021-2027
- Funds projects linked to impl. Of **European Pillar of Social Rights** :
  - Investments in infrastructure (incl. Social & accessibility)
  - Investments in access to services (incl. Social)
  - Productive investments in SMEs (incl. Social)
  - Equipment, software and intangible assets
  - Accessibility!
- **Enabling conditions: UN CRPD!**

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## Examples of ERDF 2014-2020

Digital technologies to deliver inclusive care services in Poland (€2 million from ERDF)

Boosting employment among persons with disabilities in Brussels by diversifying the activities of 11 social economy enterprises (€300.000 from ERDF)

Digital tablets distributed to special education centres in Spain (€20.6 million from ERDF)

Community centre upgrade in Poland (accessibility adaptations (€145.153 from ERDF)

# V. What is REACT-EU? (NEW)

- **Objectives:**
  - Crisis repair due to COVID-19 pandemic
  - Green, digital and resilient recovery
- **Top up ESF+ & ERDF by approx. €50 billion for 2020-22**
  - via ESF+, to fund projects in employment, education and training and social services
  - Via ERDF to fund projects in health services (potentially incl. social care services) & other areas,
- **Warning:** enabling conditions (UN CRPD) do not apply!

## Possible examples

Accelerate transition and access to **home and community services**

Support **adaptation of support services to COVID-19 pandemic** (additional costs, training of staff, buying digital equipment, etc)

Facilitate **access to healthcare** for persons with disabilities (accessibility, etc)

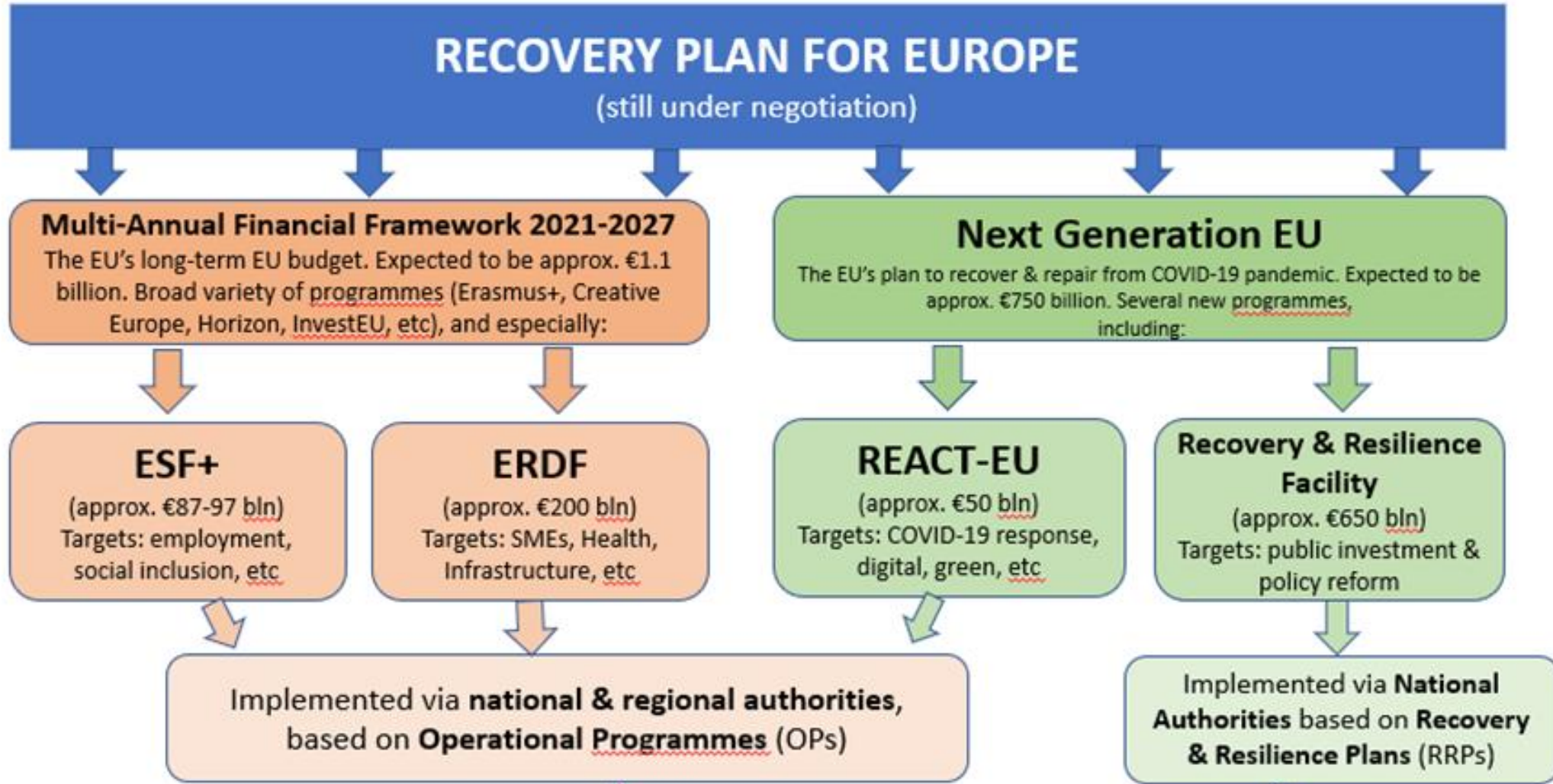
Projects to help keep or to strengthen persons with disabilities in **employment** (supported employment projects, social economy enterprises, etc)

## VI. What is the Recovery and Resilience Facility? (new)

- **EU's biggest instrument** to support economic recovery during & post-COVID19,
- **€672.5 billion** for public investment & policy reforms
- **Priorities:**
  - Green investments (min. 37% earmarked) & digital investments (min. 20% earmarked)
  - Fair investments (**no earmarking!**), targeting implementation of EU Pillar of Social Rights
  - Implementation of Country Specific Recommendations 2019 & 2020 (European Semester)
  - 7 EU flagships (power up, renovate, recharge and refuel, connect, modernize, scale-up, reskill & upskill)
    - Accessibility!
  - **No enabling conditions (UN CRPD) as for ESF and ERDF**
- **Implemented by national governments** who must submit Recovery and Resilience Plans to European Commission by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, before approval by the Council.
- **Like for other EU funds, engage now to benefit later!**



# VII. What is the EU Recovery Plan?





# VIII. Engage Now to Benefit Later

The EU Recovery Plan offers **more opportunities than ever** to investment into projects which implement the UN CRPD on-the-ground (modern service provision, accessibility, etc)!

Now is the time to **turn these opportunities into concrete action ...**

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### ▪ **National Policy-Makers and Authorities:**

- Partner with Civil Society to design programmes and plans
- Make the UN CRPD a priority in your use of the EU Recovery Plan

### ▪ **European Commission:**

- Ensure national authorities to make the most of the EU Recovery Plan for implementing the CRPD

### ▪ **Civil society:**

- Lobby and partner with your public authorities and ensure your investment ideas are included in their ESF+, ERDF & React-EU programmes and Recovery Plans

# ANY QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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EASPD – European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities

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