



European
Commission

ESF EVALUATIONS 2014-2018

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MOBILITY

In line with the wider EU 2020 target of achieving a 75% employment rate for the working-age population, the EU supports Member States in **reducing unemployment rates**. In particular, the ESF helps job seekers and inactive people to **access employment**; it also supports self-employment, active and healthy ageing and labour mobility as well as businesses and the modernisation of labour market institutions.

By the end of 2018, over **6.9 million** people had participated in ESF-funded operations; nearly 70% of the participants were unemployed, with women representing over half of all participants. Migrants and individuals with non-European backgrounds accounted for 13%. Labour mobility also showed positive outcomes, with the total share of non-nationals in employment increasing from 7.1% to 8.3% during 2014-2018.

This thematic objective is supported specifically (without Youth Employment) through 151 Operational Programmes, across all Member States. The total allocation of these programmes is EUR 32.1 billion, equivalent to approximately 26% of the entire ESF budget for 2014-2020. This underlines that Member States also confirm support for employment and labour mobility as a central objective within ESF.

According to the evaluation of European Social Fund support to employment and labour mobility excluding youth:

1

A total of **1.3 million unemployed individuals found employment** after leaving the ESF operations, with a further 0.6 million people obtaining a qualification. Roughly one-third of all recorded participations experienced a positive result;

2

The **number of ESF participants in employment tended to increase** slightly six months after leaving operations though with considerable differences between Member States and target groups;

3

ESF support for labour mobility – in particular for geographical mobility – is **not visible enough**. More effort should be allocated toward data collection for geographical mobility.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Finnish project helps job seekers on their road to work

In Lahti, Finland, hundreds of people over 30 are taking advantage of a project offering free career advice.

Vauhdittamo – Finnish for ‘Accelerator’ – works with people who want education and employment guidance. The project offers tailored, one-to-one support – including career consultations, interview practice, digital skills training and help with CV writing. Accelerator also holds regular events like recruitment fairs and study days.

The project has been highly successful: as it’s led by the clients’ needs, participants tend to be committed to taking as much as they can from the service. Vauhdittamo collaborates with a close network of educational, recruitment, entrepreneur and third-sector employment organisations. By working closely with local businesses, education and professional organisations, Vauhdittamo is able to offer employers free help with recruitment, and show significant success in matching individuals with meaningful employment.

Learn more



More info



[Link to the Staff Working Document:](#)



[Link to study and country factsheets:](#)

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