



European
Commission

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PLUS INVESTING IN PEOPLE

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#EUfunds

The European Social Fund Plus is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. It aims to build a more social and inclusive Europe and contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The ESF+ aims to:



support Member States in tackling the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic



achieve high employment levels, especially for youth



ensure social inclusion



contribute to poverty reduction, in particular for children



grow a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy



Total budget for 2021-2027:

€88
BILLION

Funding from the ESF+ will:



Further support youth employment: Young people on or entering the labour market have been disproportionately hit by the crisis. Member States with high numbers of people aged 15 – 29 not in employment, education or training should invest at least 12.5% of their ESF+ resources in this key area. All other Member States must allocate an appropriate amount of their ESF+ resources to targeted actions to support youth employment measures.



Help to tackle child poverty: No child can be left behind in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. The ESF+ requires Member States most affected by child poverty to allocate at least 5% of their ESF+ resources to implement measures to reduce it and all other Member States must allocate an appropriate amount to this end.



Accompany the green and digital transitions: The ESF+ will make a strong contribution to the green and digital transitions by driving investment in skilling opportunities so that workers can thrive in a climate-neutral, more digital and inclusive society.



Support the most vulnerable: Member States will have to allocate at least 25% of their ESF+ resources to promoting social inclusion. In addition, the current Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) will be integrated in the ESF+ to provide food and basic material assistance. All Member States will devote at least 3% of their ESF+ resources to this aim.



Promote social innovation, social entrepreneurship and labour mobility within the EU: The ESF+ Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand will support innovative approaches and actions to create employment and promote social inclusion.

Examples of projects funded by the ESF



The European Social Fund-funded “SYPO” project is a web platform for **teachers in Czechia**, offering modular training and support via webinars and online resources, so teachers can keep on teaching and students can keep on learning even during lockdown.

More than 11,000 **young participants in Greece** have enrolled in the national apprentice programme backed by the European Social Fund, gaining professional skills, upgrading their qualifications and receiving paid working experience.



The European Social Fund is financing the emergency safe space “De Blasiis” in the City of **Naples** which hosts **vulnerable people** such as the homeless, immigrants and people with addiction problems. A qualified social team is supporting the centre.