



Report on the 25th Meeting of the Contact Persons of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) Online videoconference

Brussels, 18 March 2021

1. Introduction and welcome words by Ms Ruth Paserman - Director Directorate F 'Investment', DG EMPL, and adoption of the agenda

This document provides a concise summary of the meeting. The presentations are available on the EGF website.

2. Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment (EASE)

Mr Matteo Duiella presented the Commission recommendation on EASE following the COVID-19 crisis¹. The aim of EASE is to support a job-rich recovery by promoting a gradual shift in employment policies, from employment preservation to easing job transitions and supporting job creation. These new EASE measures should contain three elements: (1) hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support; (2) upskilling and reskilling opportunities; (3) enhanced support by employment services.

3. Update on EGF since the last Contact Persons meeting

The Commission presented the state of play of EGF final reports, recoveries, closures, and applications received.

Representative from Italy informed about the possibility of two EGF applications for the Sardinia region: 1. air transport sector with approximately 500 displaced workers; 2. international shipping sector with approximately 200 displaced workers.

Representative from Spain indicated the possibility of one application in the Basque region with approximately 300 displaced in the manufacture of basic metals.

Both representatives underlined that they will wait with submitting of the applications until the new regulation is adopted and published in *the Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ). The Commission informed that applications submitted in 2021 will be subject to the 2021 – 2027 Regulation and encouraged the Member States to contact the EGF team at an early stage when planning new applications.

4. The 2021 – 2027 EGF Regulation – what is new?

The Commission presented the EGF Regulation for 2021-2027 with emphasis on the main changes:

- The name: European Globalisation Adjustment Fund **for Displaced Workers** (EGF);
- Annual maximum amount of **EUR 186 Mio** (in 2018 prices), outside and above MFF ceilings;
- Scope of application is no longer limited to globalization and/or crisis;
- Intervention criteria: 200 job losses minimum, NEETS no longer eligible;
- Workers who lost their jobs **6 months** before reference period are eligible;
- Co-financing rate of the EGF aligns with the ESF+ co-financing rate in the applicant Member State (MS) or 60% (whichever is the highest);
- Background analysis in applications is no longer needed;
- Shorter deadlines: Commission has 10 working days to ask questions after applications and MS has 15 working days to reply;
- Technical Assistance (TA) at the initiative of the Commission can be implemented under indirect management;

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_820

- Final report: 7 months after the end of the implementation period;
- Result indicator (employment status, percentage of beneficiaries who gained a qualification, percentage of beneficiaries still in education or training): 6 months after end of implementation (the additional indicator of 18 months after implementation has been deleted);
- Beneficiary survey (qualitative and quantitative information on beneficiaries).

The Member States will be invited to participate in the drafting of templates for irregularity reporting, the beneficiary survey and on possible TA measures.

5. System for Fund Management (SFC) – where do we stand?

The Commission presented the developments within SFC2021 for the programming period 2021-2027. The web application is expected to be operational in June/July 2021.

6. The updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) post 2020

The Commission presented the FAQs triggered by the new Regulation. A revised FAQs document will be available on the EGF website after the publication of the Regulation in the OJ. The EGF team answered questions from Member States on:

- Sectors and downstream suppliers that can be part of an application based on the intervention criterion Art.4(2)(c) “variety of sectors in one region”:
 - The regulation does not limit the number of sectors, however the sectors should be linked.
- Dismissal of employees in public sector, and private enterprises providing services to the public sector.
 - Employees in public sector are not eligible for support, however private companies delivering services to public sector can be eligible.
- TA and/or subcontracts for internal control:
 - TA can be used for internal control as long as it contributes to the implementation of the case.
- Digital skills as a horizontal element:
 - These skills must be included in the proposed measures. If the MS considers this is not necessary, an explanation must be provided.
- Inclusion of 2020 redundancies:
 - Workers made redundant in 2020 are eligible for EGF support if they were dismissed no earlier than 6 months before the start of the reference period.
- Relevant examples of cases that are not eligible for EGF co-funding;
- EGF contribution to targets against climate change;
 - EGF is part of the total EU expenditure, which should contribute to achieve the Union’s targets against climate change.

7. EGF ex-post evaluation for the 2014-2020 programming period

The Commission elaborated on the EGF ex-post evaluation for the 2014-2020 programming period. The evaluation will address the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and relevance of the results achieved, as well as the impact of the EGF and its EU added value. The Commission Staff Working Document is currently in preparation and is to be published by 31 December 2021.

8. Communication

In 2021, the Commission will publish the biennial report on EGF activities 2019-2020, a leaflet on the EGF and the new Regulation. The EGF team asked Member States to contribute with success stories of reintegrated beneficiaries and innovative EGF funded measures that have been adopted into national policy programs.

9. Next EGF Contact Persons Meeting and Networking Seminar

The next EGF Contact Persons Meeting is foreseen in October.

10. Update on EGF related events planned in Member States

The representative from Germany informed about planning a digital conference and a leaflet on the new EGF 2021-2027 regulation.

The representative from France informed of a communication document on the EGF 2021-2027 regulation.

11. Any other business & Wrap-up of the meeting

Ms Ruth Paserman closed the meeting at 13:10.