

EN
ANNEX

2022 annual work programme for the operational technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the framework of the European Social Fund Plus strand under shared management

Grants, Procurements and other actions

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives laid down in the Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2022 as follows:

1.1. Budget breakdown

Budget Line	Amount
07.020200- ESF+ shared management strand - Operational technical assistance	EUR 23 880 000
TOTAL	EUR 23 880 000

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013, and in particular Article 39 thereof

1.2. Type of actions to be financed:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2): EUR 150 000
- for prizes (implemented under direct management) (point 3): N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 4): EUR 23 530 000
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 5): N/A
- for contributions to trust funds (point 6): N/A
- for financial instruments (point 7): N/A
- for contributions to blending facilities (point 8): N/A
- for other actions or expenditure (point 9): EUR 200 000

2. Grants

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme amounts to EUR 150 000.

2.1. Direct grant to Euronews for reporting on ESF/ESF+ implementation

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to produce three "Real Economy" episodes on ESF/ESF+ implementation with Euronews. It will contribute to disseminating information about what can be achieved under the ESF+. Topics to be determined. Euronews is free to adapt the topics provided by the Commission to the editorial concept of the Real Economy Magazine. These dissemination activities concern all the European Pillars of Social Rights.

Description of the activities to be funded

Euronews will be asked to produce and broadcast three episodes in 2022-2023 on ESF/ESF+ implementation, raising awareness among the general public on the impact of ESF/ESF+ funding on the ground. The episodes are part of the established TV magazine "Real Economy", which is distributed on air, online and via social media. Euronews is specialised in reporting on EU affairs from a European perspective on a multilingual basis and contributes to a sense of European identity. Its magazine Real Economy is specialised in economic, social and employment related matters. The action will allow the Commission to reach out to new audiences strengthening the visibility of the ESF+. In 2018, Real Economy had in average 130 000 views on Facebook of each episode, 220 000 pages views and reached around 8.1 million individuals on TV during the first quarter of the year. The planning of the episodes to be produced will be done in close cooperation with Euronews and DG ECFIN. The latter is the Commission's coordinator of the cooperation with Euronews Real Economy. Due to its editorial independence, Euronews is free to adapt these objectives and target groups to the editorial concept of the Real Economy Magazine.

Types of applicants targeted by the direct award of the grant

According to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. Euronews, who will produce and broadcast the documentaries, fulfils these criteria.

Implementation

Through a co-delegation to ECFIN

3. Prizes

N/A

4. Procurement

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme amounts to EUR 23 530 000.

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

The objective is a better implementation of the European Social Fund Plus through general communication and raising awareness among stakeholders, developing evidence basis, and supporting managing authorities and stakeholders, including through improved IT tools, to ensure sound financial management and the European added value of the programme.

In 2022, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (call for tenders and framework contracts) or administrative arrangements in the following areas:

4.1. Support to capacity building activities for better ESF+ implementation

General description of the contracts envisaged

Assist the Commission, Member States and stakeholders in programming, implementing and evaluating ESF+ including through conferences, meetings, events, trainings, mutual learning, an advisory platform for using financial instruments, audits, and other actions.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DG REGIO and DG JUST

4.2. Communication

General description of the contracts envisaged

Development of ESF+ communication tools, including maintenance and update of ESF+ website, preparation of publications, media relations and audio-visual products and campaigns. The objective is to inform the general public about the goals and results of the ESF+ and communicate to stakeholders and the media about the functioning and achievements of the ESF+. It will also include the contribution to the corporate communication campaigns.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DG COMM

4.3. Development and maintenance of IT tools

General description of the contracts envisaged

These procurement actions will include the development and maintenance of various IT tools supporting the ESF+ implementation, such as a risk scoring tool ARACHNE for data mining and data enrichment, as well as MAPAR (field audit management tool), SFC and RDIS2 (support for financial management) to ensure appropriate management of the funds. It will also contribute to corporate IT and support the development of corporate IT tools such as Corporate Compass.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegations to DG AGRI, DG DIGIT

4.4. Analysis, reports, evaluation and impact assessments

General description of the contracts envisaged

The procurement actions will include support for thematic analysis and studies to enhance results and improve the evidence-based management of ESF+ and for developing data collection systems, including in relation to Member States' reform efforts.

These actions also cover help in assessing the quality of the Member States' evaluation plans and evaluations and joint support to Commission services and Member States on the assessment and improvement of evaluations for ESF+, ERDF and Cohesion fund. These actions also include activities related to the promotion and implementation of impact evaluations and guidance.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL and co-delegation to DG REGIO

4.5. Support services and communication in the area of skills

General description of the contracts envisaged

Supporting implementation of the VET Recommendation, a flagship action under the Skills Agenda, the European Vocational Skills Week communications contract would reach out to national, regional and local levels across Europe. There will be an increased focus on actions and reach out at national, regional, and local levels and a reinforced role for the Ambassadors. It will cover also the VET excellence awards and a set of support services for the Centres of Vocational Excellence. The Commission will continue its activities in relation to the support platform to facilitate peer counselling and cooperation between Member States and stakeholders, supporting structural reforms through better use and dissemination of practical tools and best practices in the field of apprenticeships.

Implementation

Directly by DG EMPL

5. *Actions implemented under indirect management*

N/A

6. *Contributions to trust funds*

N/A

7. *Financial instruments*

N/A

8. *Contributions to blending facilities*

N/A

9. Other actions or expenditure

The indicative global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions or expenditure under this work programme amounts to EUR 200 000.

9.1. Analysis and evaluation

Amount

EUR 200 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Further development of scientific expertise, methodological support and analysis to the Commission and Member States, to assess the impact of ESF/ESF+ funded interventions and contribute to ESF/ESF+ thematic evaluations. The Centre for Research on impact evaluations (CRIE) within the JRC will provide scientific expertise and methodological support to the Commission and Member States for the evaluation of the impact of ESF/ESF+ funded interventions. This involves mostly promoting the use of counterfactual impact evaluation methods through community of practice meetings with Member States and Quality Assurance Support on request of Member States to any query on applying this method.

Implementation

Service level agreement with JRC
