

Annex to the publication *Social housing and beyond*

COUNTRY FICHES

Overview of the priorities related to affordable and social housing and associated services in the Resilience and Recovery Plans and in the Cohesion Policy programmes in the funding period 2021-2027



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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Annex to the publication

Social housing and beyond

COUNTRY FICHES

Overview of the priorities related to affordable and social housing and associated services in the Resilience and Recovery Plans and in the Cohesion Policy programmes in the funding period 2021-2027

The objective of this annex is complement the *Operational toolkit on the use of EU funds for investments in social housing and associated services* by providing country fiches with information on the major priorities related to affordable and social housing and associated services included in the national plans set up under the Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF) and in the programmes established in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in the funding period 2021-2027.

The mapping aims to provide a snapshot of the existing funding opportunities as programmed in the relevant plans and programmes in the Member States. In addition to information on the priorities, the country fiches include indications, when possible, on other related aspects such as allocations, eligible actions, intervention fields, implementation modalities and sources of further information.

In some Member States ⁽¹⁾, however, housing aspects are not financed through EU funds but rather through national, regional and local budgets. Therefore, these countries are not included in this annex.

⁽¹⁾ Finland, Austria and the Netherlands.

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BELGIUM

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

The national plan contains the investment measure “Renovations of private and social housing” (I-1A). Its objective is to stimulate the energy-efficient renovation of private and social housing. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2025. The investment is composed, amongst others, of the following three sub measures that are specifically focused on social housing:

- Investment I-1.01: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the Flemish Region
- Investment I-1.02: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the Brussels-Capital Region
- Investment I-1.03: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the German-speaking Community

The national plan also contains another investment measure I-4.12: ‘Development of public utility housing and housing for vulnerable persons’ of the Walloon Region.

Investment I-1.01: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the Flemish Region (Component 1.1: Renovation)

The objective of the measure is to stimulate and accelerate the energy renovation of social housing by increasing the support from the Flemish Climate Fund to social housing companies and the Flemish Housing Fund. The renovation of social housing shall reduce on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings.

The target is to renovate 4 010 social housing units in the first step.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2023.

Investment I-1.02: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the Brussels-Capital Region (Component 1.1: Renovation)

This measure contributes to financing the renovation of social housing in Brussels. The renovation of social housing shall reduce on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings.

The target is to renovate 701 social housing units in the first step, 427 social housing units in the second step and 197 social housing units in the third step.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2023, Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 respectively.

Investment I-1.03: ‘Renovation of social housing’ of the German-speaking Community (Component 1.1: Renovation)

The measure consists in supporting a multiannual renovation programme in the German-speaking Community. The measure shall support the German-speaking Community equity participation in the social housing company “Öffentliche Wohnungsbaugesellschaft Ostbelgien”, which shall allow the social housing investment programme to be carried out. The renovation of social housing shall reduce on average at least 30% of primary energy consumption, as defined in Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786 on the renovation of buildings.

The target is to renovate 39 social housing units and 29 social housing units in the second and third steps.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2024 and Q2 2025 respectively.

Investment I-4.12: ‘Development of public utility housing and housing for vulnerable persons’ of the Walloon Region (Component 4.3: Social Infrastructure)

The investment includes the construction and energy-efficient renovation of (i) low-rent housing, of (ii) inclusive and solidarity-based housing, as well as of (iii) accommodation places for poorly-housed groups. Moreover, the investment consists of (iv) equipping homes of vulnerable people, that is people aged over 65 and/or people with disability, with remote assistance boxes, in order to delay or avoid institutionalisation of these people with reduced autonomy or to reduce the length of their hospitalisation. Prior to this investment, the Walloon government shall

adopt a deinstitutionalisation strategy for long-term care. The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone: endorsement of a strategy of the Walloon Region on deinstitutionalisation in the context of the Walloon Health Policy, in particular for the elderly and people with disabilities: (1) specifying the concept of deinstitutionalisation, (2) establishing criteria for institutionalisation and de-institutionalisation, (3) providing a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the deinstitutionalisation initiated by the host and accommodation institutions, (4) drawing up a state of play on the provision of services (5) and making recommendations for the operationalisation of the strategy.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2021.

Target: Award of works contracts by operators for 280 of low-rent housing units.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2024.

Target: 5 000 remote assistance boxes installed in the homes of vulnerable people, that is, people aged over 65 and/or people with disability.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2025.

Target: 1 212 public utility housing units (low-rent housing, inclusive and solidarity-based housing, as well as accommodation places for poorly housed groups) built or renovated in the Walloon Region are ready to be occupied.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15570-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Webpage on the National recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/belgiums-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#documents
- Coordination Flanders: Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue Federal Public Service Flanders: Department of Chancellery and Foreign Affairs & Department of Finance and Budget: <https://nextgenbelgium.be/nl/project/energievriendelijke-renovatie-van-sociale-woningen-in-vlaanderen>
- Coordination Walloon region: Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue Federal Public Service Wallonia: Service Publique Wallon Territoire, Logement, Patrimoine, Énergie :<https://nextgenbelgium.be/fr/projets#projects> and <https://www.wallonie.be/fr/plans-wallons/plan-de-relance-de-la-wallonie>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Programme Wallonie-Bruxelles

Specific objective

Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;

Description of the priority

The priority encompasses a wide range of actions, including for homeless people. The objective is to strengthen the support networks (system actions). The priority consists of two measures:

- Measure 1 is to provide upstream support for inclusion in an overall pathway towards employment for the most vulnerable, low-skilled or unskilled groups, or individuals in precarious situations. This includes homeless people for whom access to housing is key.

- Measure 2 supports the acquisition, development and monitoring of skills (including green, digital and/or linguistic skills), to improve employment prospects.

Allocation

The total EU allocation for the priority amounts to EUR 263 million (EUR 237 million covering the intervention field *Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people* and EUR 26 million covering the intervention field *Measures for the social integration of third-country nationals* ⁽²⁾; TA excluded).

Eligible types of actions

Eligible actions include:

- Developing the housing first scheme as a preliminary step towards inclusion. This will involve support with finding housing and mediation, where necessary, during housing occupation and with social workers. Particular attention will be paid to women, including migrant women.
- Providing support for psychological and/or health problems (including mental health) at individual or group level, and subsequent monitoring.
- Tackling issues of over-indebtedness.
- Promoting mediation and cultural participation through animations, workshops, training, etc.
- Promoting literacy and basic skills.

Integrated approach

The projects first set out to create the conditions under which a package of support measures may be effective, before going on to deliver on the actual housing aspect. The projects are carried by local organisations.

Application of the partnership principle ⁽³⁾

Local level organisations (e.g. the Relais Social Urbain Namurois, CPAS Namur, Service Droits des Jeunes, Relais social du Pays de Charleroi) lead or support the actions.

Targets

The target is to reach out 114 000 participants under this priority.

Implementation modalities

So far, the following projects were approved under the measure 1. Their implementation started in 2022 and early 2023 and should run until the end of 2025. The total amount committed to these projects is EUR 1.1 million (EU contribution).

- *RSUN - Cellule "0 sans abri" - Housing First*

This action aims to implement a 'housing first' approach for homeless people. It will focus on people experiencing mental health issues, youth and women.

Community-based activities such as cultural events, volunteering and employment will be organised to support the social inclusion of these groups.

Social and educational services will accompany support actions to facilitate access to housing.

- *Housing First/Housing Led: de nouveaux outils d'accroche et d'accompagnement*

⁽²⁾ Interventions fields aims to provide data on the types of interventions. On the basis of Article 22(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, the intervention fields and their codes are provided in the annex I of the regulation.

⁽³⁾ Article 8 of the CPR Regulation (EU) 2021/1060

This action involves setting up a wide range of cross-cutting services, together with local organisations and administrations, to support the social inclusion of particularly vulnerable people, notably young people and women experiencing or having experienced homelessness

Further information

- ESF + in Belgium: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-belgium>
- Agence Fonds social européen – communication@fse.be

BULGARIA

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP)

Specific objective

Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people.

Description of the priority

Priority 2: Social inclusion and equal opportunities.

The priority supports active inclusion measures to improve the employability of vulnerable groups through integrated support.

The focus will therefore be on improving the access of vulnerable groups, including Roma, to targeted active inclusion support and mainstream services, and on developing measures to overcome prejudice and housing discrimination.

Another objective is to increase the quality and availability of integrated social services by assessing individuals' needs and improving access to health services, in particular primary care.

Investment will also be directed at infrastructure and digital health solutions, as well as health promotion, prevention measures for vulnerable groups, and support for the reskilling and upskilling of social and healthcare workers and their job mobility.

Allocation

The overall envelope allocated to priority 2, specific objective (j), amounts to EUR 79 million. The allocation specifically related to access to social housing is not available.

Eligible types of actions

Soft measures related to access to social housing are included in broader integration measures for the labour market, social and health services, and access to education. Services should be combined with improvements to the housing conditions of the target groups, including the provision of social housing. For interventions directly addressing social housing, the programme envisages awareness-raising campaigns to overcome prejudices and discrimination surrounding the housing of marginalised local communities.

A further objective is to work with all members of a family to improve its socio-economic integration, i.e. getting school places for children and helping the parents with professional qualifications and finding work. To that end, training on labour market integration could be organised together with social and health services, depending on the individual needs of each family member.

The planned measures aim to combat discrimination, create tolerance and a favourable public environment for equality and inclusion, limit hate speech, etc.

Examples of actions

- Support for community actions to identify, motivate the long-term unemployed to participate in the labour market, including registering at labour offices.
- Targeted measures for young people, e.g. first job, internship, apprenticeship, subsidised employment, on-the-job training, skills development, mentoring, acquisition of professional qualification, digital skills, etc.
- Support for single parents and parents of large families, e.g. facilitating their access to services and the labour market and supporting their career development.

- Support for families living in marginalised communities on financial literacy, e.g. raising awareness and providing training on better decision-making and planning skills to foster empowerment and financial inclusion.
- Measures to overcome prejudices and discrimination related to the housing of marginalised local communities.
- Community campaigns to overcome patriarchal stereotypes that limit Roma women's employment prospects, including the appointment of community mediators. Overcoming domestic violence, early marriages and other patriarchal practices of control and violence.

Integrated approach

The programme fully supports an integrated approach involving both health and social services. To meet the needs of the target groups, social and health services could also be combined with employment, education and housing services.

Further information on the context

The planned activities are fully in line with the priorities set out in the National Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma (2021-2030).

The activities are implemented both at national level and through territorial instruments:

- the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) approach, applied in each of the six Level 2 regions in Bulgaria;
- the community-led local development (CLLD) approach, applicable in the territory of selected local action groups, provided that the funded measures are included in their multi-fund CLLD strategies approved for funding by the HRDP 2021-2027 through a national-level selection procedure.

Application of the partnership principle

The managing authority of the HRDP 2021-2027 will ensure compliance with the partnership principle as a key element of good programme management.

Ensuring that the partner organisations working on Roma integration are able to actively participate in the programme is essential to the partnership principle. The managing authority will rely on the active participation of the organisations working in the area of Roma integration at all stages of the programme's implementation, as well as of the members of the HRDP 2021-2027 monitoring committee.

Under the CLLD and ITI, adhering to the partnership principle is compulsory at both local and regional level.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Bulgaria: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-in-bulgaria>
- Managing authority: efipp@mlsp.government.bg

CZECHIA

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)*Reform 1 (Component 2.10: Affordable housing)*

The reform aims to increase the affordability of housing by adopting and implementing a modern and balanced legislative framework. As part of the reform, the Affordable Housing Act shall enter into force.

Milestone: The Affordable Housing Act shall enter into force. The Act shall: 1. Set up a mechanism helping applicants find housing. 2. Set up a mechanism incentivising the use of empty housing. 3. Set up a mechanism helping tenants fulfil their obligations towards landlords.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2025

Investment 1: Concessional loan facility (Component 2.10: Affordable housing)

This measure shall consist of a public investment in a Facility for the provision of concessional loans in order to incentivise private investment and improve access to finance in Czechia's affordable housing sector. The Facility shall operate by providing concessional loans directly to the private sector as well as to public sector entities engaged in similar activities. On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at initially providing at least EUR 170 460 000 of financing.

The Facility shall be managed by the State Investment Support Fund as the implementing partner. The Facility shall include the following product line: concessional loans. This product aims to provide concessional loans to projects that contribute to increasing the availability of rental housing. The supported activities aim to be renovations of existing residential housing units, renovations of buildings into residential housing units, acquisitions of housing units and constructions of new housing units.

In order to implement the investment into the Facility, Czechia and the State Investment Support Fund shall sign an Implementing Agreement that shall include the following content:

- 1) Description of the decision-making process of the Facility: The final investment decision of the Facility shall be taken by an investment committee or other relevant equivalent governing body and approved by a majority of votes from members who are independent from the government.
- 2) Key requirements of the associated investment policy, which shall include:
 - a) The description of the financial product(s) and eligible final beneficiaries.
 - b) The requirement that all investments supported are economically viable.
 - c) The requirement to comply with the 'Do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle as set out in the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). In particular, the investment policy shall exclude the following list of activities and assets from eligibility: (i) activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream use ⁽⁴⁾, (ii) activities and assets under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks ⁽⁵⁾, (iii) activities and assets related to waste landfills, incinerators and mechanical biological treatment plants. Furthermore, the investment policy shall require compliance with the relevant EU and national legislation of the final beneficiaries of the Facility.

⁽⁴⁾ Except for (a) assets and activities in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) and (b) activities and assets under point (ii) for which the use of fossil fuels is temporary and technically unavoidable for the timely transition towards a fossil fuel free operation.

⁽⁵⁾ Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks, an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible shall be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447.

d) The requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility shall not receive support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost.

e) The requirement that all renovations supported include energy efficiency renovations. The requirements that future tenants of the supported housing shall not own housing and that they shall fall within at least one of the following categories: households with equivalised household income falling within the range from the first to eighth income deciles in Czechia; households with all members younger than 35 years old; households with at least one member working in one of the following services: education, health care, police, fire brigade, social services, public administration. Furthermore, the rent in the supported housing shall be lower than the estimated market rent for housing of comparable quality. These requirements shall be in place for at least 20 years following the receipt of the financial support.

3) The amount covered by the Implementing Agreement, the fee structure for the Implementing Partner and the requirement to reinvest any reflows according to the investment policy of the Facility.

4) Monitoring, audit, and control requirements, including:

a) The description of the implementing partner's monitoring system to report on the investment mobilized.

b) The description of the implementing partner's procedures that will ensure the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interests.

c) The obligation to verify the eligibility of every operation in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Implementing Agreement before committing to finance an operation.

d) The obligation of carrying out risk-based ex-post audits in accordance with an audit plan of the State Investment Support Fund. These audits shall verify i) that the control systems are effective, including the detection of fraud, corruption, and conflict of interests; ii) compliance with the DNSH principle and the State Aid rules; and iii) that the requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility have not received support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost is respected. The audits shall also verify the legality of the transactions and that the conditions of the applicable Implementing Agreement are being respected.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 August 2026.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024.

Target: The State Investment Support Fund shall have entered into legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Facility (taking into account management fees).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Milestone: Czechia shall transfer EUR 170 460 000 to the State Investment Support Fund for the Facility.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment 2: Subordinated loans facility (Component 2.10: Affordable housing)

This measure shall consist of a public investment in a Facility for the provision of subordinated loans in order to incentivise private investment and improve access to finance in Czechia's affordable housing sector. The Facility shall operate by providing subordinated loans directly to the private sector as well as to public sector entities engaged in similar activities. On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at initially providing at least EUR 94 770 000 of financing.

The Facility shall be managed by the National Development Bank as the implementing partner. The Facility shall include the following product line: subordinated loans. This product aims to provide subordinated loans to projects that contribute to increasing the availability of rental housing. The supported activities aim to be renovations of

existing residential housing units, renovations of buildings into residential housing units and constructions of new housing units.

In order to implement the investment into the Facility, Czechia and National Development Bank shall sign an Implementing Agreement that shall include the following content:

1) Description of the decision-making process of the Facility: The final investment decision of the Facility shall be taken by an investment committee or other relevant equivalent governing body and approved by a majority of votes from members who are independent from the government.

2) Key requirements of the associated investment policy, which shall include: a) The description of the financial product(s) and eligible final beneficiaries. b) The requirement that all investments supported are economically viable. c) The requirement to comply with the 'Do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle as set out in the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). In particular, the investment policy shall exclude the following list of activities and assets from eligibility: (i) activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream use, (ii) activities and assets under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks, (iii) activities and assets related to waste landfills, incinerators and mechanical biological treatment plants. Furthermore, the investment policy shall require compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation of the final beneficiaries of the Facility. d) The requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility shall not receive support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost. e) The requirement that all renovations supported include energy efficiency renovations. f) The requirements that future tenants of the supported housing shall not own housing and that they shall fall within at least one of the following categories: households with equalised household income falling within the range from the first to eighth income deciles in Czechia; households with all members younger than 35 years old; households with at least one member working in one of the following services: education, health care, police, fire brigade, social services, public administration. Furthermore, the rent in the supported housing shall be lower than the estimated market rent for housing of comparable quality. These requirements shall be in place for at least 20 years following the receipt of the financial support.

3) The amount covered by the Implementing Agreement, the fee structure for the Implementing Partner and the requirement to reinvest any reflows according to the investment policy of the Facility.

4) Monitoring, audit, and control requirements, including:

a) The description of the implementing partner's monitoring system to report on the investment mobilized.

b) The description of the implementing partner's procedures that will ensure the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interests.

c) The obligation to verify the eligibility of every operation in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Implementing Agreement before committing to finance an operation.

d) The obligation of carrying out risk-based ex-post audits in accordance with an audit plan of the National Development Bank. These audits shall verify i) that the control systems are effective, including the detection of fraud, corruption, and conflict of interests; ii) compliance with the DNSH principle and the State Aid rules; and iii) that the requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility have not received support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost is respected. The audits shall also verify the legality of the transactions and that the conditions of the applicable Implementing Agreement are being respected.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 August 2026.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024.

Target: The National Development Bank shall have entered into legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Facility (taking into account management fees).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Milestone: Czechia shall transfer EUR 94 770 000 to the National Development Bank for the Facility.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment 3: Co-Investment Facility (Component 2.10: Affordable housing)

This measure shall consist of a public investment in a public-private co-investment Facility aiming to improve access to affordable housing in Czechia. The Facility shall operate by investing directly into real estate. On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at initially investing at least EUR 39 574 000.

The Facility shall be managed by the National Development Fund as the implementing partner.

In order to implement the investment into the Facility, Czechia and the National Development Bank shall sign an Implementing Agreement that shall include the following content:

1) Description of the decision-making process of the Facility: The final investment decision of the Facility shall be taken by an investment committee or other relevant equivalent governing body and approved by a majority of votes from members who are independent from the government.

2) Key requirements of the associated investment policy, which shall include:

a) The requirement that all investments supported are economically viable.

b) The requirement to comply with the 'Do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle as set out in the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). In particular, the investment policy shall exclude the following list of activities and assets from eligibility: (i) activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream use, (ii) activities and assets under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks, (iii) activities and assets related to waste landfills, incinerators and mechanical biological treatment plants. Furthermore, the investment policy shall require compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation of the final beneficiaries of the Facility.

c) The requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility shall not receive support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost.

d) The requirement that all renovations supported include energy efficiency renovations.

e) The requirements that future tenants of the supported housing shall not own housing and that they shall fall within at least one of the following categories: households with equivalised household income falling within the range from the first to eighth income deciles in Czechia; households with all members younger than 35 years old; households with at least one member working in one of the following services: education, health care, police, fire brigade, social services, public administration. Furthermore, the rent in the supported housing shall be lower than the estimated market rent for housing of comparable quality. These requirements shall be in place for at least 20 years following the receipt of the financial support.

3) The amount covered by the Implementing Agreement, the fee structure for the Implementing Partner and the requirement to reinvest any reflows according to the investment policy of the Facility.

4) Monitoring, audit, and control requirements, including:

a) The description of the implementing partner's monitoring system to report on the investment mobilized.

b) The description of the implementing partner's procedures that will ensure the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interests.

c) The obligation to verify the eligibility of every operation in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Implementing Agreement before committing to finance an operation.

d) The obligation of carrying out risk-based ex-post audits in accordance with an audit plan of the National Development Bank. These audits shall verify i) that the control systems are effective, including the detection of fraud, corruption, and conflict of interests; ii) compliance with the DNSH principle and the State Aid rules; and iii) that the requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility have not received support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost is respected. The audits shall also verify the legality of the transactions and that the conditions of the applicable Implementing Agreement are being respected.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 August 2026.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024.

Target: The National Development Bank shall have entered into legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Facility (taking into account management fees).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Milestone: Czechia shall transfer EUR 39 574 000 to the National Development Bank for the Facility.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13383-2023-ADD-1-REV-1/en/pdf>
- Czechia's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/czechias-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP) 2021-2027

Specific objective

Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services ⁽⁶⁾.

Description of the priority

Improving the quality and availability of social and health services, educational infrastructure, and development of cultural heritage (Priority 4).

Allocation

Overall allocation to the priority: EUR 1 694 690 592

Of which: Specific allocation for activity on social housing: EUR 110 805 659

Eligible types of actions

- Purchasing and adaptation of apartments, residential buildings, non-residential premises for the needs of social housing and the acquisition of the necessary basic equipment, including ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities;

⁽⁶⁾ point (d)(iii) of Article 3(1) ERDF and CF Regulation

- Deinstitutionalization of social services in order to increase social inclusion;
- Deinstitutionalization of social services for people with disabilities, seniors and people with intellectual disabilities;
- Infrastructure of social services;
- social services provided pursuant to Act No. 108/2006 Coll., on social services, as amended (the “Social Services Act”).

Target groups:

- people who are socially excluded or at risk of social exclusion;
- persons with disabilities;
- people with chronic illnesses, including mental illness;
- individuals with specific health needs resulting from a health condition, who need a high level of support, and their close relatives;
- families with dependent children in an unfavourable social situation;
- young adults leaving institutional or foster care;
- victims of home and gender-conditioned violence and individuals at risk of such violence;
- people in need of housing;
- seniors;
- children at risk;
- refugees and migrants;
- ethnic groups (especially the Roma);
- homeless people.

The IROP uses the ETHOS target groups (European typology of homelessness and housing exclusion) for social housing calls. Applicants may choose from the ETHOS target groups and finetune them for each project according to the needs of the local community.

Integrated approach

The priority complements the Employment++ programme, which will focus on: (i) support for outreach and outpatient services and community-based services; (ii) social housing support; (iii) prevention of housing loss and support for housing reintegration; (iv) support for housing maintenance; (v) support for the development of the ‘housing led’ and ‘housing first’ programmes targeted at disadvantaged groups; and (vi) linking up individual tools in order to prevent or resolve housing loss.

It also complements REACT-EU in IROP 2014-2020 – the programme that finances more energy-efficient social services infrastructure.

A coordinated approach to socially excluded localities 2021+ is used in social housing and social services calls.

There is also complementarity with the Programme of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) whose focus will include the integration of non-EU nationals, including by providing them with social counselling.

Finally, the priority also complements the national recovery and resilience plan, which will mainly support stay-in-care services by developing and modernising social services infrastructure.

Application of the partnership principle

Social housing calls under the IROP are being prepared in cooperation with IROP’s social affairs team. The team comprises representatives of IROP’s managing authority and of a wide range of government departments, associations and funds.

Implementation modalities

The following calls on social housing can be considered:

- IROP calls No. 25 and 26 Social housing – both open till 29 August 2023, project proposals currently being evaluated ⁽⁷⁾;
- IROP call No. 38 Social housing ITI – open till 31 December 2027 ⁽⁸⁾;
- IROP calls No. 101 and 102 Social housing II – as of January 2024 ⁽⁹⁾.

Calls for social infrastructure linked to Coordinated Approach to Social Inclusion

- IROP calls No. 14 and 15 Social services – closed 3 August 2023 ⁽¹⁰⁾;
- IROP call No. 30 Social infrastructure ITI – opened till 31/12/2027 ⁽¹¹⁾;
- IROP call No. 49 Social infrastructure CLLD – opened till 31/12/2027 ⁽¹²⁾;
- IROP call No. 59 and 58 Deinstitutionalisation of social services – opened till 31 December 2027 ⁽¹³⁾.

Further information

- National portal: IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - Úvod (mmr.cz)
- Contact data: irop@mmr.cz

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Programme Employment +

Specific objectives

- fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services.

Description of the priority

The main objective is to promote social, affordable and sustainable housing accompanied by social-inclusion services. To achieve this, it is planned to develop actions and programmes:

- to prevent housing loss and facilitate reintegration into housing;
- to support housing retention and the 'housing first' programmes for disadvantaged groups;
- to support services aimed at preventing housing loss and at maintaining housing;
- to promote legal, numerical and financial literacy programmes;

⁽⁷⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 25. výzva IROP - Sociální bydlení - SC 4.2 (MRR) (mmr.cz)

IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 26. výzva IROP - Sociální bydlení - SC 4.2 (PR) (mmr.cz)

⁽⁸⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 38. výzva IROP - Sociální bydlení (ITI) - SC 4.2 (MRR, PR) (mmr.cz)

⁽⁹⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 38. výzva IROP - Sociální bydlení (ITI) - SC 4.2 (MRR, PR) (mmr.cz)

⁽¹⁰⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 14. výzva IROP - Sociální služby - SC 4.2 (MRR) (mmr.cz) and

IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 15. výzva IROP - Sociální služby - SC 4.2 (PR) (mmr.cz)

⁽¹¹⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 30. výzva IROP - Sociální služby (ITI) - SC 4.2 (MRR, PR) (mmr.cz)

⁽¹²⁾ IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 49. výzva IROP - Sociální služby - SC 5.1 (CLLD) (mmr.cz)

⁽¹³⁾ [IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 58. výzva IROP - Deinstitutionalizace sociálních služeb - SC 4.2 \(MRR\) \(gov.cz\)](#) and [IROP - Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR - 59. výzva IROP - Deinstitutionalizace sociálních služeb - SC 4.2 \(PR\) \(gov.cz\)](#)

- to prevent and address the indebtedness and over-indebtedness of individuals and households (including counselling);
- to develop other social services.

Allocation

EUR 123 299 786 (EU contribution)

Implementation modalities

The 'Support to social housing' call was launched with the scope:

- to support efforts to find and keep stable housing, and prevent the loss of housing;
- to create multidisciplinary teams to work on case management, and create a support service network to help people in need;
- to create contact points responsible for matching social housing offers with social housing demands, etc.

The call was launched on 30 June 2022 and will remain open for 36 months.

Further information

- the ESF+ in Czech Republic: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-czechia-0>

DENMARK

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**Programme**

National ESF+ programme “A Stronger Denmark through Education and Skills”

Specific objective

Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children

Priority Axis: Measures for citizens experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness.

Description of the priority

The Danish programme focuses on ending chaotic lifestyles, breaking isolation, and eventually alleviating homelessness or the risk of homelessness for the most deprived. The applicant can be both public bodies, civil society organisations and cross-sectoral partnerships, including partnerships with foundations. The applicant is encouraged to support strong cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation.

Success is measured by improving citizens' lives as such, including, for example, the continuous use of activities in the programme, increased motivation to join social communities and the use of existing services.

Allocation

EUR 3 441 384

Eligibles types of action

To be eligible, the applicant's initiatives must fall within one of the three action areas:

- preventing vulnerable young people from falling into homelessness and helping young people who are already homeless;
- supporting people experiencing homelessness who have received medical or psychiatric treatment and are discharged to the streets;
- supporting homeless people who are sleeping on the street.

Examples of actions

Examples of some of the actions, which can be supported:

The following types of actions can be supported:

- preparing vulnerable young people aged 15-18 years-old for an independent adult life after having been placed in social care, for example through learning programmes.
- counselling and supporting vulnerable young people who have left care on financial, social and legal matters.
- tracking down young people at risk of homelessness across administrations, specialised areas and civil actors through targeted initiatives. In other words, finding and supporting young people at risk of falling through the cracks.
- advising and supporting the individuals that do not get the help and support they need under the current efforts. This can involve, for example, social care, restitution, and support to participate in and follow outpatient and/or psychiatric treatment after discharge.

Application of the partnership principle

Multiple actors, including social partners, civil society organisations, professional and business organisations, knowledge institutions, and national and local authorities were involved in the preparation of the Danish programmes. Following a presentation on the regulatory framework and overall programme content, these partners had the opportunity to comment on the draft operational programmes, which were subsequently adapted to reflect all relevant interests, as well as national challenges and other national efforts.

Targets

It is planned that 2 300 participants will be supported by 2029.

Implementation modalities

Projects are awarded by the Danish Authority of Social Services and Housing. The managing authority is the Danish Business Authority. The first call was published in 2022.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Denmark: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-denmark-0>
- [Ansøgningspuljen til indsatser til borgere i hjemløshed og risiko for hjemløshed | Social- og Boligstyrelsen \(sbst.dk\)](#)
- [Indsats for borgere i hjemløshed og risiko for hjemløshed | Udvikling i Danmark \(erhvervsstyrelsen.dk\)](#)

GERMANY

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**Programmes**

A. Federal programme

B. Regional programme Saxony-Anhalt

Specific objectives

A. *Federal programme*

- Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children;

B. *Regional programme Saxony-Anhalt*

- Promoting equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility;
- Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.

Description of the priorities

A. *Federal programme*

The overarching objective of the federal programme is to support particularly disadvantaged persons and groups who are not (yet) reached by labour market support and other regular assistance systems.

Only cooperation projects and/or local and regional networks of civil society organisations, municipalities/authorities and other relevant partners can be supported. In this way, professional knowledge and target group-specific knowledge of various social actors can be brought together and bundled in one project (bottom-up approach).

The funding is intended to support municipalities that are particularly affected by the influx of newly arrived EU citizens from poor backgrounds in their countries of origin as well as a high proportion of homeless people and people at risk of homelessness.

B. *Regional programme Saxony-Anhalt*

The programme priorities action in the area of housing and homelessness is under the global objective of social innovation.

The implementation modalities will be defined through a participative cooperation process at local level within CLLD. They are not known yet.

Allocation

A. Federal programme

The EU contribution to the priorities on social inclusion amounts to EUR 114 million out of 191 million out of the global envelope to the federal programme of EUR 191 million.

B. Regional programme Saxony-Anhalt

The EU contribution to the regional programme amounts to EUR 571 million.

The related priorities on access to housing and homelessness are mainstreamed under the strand of social innovation with an envelope of EUR 6 million.

Further information on the context

The living situations of these very diverse target groups are particularly difficult and complex.

The most disadvantaged recent immigrants usually have a lack of or low educational and vocational qualifications, health restrictions and/or problematic housing conditions. They face a high risk of discrimination and often become victims of abuse and violence. Many of them have no entitlement to benefits from the regular support system and have insufficient access to local or regional support services. Many are not covered by health insurance.

Homeless people and those at risk of homelessness sometimes have additional limitations, such as addiction, disability, mental health problems and acute illness. This can prevent them from being reached by social support services. These people can often feel that they are no longer part of society, and they therefore often lack the motivation to actively accept social integration offers.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Germany: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-germany-0>

ESTONIA

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**Programme**

'Creation of community-based supported living in service accommodation'

Specific objective

Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services.

Description of the priority

The purpose of the support is to create a living environment in an accessibility centre for people with assistance and support needs as defined in the Social Welfare Act, and whose:

- home cannot be adapted to meet their needs;
- need for assistance and support is low or medium (no more than four times a week).

Local authorities are to use the grant to set up housing services for people with a lower need of assistance and support, to prevent them from needing institutional care outside the home.

Allocation

Total budget: EUR 26 089 784 including EU contribution amounting to EUR 18 262 849 euros; national co-financing amounts to EUR 5 217 957 and self-financing is EUR 2 608 978.

Eligible types of actions

- creating new or modernised social care accommodation;
- setting up housing services for people with a lower need for assistance and support, to prevent them from needing institutional care outside the home.

Eligible applicants

Local municipalities.

Integrated approach

The supported activities will take account of the general principles of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 and will contribute to upholding the underlying principles of the long-term national development strategy 'Estonia 2035' and to making Estonia 'home to smart, active and healthy people' and Estonian society 'caring, cooperative and open'.

Further information on the context

The investments are also in line with:

- sub-objective 4 of the Welfare Development Plan for 2023-2030 'Increasing the use of public money in the social welfare axis to develop community-based, home-based and supported living services and the physical and social environment';
- the objective 'Ensuring access to welfare, supporting coping' of the 2023-2026 Social Welfare Programme, linked to Estonia's national budget strategy, notably Measure 1.1 of the social welfare programme 'Ensuring quality welfare services, support and assistance that support independent living'.

Due to Estonia's housing stock challenges, a large proportion of people aged 65 and over live in homes without lifts. Consequently, people with reduced mobility are unable to carry out their daily activities independently. Housing is also a problem in rural areas, where much of the housing stock does not meet accessibility requirements, is dilapidated and/or lacks washing facilities and toilets.

According to the Statistical Office, in 2021 a total of 2 426 people aged 65 and over lived in accommodation without water, 1 921 in accommodation without washing facilities and 3 805 in accommodation without toilets.

Given the increasing need for support and the growing number of people with special needs due to the ageing population, demand is set to grow for support services and quality care. In line with the deinstitutionalisation principle, the overall aim of Estonia's welfare policy is to provide more services that help people to remain living independently at home for as long as possible, reserving institutional care for only when there is a proven need.

Targets

The target is to create or adapt 3 953 dwellings and services by 2029. It is planned that 3 162 people will be using the newly build or modernised social housing facilities during the year after the completion of the intervention supported.

Implementation modalities

The call for proposals will be announced by the implementing body at least 6 months before it opens. The national regulation is currently under preparation. The eligibility period runs until 31 December 2028.

Further information

- National portal: <https://eufonde.dk/>
- The deadline and the budget of the call for proposals shall be announced by the implementing body to the public and the target groups on its website (<https://www.rtk.ee/en>) at least six months before the call for proposals opens.

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Specific objective

Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including long term care (k)

Description of the priority

ESF+ investments will support the following objectives of the long-term care reform and the integration of health and care sectors:

- improving the overall coordination and working methods, which include a comprehensive assessment system, cross-sectoral coordination and a wider use of assistive technologies;
- ensuring effective and accessible social services to support independent living, including for people with mental health challenges and people with dementia;
- boosting the care workforce by promoting jobs in the care sector, helping workers to enter and stay in the sector, and helping them with re- and upskilling, including on digital skills.

Allocation

EUR 43 160 000 EUR.

Target groups

The main target groups are people with disabilities/special needs; people in need of care; people suffering from dementia and their family members; those with a (potential) care burden, local governments etc. ESF+ investments are complemented with ERDF investments contributing to deinstitutionalisation.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Estonia: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-estonia>

IRELAND

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services**

Reform: 3.8 Increasing the provision of social and affordable housing (Component 3: Social and economic recovery and job creation)

The objective of the measure is to increase the supply of social and affordable housing.

The reform consists in the entry into operation of the Land Development Agency (LDA) as commercial state agency as provided under the LDA Act. It also consists in the entry into force of an Affordable Housing Act. Housing units shall be delivered under the different schemes established by the reform. It is expected that this measure does not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

In particular, at least 70% (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC) generated on the construction site shall be prepared for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.

The reform shall be completed by 31 March 2022.

Milestone: The Land Development Agency Bill shall have entered into force and the Land Development Agency (LDA) shall have been established as a Designated Activity Company under the Companies Act. The purposes of the LDA shall include to increase the supply of housing in the State and in particular social and affordable housing. It is expected that this measure does no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

In particular, the LDA shall ensure compliance with relevant EU and national environmental legislation, and shall require the economic operators carrying out the construction works to ensure that at least 70% (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste (notified under document number C(2000) 1147)) generated on the construction site shall be prepared for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2021.

Target: At least 100 homes shall have been made available for sale through the Affordable Purchase Scheme for homes on public lands. Eligibility shall have been assessed on the First Time Buyer income capacity and incapacity to afford the homes at open market values, and prioritised by, inter alia, their time living in the local authority area, and home size compared to the family size. Homes shall have been considered available for sale when construction has been completed and applications from eligible applicants have been accepted. Compliance with relevant EU and national environmental legislation, and with the DNSH requirements set out in milestone 101 shall have been ensured.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2023.

Target: At least 450 homes shall have been completed and tenanted to middle income earners in urban centres with a reduction of at least 25 % on open market values, as defined by a professional property valuer. Eligibility shall

have been defined by the Minister in Regulations with reference to Statistical data on incomes. The scheme shall apply to homes in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and the Greater Dublin area. Compliance with relevant EU and national environmental legislation, and with the DNSH requirements set out in milestone 101 shall have been ensured.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2023.

Target: At least 100 homes shall have been made available for sale to purchasers who avail of the equity support scheme. Subject to a measurable affordable need, purchasers shall avail of equity support of up to 30 % of open market values. Compliance with relevant EU and national environmental legislation, and with the DNSH requirements set out in milestone 101 shall have been ensured.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2023.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11336-2023-INIT/en/pdf>
- Ireland's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/irelands-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: <https://lda.ie/>
- Contact data: info@ida.ie

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST)

Specific objective

Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived persons, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion.

Description of the priority

This priority will uphold the principles of Art. 19 of the ESF+ Regulation and help people take their first steps out of poverty by addressing their most basic needs i.e. food and basic materials for personal use.

Aid will be targeted at:

- Homeless persons including long-term rough sleepers;
- Children in low income/work intensity households;
- Victims of domestic violence in refuges and shelters;
- Person suffering or recovering from addictions;
- Disadvantaged members of the Roma and Traveller communities ;
- Vulnerable persons transitioning to independent living from emergency accommodation, institutionalized care settings or places of detention;
- Any person without income, accommodation or means not otherwise defined above.

Allocation

EUR 30 330 001 are programmed from ESF+ (total: EUR 33 700 002)

Eligible types of actions

Distribution of food and basic material assistance to homeless people. This will be complemented by several accompanying measures. The programme of assistance will be designed and delivered locally by partner organisations which deliver food directly to recipients. A series of information leaflets will be developed that partner organisations can distribute to end-beneficiaries. These leaflets will contain advice on money, food, nutrition, and access to services and supports. The leaflet on support services will be tailored by region to highlight local supports available. In addition to the leaflets, information and training sessions on household budgeting and nutrition will be provided online and in person for the end-beneficiaries.

Further information on the context

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion provides the overall policy framework for the actions and outlines an extensive range of measures and targets, including for child poverty, housing, access to early learning and care and education.

Application of the partnership principle

The managing authority identified partners through a stakeholder-mapping process: (i) taking account of existing partners in the 2014-2020 programme; and (ii) with a view to engaging new partners in consideration of the potential uses of ESF+, as identified in both the regulations for the 2021-2027 period and the European Commission's investment guidance. The managing authority identified relevant partners among the following:

- Relevant public authorities, including education and training bodies, at national and regional level in view of the planned use of the ESF;
- Economic and social partners;
- Bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, education and skills, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination.

Implementation modalities

Ireland has provisionally identified all projects to be funded in the programming period.

Further information

- The ESF+ In Ireland: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-ireland>
- National portal: <https://eufunds.ie/>

GREECE

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services**

Investment: Social Integration (measure ID: 16922) (Component 3.4: Increase access to effective and inclusive social policies)

This investment consists of three subprojects:

- 1) Social reintegration of most vulnerable groups focuses on the support of the most vulnerable groups (Guaranteed Minimum Income beneficiaries, Roma and homeless people), aiming at their (re)integration in the labour market.
- 2) Digital training of older people and of persons with disabilities involves programmes of acquaintance, familiarisation and education of older people and persons with disabilities in new technologies, mainly in terms of digital information, communication and internet based and social media skills (such as making electronic payments, submitting applications through digital platforms, using social media).
- 3) Social housing focuses on providing housing support to most vulnerable groups threatened by or facing homelessness.

The implementation of the reform shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Target: Completion of the renovation program for 100 apartments (70 in the Municipality of Athens and 30 in the Municipality of Thessaloniki) for 250 beneficiaries. The measure aims to provide housing support to most vulnerable groups threatened by or facing homelessness.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2025.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15831-2023-ADD-1-REV-1/en/pdf>
- Greece's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: [Ελλάδα 2.0 - Εθνικό Σχέδιο Ανάκαμψης και Ανθεκτικότητας \(greece20.gov.gr\)](https://greece20.gov.gr)

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**Programmes**

'Human Resources and Social Cohesion' (HRSC) national programme

13 regional programmes

Specific Objectives

- promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants;
- promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people;
- enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children

Description of the priority

HRSC programme - drafting of an Action Plan & Housing Strategy under SO 4.11

Regional programmes - targeted actions to support the homeless and provision of housing solutions to Roma and third country nationals.

Allocation

EUR 224 322 758 are programmed under the intervention field (158) *Measures to enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services.*

Eligible types of actions

National programme

As part of the national action plan on homelessness, a study will explore the context and causes that lead to threatened housing. It will include a mapping of homeless people and their individual profiles, an analysis of the conditions leading to homelessness, and the optimal measures to combat homelessness, e.g. social housing. The action plan's measures will be developed (in the spirit of 'housing first') in synergy with the RRF-funded pilot action.

Regional programmes

- Housing facilities for homeless people / open homeless centres — day centres and sleeping rooms;
- Housing assistance actions for individuals/families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- Actions supporting the improvement of Roma living conditions (Living Conditions Improvement Teams), integrated measures for Roma integration into the labour market (including rent subsidies);
- Integrated actions to integrate third-country nationals into the labour market (including provision of affordable housing solutions).

Further information

- The ESF+ in Greece: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-greece>
- National webpages:
 - <https://www.espa.gr/el/pages/default.aspx>
 - <https://espa-anthropinodynamiko.gr/>
 - <http://www.esfhellas.gr/en/Pages/default.aspx>

SPAIN

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Measures related to housing and associated services

Reform 3 (C2.R3) – Housing Law (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this measure is to implement, by means of the Housing Law, a first of a kind regulation in Spain, to address the various public planning, programming and collaboration instruments already in place to support the right to decent and adequate housing. It shall address the rehabilitation and improvement of the existing housing stock, both public and private, and regeneration and renewal of the residential environments in which they are located, to improve the quality of life. The law addresses the achievement of a sufficient level of housing stock for rental property, available at affordable prices.

The legislation shall address various planning, programming and collaboration instruments to ensure fulfilment of the right to decent and adequate housing, including, as one of its priorities, the rehabilitation and improvement of the existing housing stock, as well as the regeneration and renovation of the residential environments in which they are located.

In addition, the law shall encourage an increase in the supply of affordable and social housing by ensuring compliance with the requirements currently laid down for nearly zero-energy buildings according to the Basic Energy Saving Document (DB-HE) of the Technical Building Code (CTE) and shall avoid measures that could hinder housing supply in the medium term.

This implementation of the reform shall be completed by 30 September 2022.

Milestone: The Housing Law shall address various planning, programming and collaboration instruments to ensure proper fulfilment of the right to decent and adequate housing, including, as one of the priorities, the rehabilitation and improvement of the existing housing stock, as well as the regeneration and renovation of the residential environments in which they are located. The law shall encourage an increase in the supply of affordable and social housing by ensuring compliance with the requirements currently laid down for nearly zero-energy buildings according to the Basic Energy Saving Document (DB-HE) of the Technical Building Code (CTE).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2022.

Reform 4 (C2.R4) – Law on the Quality of Architecture and Building Environment and New National Architecture Strategy (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this law is to declare the quality of architecture and buildings as a public good, to improve the quality of life, promote architecture's social roots, promote the sustainable development of urban areas and hubs, contribute to economic and social development, and protect and safeguard the cultural and natural heritage.

To this end, the Law shall address various initiatives and actions closely linked to the rehabilitation and regeneration programmes in this component of the Spanish recovery and resilience plan. In particular, the law shall regulate: (i) inter-administrative cooperation measures in the field of procurement of architectural, engineering and urban planning projects and works; (ii) tools to disseminate good practice and support, training and public-private partnerships; and (iii) the promotion of rehabilitation from a comprehensive perspective, such as the one described above.

This implementation of the reform shall be completed by 30 September 2022.

Milestone: Adoption of the Law on Quality of Architecture and the Building Environment including an integrated approach to rehabilitation which shall boost the growth of the nearly zero-energy building stock, not only among new buildings but also between existing buildings. The law shall lay down the principle of quality in architecture and built environment, establishing environmental sustainability and the contribution to the achievement of energy efficiency

targets as one of the key assessment criteria, and guiding the necessary rehabilitation of the housing stock towards an integrated approach to rehabilitation.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2022.

Investment 1 (C2.I1) – Rehabilitation programme for economic and social recovery in residential environments (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this measure is to support energy efficiency renovations in residential buildings and neighbourhoods. The actions under this measure shall implement at least 410 000 renovation actions in at least 285 000 unique dwellings, achieving on average a primary energy demand reduction of at least 30% verified by energy performance certificates. The following actions shall be supported:

- a) A programme to support energy renovations at neighbourhood level. The programme shall renovate at least 600 hectares of urban areas, achieving on average a primary energy demand reduction of at least 30 % verified by energy performance certificates. The actions include improving energy efficiency, deploying infrastructure for electric mobility, improving the accessibility of buildings and removing hazardous substances. A maximum of 15 % of the measure shall be dedicated to improvements at the level of neighbourhoods, such as improvements of outdoor lighting, cycling paths, green infrastructure and drainage systems, taking into account the socio-economic characteristic of the neighbourhood.
- b) A programme to support energy renovations of residential buildings. The level of support shall be higher for those actions for which the reduction of primary energy demand is higher and for low-income households. The actions include improving energy efficiency, deploying infrastructure for electric mobility, improving the accessibility of buildings and removing hazardous substances.
- c) A set of activities shall address the incentives for energy renovations. This comprises, among others, (i) the possibility to deduct renovations from the personal income tax if at least a 30 % primary energy demand reduction is achieved, and (ii) the improvement of the funding framework by encouraging public-private partnerships.

A Royal Decree shall lay down the technical requirements to ensure compliance with the 30 % average reduction in primary energy demand. Amendments to the personal income tax shall be approved by Royal Decree-Law and, their objective shall be to define the tax incentives for the building renewal actions to achieve an improvement in energy efficiency.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: At least 600 hectares of land in areas or neighbourhoods subject to renewal completed. This figure includes the surface area of those districts or urban areas which have been the subject of actions on the basis of agreements under the programme. The actions shall be carried out by ensuring the technical requirements to ensure compliance with the 30 % average reduction in non-renewable primary energy consumption in the renovation of buildings. To justify compliance with the energy savings obtained, the energy performance certificates of completed works are required and aggregated to confirm the average energy savings achieved.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Target: At least 410 000 residential dwelling renovation actions in at least 285 000 unique dwellings completed, achieving on average at least a 30 % primary energy demand reduction (cumulative). For the purposes of the indicator, the concept of housing shall be compatible with the Eurostat definition ('A dwelling is a room or suite of rooms - including its accessories, lobbies and corridors - in a permanent building or a structurally separated part of a building which, by the way it has been built, rebuilt or converted, is designated for housing by one private household all year round') and may include, where appropriate, social or public housing.

The energy performance improvement indicators used shall be accredited through the relevant energy performance certificate in the framework of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings. The number of housing rehabilitations shall be determined as the sum of all improvement and rehabilitation actions (within the demarcated neighbourhoods, at building or housing level) carried out through the implementation of one of the aid lines (full rehabilitation or building elements) or tax incentive.

The average saving percentage of non-renewable primary energy consumption for the purpose of complying with the minimum value of 30 % shall be obtained by weighting the set of rehabilitation actions by the amount of aid or financing applied under the recovery and resilience plan. This indicator includes improvement and rehabilitation actions in all municipalities, regardless of their size. To justify compliance with the energy savings obtained, the energy performance certificates of completed works are required and aggregated to confirm the average energy savings achieved. (Baseline: 31 December 2024.)

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment 2 (C2.I2) – Programme for the construction of social rented housing in energy-efficient buildings (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this measure is to build at least 20 000 new dwellings for social rental purposes or at affordable prices compliant with energy efficient criteria. These shall be built in particular in areas in which social housing is currently insufficient and on publicly owned land.

The primary energy demand of the social housing shall be at least 20 % below the requirements of nearly zero-energy buildings. To this end, a Royal Decree shall lay down the technical requirements to limit the value of primary energy demand to 80 % of the limit set in section HE 0 of the Basic Energy Saving Document (DB-HE) of the Technical Building Code (CTE).

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: At least 20 000 dwellings built for social rental or at affordable prices compliant with energy efficient criteria. This figure corresponds to the number of dwellings for which construction shall be completed and shall address social rental at affordable prices, as attested by a certificate or proof of completion and use of the dwellings by the competent authority. In addition, compliance with the requirement to limit the value of non-renewable primary energy consumption to 80 % of the limit set in section HE 0 of the Basic Energy Saving Document (DB-HE) of the Technical Building Code (CTE) shall be ensured through an energy performance certificate.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment 6 (C2.I6) – Support programme for the development of pilot projects for local action plans of the Spanish Urban Agenda (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this measure is to support local authorities in implementing the ten strategic objectives of the Spanish Urban Agenda through approving at least 100 local action plans. The ten strategic objectives of the Spanish Urban Agenda are: (i) planning land use and using it more rationally, preserving and protecting it; (ii) avoiding urban sprawl and revitalising existing cities; (iii) preventing and reducing the impacts of climate change and resilience; (iv) using resources sustainably and promoting the circular economy; (v) promoting proximity and sustainable mobility; (vi) encouraging social cohesion and striving for equality; (vii) promoting and encouraging the urban economy; (viii) ensuring access to housing; (ix) leading and promoting digital innovation; and (x) improving instruments of participation and governance.

The measure shall (i) serve as a role model and guide for other local authorities in developing their own action plans; (ii) implement the Spanish Urban Agenda with action plans at local level; and (iii) implement concrete projects as part of the local action plans to highlight the potential of the Spanish Urban Agenda. The support is awarded through competitive tendering, and comprise in particular crosscutting and integrated projects with a strategic vision and through a governance model that ensures the widest participation.

The investments under this measure shall be completed by 31 December 2022

Target: At least 100 municipalities shall have their Local Action Plan (City Strategy) approved, and equipped with the criteria set out in the Spanish Urban Agenda, comprising an assessment and lines of actions in accordance with its ten strategic objectives.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2022.

Reform 7 (C2.R7) – Programme of measures to promote the supply of rental housing (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

The objective of this measure is to promote an increase in the supply of rental housing, especially in the social housing stock and in those cities where there has been a greater increase in prices.

To address this issue, the measure includes

- an amendment of the Consolidated Text of the Land and Urban Rehabilitation Law approved by Royal Legislative Decree 7/2015 of 30 October that shall introduce measures aimed at speeding up the urban planning procedures associated with building rehabilitation actions and construction of buildings for the purpose of social housing;
- the publication of a guide with recommendations and best practices that shall work as reference to simplify and speed up urban planning licensing procedures by encouraging (i) the exchange of knowledge and experience between administrations at local, regional and central level, (ii) measures to systematise and optimise processes and (iii) the future development of pilot projects in different territorial contexts.

The implementation of the reform shall be completed by 30 June 2025.

Milestone: The entry into force of an amendment of the Consolidated Text of the Land and Urban Rehabilitation Law approved by Royal Legislative Decree 7/2015 of 30 October. The amendment shall introduce measures aimed at speeding up the urban planning procedures associated with building rehabilitation actions and construction of buildings for the purpose of social housing.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2025.

Milestone: The publication of a guide with recommendations and best practices that shall work as reference to simplify and speed up urban planning licensing procedures by encouraging (i) the exchange of knowledge and experience between administrations at local, regional and central level, (ii) measures to systematise and optimise processes and (iii) the future development of pilot projects in different territorial contexts.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2025.

Investment 7 (C2.I7) – ICO Loan Facility for the Promotion of Social Housing (Component 02: Implementation of the Spanish Urban Agenda: Urban Rehabilitation and Regeneration Plan)

This measure shall consist of a public investment in a Facility, the ICO Loan Facility for the Promotion of Social Housing, in order to incentivise private investment and improve access to finance for the construction and renovation of energy efficient social and affordable housing, and to develop capital markets in these areas. The Facility shall operate by providing loans directly or through intermediaries to the private sector, as well as to public sector entities engaged in similar activities. On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at initially providing at least EUR 4 000 000 000 of financing.

The Facility shall be managed by Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO) as the implementing partner. The Facility shall include the following product lines:

- Direct loans for the construction of energy-efficient buildings. The buildings shall achieve at least a 20% lower primary energy consumption than the nearly zero-energy building energy requirements in the national guidelines.
- Direct loans for the renovation of existing buildings. The renovation shall result in a reduction of at least 30% in non-renewable energy primary consumption.
- Mediation line: the mediation line shall consist of loans made by ICO to commercial banks, which shall in turn award loans to final beneficiaries for the construction of energy-efficient buildings or the renovation of existing buildings.

The constructed and/or renovated buildings shall be required to be used for social or affordable rent, or transferred in use for social and affordable rent for a minimum period of 50 years. The criteria used to determine social and affordable rent shall be that established under Programme 6 of Royal Decree 853/2021.

In order to implement the investment into the Facility, Spain and ICO shall sign an Implementing Agreement that shall include the following content:

1) Description of the decision-making process of the Facility: The final investment decision of the Facility shall be taken by an investment committee or other relevant equivalent governing body and approved by a majority of votes from members who are independent from the Spanish Government. For intermediated investments, the final investment decision shall be taken by the intermediaries.

2) Key requirements of the associated investment policy, which shall include:

a) The description of the financial products and eligible final beneficiaries in line with the description of the measure.

b) The requirement that all investments supported are economically viable.

c) A prohibition to refinance any outstanding loan.

d) The requirement to comply with the 'Do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle as set out in the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01), in particular: i. In the case of loans: the investment policy shall exclude the following list of activities and assets from eligibility: (i) activities and assets related to fossil fuels, including downstream use, (ii) activities and assets under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks, (iii) activities and assets related to waste landfills, incinerators and mechanical biological treatment plants. ii. The investment policy shall require compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation of the final beneficiaries of the Facility.

e) The requirement that final beneficiaries of the Facility shall not receive support from other Union instruments to cover the same cost.

3) The amount covered by the Implementing Agreement, the free structure for the Implementing Partner and the requirement to reinvest any reflows according to the investment policy of the Facility unless they are used to service loan repayments of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

4) Monitoring, audit and control requirements, including: - The description of the implementing partner's monitoring system to report on the investment mobilised. - The description of the implementing partner's procedures that will ensure the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests. - The obligation to verify the eligibility of every operation in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Implementing Agreement and the Recovery and Resilience Facility before committing to finance an operation. - The obligation of carrying out risk-based ex-post audits in accordance with an audit plan of ICO. These audits shall verify i) that the control systems are effective, including the detection of fraud, corruption and conflict of interests; ii) compliance with the DNSH principle, the State Aid rules, the climate target requirements; and iii) that the requirement for the intermediary to control whether the same cost is covered by another Union instrument is respected. The audits shall also verify the legality of the transactions and that the conditions of the applicable Implementing and Funding Agreements are being respected.

5) Requirements for climate investments carried out by the implementing partner: at least EUR 2 122 000 000 of the RRF investment into the Facility shall contribute to the climate objectives in accordance with Annex VI to the RRF Regulation.

6) Requirements for selecting financial intermediaries: ICO shall select financial intermediaries in an open, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. Controls for the absence of conflict of interests on financial intermediaries shall take place and be conducted ex-ante through IT system such as Minerva for all financial actors involved.

7) Requirement to sign Funding Agreements: ICO shall sign Funding Agreements with the financial intermediaries in line with key requirements that shall be provided as an Annex of the Implementing Agreement. The key requirements of the Funding Agreement shall include all the requirements under which the Fund operates, including: - The obligation of the financial intermediary to take its decisions in compliance mutatis mutandis with the decision making and investment policy requirements specified above, including related to respect of the DNSH principle. - The description of the monitoring and audit and control framework that the financial intermediary shall put in place, which mutatis mutandis shall be subject to all the monitoring, audit and control requirements specified above.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 August 2026.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2023.

Target: ICO, and intermediaries selected by ICO, shall have entered into Legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries, for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Facility (taking into account management fees). At least 53% of this financing shall contribute to climate objectives using the methodology in Annex VI of the RRF Regulation.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2026.

Milestone: Spain shall transfer EUR 4 000 000 000 to the ICO Facility.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2026.

Investment 13 (C13.I13) – Regional Resilience Fund (FRA) (Component 13: Support to SMEs)

This measure shall consist of a public investment in the InvestEU Member State compartment, and in a Facility, the Regional Resilience Fund, in order to incentivise private investment and improve access to finance in Spanish Autonomous Communities in the following priority areas: social and affordable housing and urban regeneration; sustainable transport; industrial and SME competitiveness; research, development and innovation; sustainable tourism; care economy; water and waste management; and energy transition; as well as to develop capital markets in these areas.

The Facility shall operate by providing financing directly or through intermediaries, to the private sector, public sector entities engaged in similar activities, and public entities such as regional and local governments. On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at providing at least EUR 19 500 000 000 of financing. An additional EUR 500 000 000 shall contribute to the InvestEU Member State compartment.

The Facility shall be managed by the EIB Group as the implementing partner. The Facility shall incorporate the following product lines:

- Direct Public Line (EUR 3 500 000 000): Direct co-financing loan instrument to finance projects by public entities such as regional and local governments.
- Other Lines (EUR 16 000 000 000): Lines targeting private entities or public entities in similar activities, in particular:
 - Direct co-financing instrument to finance projects through loans, the acquisition of assets, or participation in project finance.
 - Intermediated financing to SMEs, mid-caps and individuals including through equity investments, quasi-equity, guarantees and asset-backed securitization on existing loan portfolios, senior private credit, and the purchase of green bonds issued by financial entities generating a new eligible loan portfolio. Milestones and target as specified in the annex to the Council Implementing Decision.

Target: Financing or investment operations amounting to 100% of the total amount of RRF resources allocated to the instrument shall have been approved by the InvestEU Investment Committee.

Indicative time for completion: Q3 2026.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement.

Indicative time for completion: Q4 2023.

Target: The EIB Group, and intermediaries selected by the EIB Group, shall have entered into legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries (including equity funds) for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Other Lines (taking into account management fees). At least 2.5% of the financing shall correspond to financing agreements signed with equity funds and at least 60% shall correspond to financing agreements signed with final

beneficiaries for all other investment products (including direct equity investments by the Facility). The EIB Group shall produce a report detailing the percentage of this financing that contributes to climate objectives using the methodology in Annex VI RRF Regulation.

Indicative time for completion: Q3 2026.

Target: The EIB Group, and intermediaries selected by the EIB Group, shall have entered into legal financing agreements with final beneficiaries for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Direct Public Line (taking into account management fees). The EIB Group shall produce a report detailing the percentage of this financing that contributes to climate objectives using the methodology in Annex VI RRF Regulation.

Indicative time for completion: Q2 2025.

Milestone: At least 50% of the financing of Direct Public Line and Other Lines shall contribute to climate objectives using the methodology in Annex VI of the RRF Regulation.

Indicative timeline: Q3 2026.

Milestone: Completion of projects by public entities accounting for at least EUR 3 150 000 000 (including management fees) in the Direct Public Line.

Indicative time for completion: Q3 2026.

Milestone: Spain shall transfer EUR 19 500 000 000 to the EIB Group for the Facility.

Indicative time for completion: Q3 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13695-2023-ADD-1-REV-1/en/pdf>
- Spain's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/spains-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: <https://www.mitma.gob.es/vivienda-social-PRTR>
- Contact data: dgvs@mitma.es

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Catalonia ERDF 2021-2027

Specific objective

Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services

Description of the priority

Purchase and adaptation of housing to respond to households on the lists of emergency and homelessness in Catalonia.

It addresses the need to resolve cases with a favourable resolution from the Evaluation Board for Economic and Social Emergency Situations of Catalonia, or in a situation of homelessness, efficiently and quickly. This is to reduce the waiting time until the award of a public dwelling, and to set a social rent that supports reducing the situation of residential exclusion.

Furthermore, this approach reduces both the pressure on municipal social services brought about by the existence of people and family units in temporary residential solutions and the resources allocated to managing and financing these solutions.

In general terms, the results to be obtained following the implementation of the actions described above will be the following.

- Extending the public rental stock;
- Promote a more efficient and social use of the housing stock;
- Increase the supply of rental housing to people at risk of social exclusion;
- Promote social inclusion and the elimination of spatial segregation.

Allocation

EU contribution : EUR 27 000 000

Total contribution : EUR 67 500 000

Eligible types of actions

Two types of action are envisaged as part of this action:

The exercise of the right of pre-emption and set-off, provided for in Decree-Law 1/2015 of 24 March 2007 about extraordinary and urgent measures for the mobilisation of housing resulting from mortgage enforcement proceedings. This will allow to expand the public housing stock of the Generalitat of Catalonia to deal with cases with a favourable decision of the Catalan Economic and Social Emergency Assessment Board waiting for a house in those municipalities where there is an insufficient housing stock under the responsibility of the public authorities, enabling an effective and rapid response to the situations of housing exclusion dealt with by the Bureau.

Supply of dwellings that meet all the requirements laid down by the regulations governing habitability in all cases, following Decree-Law 1/2015.

The aim is to ensure that all dwellings that are awarded and delivered to people and family units with a favourable resolution by the Emergency Bureau or in homelessness comply with the rules on habitability, eliminating problems with facilities, isolations or other problems.

The group targeted by the actions included in this specific objective are those with a favourable resolution from the Catalan Economic and Social Emergency Assessment Board or in a situation of homelessness. The main users of these public housing will be families or units of cohabitation at risk of social and residential exclusion, and homeless.

Finally, two more ways of supporting social entities in terms of financing and expanding their housing stock should be highlighted.

Fund for rental housing for social policies

In June 2015, the fund for rental housing for social policies was set up. It is an instrument intended to make available to families at risk of residential exclusion the publicly and privately owned homes covered by this fund, based on a social rent. Every year calls for grants are made, addressed to the entities of the fund. The aim is to help pay the rent of those families who have problems paying it; the aid is granted to the entities that manage these homes. In addition, the aid is also granted for rented homes owned by third sector entities (which work with people from marginalised groups, people with disabilities, homeless people, etc.) and councils that have purchased homes with credits from the Catalan Institute of Finance. In 2022, a subsidy was granted worth EUR 2.9 million for the rental of 1 779 homes.

Social Inclusion Housing Network

The Social Inclusion Housing Network supports organisations that provide accommodation to groups of people who require special attention, often with problems of social integration. With support from the *Generalitat*, it is estimated that the houses serve more than 5 000 people.

In 2022, EUR 5.5 million were allocated from the Housing Agency of Catalonia to support 233 entities that are part of this network and which have managed a total of 3 329 homes.

Integrated approach

To ensure complementarity between the Cohesion policy funds and the ESF +, it is envisaged that the Interdepartmental Commission for European Funds will ensure complementarities between the funds.

The Inter-departmental Commission for the Economic Recovery and Governance of the Next Generation EU Fund, set up by government agreement on 13 July 2021, has the leading role in the planning and monitoring the projects financed by Next Generation EU funds.

Further information on the context

This is an action that aims to promote social inclusion and the elimination of spatial segregation. To this end, the action is coherently integrated into the Territorial Sectoral Housing Plan, approved in October 2021, in which the measures needed to meet the housing needs generated in Catalonia over the next 20 years are quantified and territorialised. It has been drawn up in response to Law 18/2007 on the right to housing in Catalonia (Article 12). It is the backbone of housing policies throughout Catalonia and will be developed by applying the principles of the New European Bauhaus.

Over the last decade, Catalonia has enjoyed better living conditions than the national territory as a whole and has favourable data on national and European averages. However, in 2020 there has been a significant increase in the AROPE rate, as the impact of COVID-19 has been evident in terms of risks of poverty and social exclusion.

Housing has become a key factor in the risk of social exclusion, affecting in 2021 29.4 % of households in Catalonia and 35.3 % of the population, compared to 20.6 % and 24 % in Spain as a whole. In addition, 26.5 % of the Catalan population in a situation of social exclusion is in an insecure housing situation and 44.7 % in inadequate housing.

In addition, exclusion situations in the housing dimension particularly affect people in situations of exclusion, with 82.2 % experiencing housing problems, rising to 90.1 % for people in situations of severe social exclusion. In view of this situation, with the actions included in the Programme, which respond to the Territorial Sectoral Housing Plan and the Public Services Infrastructure Plan, the aim is to improve access to housing services for particularly vulnerable groups, by making investments aimed at transforming service provision with a view to improving quality, deinstitutionalisation and ensuring that the basic needs of the entire population are met.

The Territorial Sectoral Housing Plan maps housing needs according to various factors, including medium- and long-term demographic projections (20 years) by territory, current housing availability and the population that will be excluded from access to housing in that period. This Plan defines the areas of strong and accredited residential demand that are preferred to the development of housing policies

Application of the partnership principle

The exercise of the right of pre-emption and set-off instrument is an essential part of the collaboration mechanisms between the *Generalitat* of Catalonia and the social entities related to housing intended for people in a situation of vulnerability. Thus, a share of the homes incorporated into the public park of the *Generalitat* through this mechanism are temporarily transferred to this type of social entity or are referred for the resolution of cases of their users in which the vulnerability is assessed through the evaluation of the collegiate technical forums in charge of managing emergency cases. At the same time, it can be done by the *Generalitat* for its own benefit, for that of the municipality, or for the benefit of non-profit entities that are part of the Network of Insertion Housing.

At the same time, the collaboration of the *Generalitat* of Catalonia with social entities is also of a financial nature. A subsidised loan mechanism has been activated by the Catalan Institute of Finance and the Housing Agency of

Catalonia intended for social entities - as well as councils - that decide to exercise the right of trial and withdrawal to expand their own social housing stock.

Implementation modalities

The implementation of the mechanisms linked to the exercise of the right of trial and withdrawal is articulated, as mentioned above, in Decree-Law 1/2015. The approval of this rule has enabled the *Generalitat* of Catalonia to increase its housing stock, up to July 2023, by 3 999 homes (EUR 225 million), while the town councils have notified resolutions of assessment and withdrawal for 1 188 homes (EUR 66 million) and social entities for 1 174 homes (EUR 52 million).

The implementation of the measure begins when the Decree-Law (Article 1) establishes the duty to notify the *Generalitat* of the homes acquired in a mortgage foreclosure process, whether the home is empty or if it is occupied without a valid title. The data on these homes are included in the Register of empty homes and homes without a permit, which is created under the Decree-Law.

Likewise, Article 2.a) provides that 'the rights of review and withdrawal can be exercised by the Administration of the *Generalitat*, directly or through public law entities with their own legal personality competent in matters of housing, for its own benefit, or for that of the municipality, of other related entities that depend on it, of commercial companies with wholly public capital, or of non-profit entities that are part of the Network of insertion housing or that have the consideration of social promoters in accordance with the provisions of Article 51.2.b) of Law 18/2007, on the right to housing. In the case of non-profit entities, they will need to express their desire to acquire the homes resulting from these processes.'

In this way, right from the beginning of the application of the mechanism, implementation procedures are designed which, giving priority to the *Generalitat* of Catalonia, gives a key role to the town councils and social entities.

At the same time, Article 2.c) establishes that 'once the decision to transfer has been notified, the owner is obliged to show the home to the Administration when it requests it'. It also provides (Article 2.d) that 'after the period for exercising the right of assessment has passed without the Administration having notified its will to exercise it, it will be understood that it waives the exercise of the right in relation to this transfer'. It is also important to note that the Decree-Law provides (Article 2.f) that 'priority will be given to the exercise of the right of appraisal and withdrawal on homes in a good state of conservation, located in neighbourhoods subject to special social degradation and that have a lower price than that of the market'.

Finally, regarding the procedure for incorporation into the public park of the *Generalitat* and of the town councils and the park under the responsibility of social entities established in Decree-Law 1/2015, it is necessary to add the recruitment procedure for its adequacy, given that many of the homes need repair works to guarantee their habitability for the people who are the final beneficiaries by decision of the public administrations or the social organisations that own the homes. This procedure is the home adaptation service and the corresponding home maintenance and preventive and corrective maintenance services, which is currently in the process of evaluating offers under the Public Procurement Services Platform ⁽¹⁴⁾.

Further information

- National portal: https://www.fondoseuropeos.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/eaw_tb_FEDER/Paginas/eaw_tb_FEDER.aspx
- Catalan Housing Agency: <http://agenciahabitatge.gencat.cat/>
- Secretary of Housing: <https://habitatge.gencat.cat/ca/inici/>
- Housing data: <https://habitatge.gencat.cat/ca/dades/>

Contact data:

- Secretary of Housing: <https://web.gencat.cat/ca/adreces-i-telefonos/detall/?codInf=21702>
- Catalan Housing Agency: <https://web.gencat.cat/ca/adreces-i-telefonos/detall/?codInf=18035>

⁽¹⁴⁾ <https://contractaciopublica.cat/es/detall-publicacio/eade39ac-044f-c8ce-f1e7-009aae9193b5/200014185>

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Region of Murcia ERDF 2021-2027

Specific objectives

Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services

Description of the priority

Acquisition and renovation of housing to relocate people in situations of social exclusion

Purchase and renovation of various dwellings intended for the relocation of socially excluded people. Measures could be taken to rehabilitate buildings with the aim of promoting the integration of people at risk of exclusion and vulnerable groups, all in cooperation with projects for intervention in vulnerable neighbourhoods under the ESF +.

This is an integrated action with the ESF +, as this fund will support families and people in situations of chronic social and residential exclusion or homeless people accompanied by social awareness and training actions. In this way, the action is carried out from a point of view that promotes the integration of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the region, favouring their integration into society, access to education and integration into the labour market. Given the importance of the action, it is considered to be one of the strategic projects of the ERDF programme.

Allocation

EU contribution (60 %): EUR 7 300 000 out of the total budget: EUR 12 166 666.

Eligible types of actions

- Acquisition and renovation of housing to relocate people in situations of social exclusion
- Purchase and renovation of various dwellings intended for the relocation of socially excluded people. Measures could be taken to rehabilitate buildings with the aim of promoting the integration of people at risk of exclusion and vulnerable groups, all in cooperation with projects for intervention in vulnerable neighbourhoods under the ESF+.

Integrated approach

The action is complementary to the actions provided for in the Murcia ESF + programme concerning the eradication of slum and homelessness, as well as actions aimed at the social inclusion of the various vulnerable groups.

In this regard, the target groups of the action include people or families who live for a certain period of time in a slum or substandard dwelling, Roma, migrant population, people with mental problems, drug dependence or disability who are at risk of social exclusion or in a vulnerable situation.

As a complement to this action, the ESF + will deploy an intensive social support programme for homeless people, before, during and after they move to standard housing. The aim is to develop independent living projects, with a comprehensive focus on people, including accompanying work, with the active involvement of beneficiaries in the design of their life project.

This initiative builds on the results of the experience of the PARES programme (Programme to accompany the reintegration of families in situations of chronic social and residential exclusion) by adapting it to a different group of people who are homeless people.

Access to housing is therefore a starting point for people to work. The aim is to help people actively participate in identifying their vital interests and objectives, and to provide them with the necessary support to enable them

to live autonomously and fulfil their life projects in the future. An accompanying arrangement is made to ensure personalised care, reflecting the vital needs, preferences and objectives of homeless people.

Further information on the context

In recent years, access to housing has been a major problem in the Region of Murcia. This is aggravated by the increase in families in poverty and at risk of social exclusion.

In 2020, 29.7% of the population of the Region of Murcia was at risk of poverty. Although it is true that, in 2020, it was the region with the second greatest reduction in these terms, according to the 'at risk of poverty or social exclusion' rate, the Region of Murcia is the province in Spain with the fifth highest rate. Overall, the Region of Murcia has reduced its poverty risk rate, especially since 2014. However, it is still higher than the European and Spanish fees.

Among the resources needed to enjoy a decent standard of living and well-being is access to housing. A significant number of people living in the region and who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion lack decent housing, and are living in substandard housing.

In the period 2014-2020, the Murcia ERDF Operational Programme, in cooperation with the ESF +, undertook actions to purchase and renovate housing for families living in substandard housing.

Application of the partnership principle

In order to facilitate the coordination of the actors involved, a project monitoring committee will be set up, involving the bodies financing, promoting and managing the project. A 'Sub-committee on housing' and 'Local Commissions' will be set up in each municipality where the project is to be implemented.

Further information

- <https://www.carmeuropa.es/fondos-ue-murcia/programa-feder-region-de-murcia-2021-2027/>
- Contact data: fondoseuropeos@carm.es
- [2023](#))
- Common quality and accreditation criteria for centres and services of the long-term care system ([2022](#))
- Inclusion strategy for homeless people launched by the Government of Cantabria

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

A) National programme on Social Inclusion, Child Guarantee and Fight Against Poverty.

B) Regional programmes of Andalucía, Asturias, Cantabria, Comunitat Valenciana, Canarias, Castilla la Mancha, Castilla y León, Extremadura, Galicia, Comunidad de Madrid, Murcia and País Vasco.

Specific Objectives

- Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups.
- Promoting socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants.
- Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people.
- Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services.

- Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.

Description of the priorities

There are 25 measures in the regional programmes and 2 in the national programme that are focused on access to social services and housing or mention homeless people among the beneficiaries.

- Priority 2: Social inclusion and the fight against poverty
- Priority 5: Youth Guarantee
- Priority 6: Social innovation
- Priority 8 (only for outermost regions, Canary Islands): Employment, social inclusion and education for Outermost Regions

Allocation

A) National programme on Social Inclusion, Child Guarantee and Fight Against Poverty – EUR 18 million

B) Regional programmes – EUR 186 million

Eligible types of actions

- Promotion of the social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.
- Housing First approach
- Housing in relation to deinstitutionalisation. Implementation of a human-centred care system and independent living. In accordance with the National Strategy for Deinstitutionalisation and Development of Community Support Services, the aim is to bring into operation a human-centric care system, deinstitutionalisation and preparation for independent living, implementing innovative solutions including personal assistance and different technological solutions to boost personal autonomy. These would be temporary, limited and time-limited stays.
- Support access to housing, promotion of social inclusion, protection of the most vulnerable groups.
- Measures to improve and modernise the social protection system, including social services.
- Community and socio-educational intermediation programmes, integrated plans with neighbourhoods, conflict mediation.
- Social resources for women and victims of gender-based violence.
- Social awareness-raising actions, training for professionals and dissemination.
- Attention to young people coming from the protection system.

Integrated approach

- In the programme of social support for homeless people in Cantabria (ESO.4.11), the Regional Ministry of Employment and Social Policies has included, as part of the pilot projects of the PRTR (C22.I2), a pilot project of the housing first model, adapting it to the context of Cantabria and for which the Government of Cantabria will provide a total of 20 dwellings, a project that will be continued by the autonomous community after the end of the MRR funding.
- In the case of the integration pathways for homeless people in Castilla-La Mancha (ESO.4.12), the measures implemented by ESF+ will benefit from the reforms and actions to modernise social services envisaged in component 22 of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. The planned investments are complementary to the PRTR, as different actions and projects will be supported.
- In Murcia, the measures for the social integration of homeless people or people with difficulties in accessing housing (ESO.4.12) will be complemented and coordinated with ERDF funds managed by the Regional Ministry of Housing, which will be used for the acquisition and construction of suitable housing for the families selected for the programme.

- In Murcia, the measure relating to the social accompaniment of people in a situation of chronic social and housing exclusion (ESO.4.10) will also be complemented and coordinated with ERDF funds managed by the Regional Ministry of Housing, which will again be used for the acquisition and use of suitable housing for the families selected for the programme.
- In Extremadura, the social intervention measure for homeless people, vulnerable people or people with difficulties in accessing housing (ESO.4.12) is also coordinated with the ERDF. The programme funds will be used to recruit the social intervention teams and will be complemented by ERDF funding for 2021-2027, the National Housing Plan for 2022-2025 and the Extremadura Housing Plan for 2022-2027.
- In Galicia, the measure from ESO.4.12 promoting stable care resources for homeless people, complements what is programmed in the PRTR, with funds from the recovery mechanism (managed by the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030), which includes the development of a project in which the regional government and local councils will work together to prepare, through reforms and the provision of basic equipment, around 100 homes across Galicia, with the aim of using them as a resource in the application of housing first and housing led methodologies.
- All actions of the specific objective ESO.4.12 of the Basque Country are complementary to those included in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, in particular in component 22. They are also in line with the Plan for the Care Economy and the Strengthening of Social Inclusion Policies, as well as with the actions developed by the General State Administration in multiregional programmes, since they contribute to the same objectives.

Further information on the context

- National Strategy for Prevention and Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2019-2023 ([ES](#), [EN](#)) & its Annual Implementation Plans ([2019](#), [2020](#), [2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#)).
- National strategies for vulnerable groups (e.g. [National Child Guarantee Plan 2022-2030](#), [People with disabilities 2022-2030](#), [National Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2021-2030](#) , [Homelessness 2023-2030](#)
- [Dependency Law 39/2006](#)
- [General Law 1/2013](#) on the rights of people with disabilities and their social inclusion, and [Law 8/2021](#) reforming civil and procedural legislation to support people with disabilities in the exercise of their legal capacity.
- Common quality and accreditation criteria for centres and services of the long-term care system ([2022](#)).
- Inclusion strategy for homeless people launched by the Government of Cantabria.
- Valencian Plan for Inclusion and Social Cohesion, Law 19/2017 of 20 December on the Valencian Inclusion Income and Law 3//2019 of 18 February on the Inclusive Social Services of the Valencian Community.
- Galicia: Regional Mental Health Plan, Plan de Saúde Mental De Galicia Poscovid-19 2020- 2024 and the Mental Health Action Plan of the Ministry of Health 2022-2026.
- The actions of the Andalusian programme for homeless people are always in line with the National Strategy for De-institutionalisation and Development of Community Support Services.
- The actions of the National Inclusion Programme are aligned with the the III Strategic Plan for the Effective Equality of Women and Men (2022-2025)

Application of the partnership principle

This information is from the national programme on Social Inclusion, Child Guarantee and Fight Against Poverty and the partnership agreement but applies in particular to measures for social housing and related services.

Firstly, a **strategic analysis** was carried out that helped to identify **national, regional and local strategies** that could contribute to the European Pillar of Social Rights, to the priorities identified in Annex D to the 2019 Country Report for Spain, to the guidelines for the Just Transition Fund contained in Annex D to the 2020 Country Report, to the Specific Recommendations of the Council, and to the specific objectives of the ESF+.

The result of this analysis was subjected to **a permanent process of strategic dialogue** based on meetings grouped by topic held from June 2019 to January 2020 with representatives of the state, regional and local public sectors, the private sector, the third sector and the most representative business and trade union organisations.

As a result of this dialogue process, the ESF+ strategy document was drawn up and was **subject to subsequent public consultation**. It was published for 40 days on the website of the UAFSE of the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, among other dissemination channels, to ensure its transparency and to secure effective participation in this period.

All the comments received during this period were assessed by the ESF units of the State Secretariat for Employment and Social Economy. Following this, the final version of the ESF+ strategy document was drawn up, which is accessible to all citizens on the UAFSE website. This sets out the main elements of the ESF+ for Spain, without prejudice to any changes that may arise throughout the programming process in response to different economic, social or political circumstances.

Its content was the starting point for the ESF+ in the design and drafting of the 2021-2027 partnership agreement, coordinated by the Directorate-General for European Funds of the Ministry of Finance and published in its first version on 7 April 2022, as well as for the drafting of the ESF+ operational programmes.

In line with the partnership principle, **all relevant partners for each programme were consulted**. For example, in the multiregional ESF+ programme for Social Inclusion, Child Guarantee and the Fight against Poverty ("Inclusion"), an information request form was sent by e-mail to collect assessments of priority investment areas or challenges identified through socio-economic and territorial analysis. In addition, partners were invited to propose specific lines of action that could be co-financed under the programme.

Further information

- <https://www.mites.gob.es/UAFSE/>
- Contact data: unidadgestionfse@mites.gob.es

FRANCE

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services***Reform 1 (C1.R1): Housing policy (Component 1: Buildings renovation)*

The measure includes two distinct objectives that shall be implemented in two steps. The revision of the calculation modalities for the APL (“aides personnelles au logement”): the amount of aid shall be calculated, from 1 January 2021 onwards, on the basis of the current income of the beneficiary household, instead of the income of the penultimate year. Such revision shall allow the system to adapt more quickly to the income variations of beneficiaries, with a view to improve social fairness. In addition, the amount of aid shall be recalculated every quarter, allowing for a gradual taking into account of recent changes in income.

The Pinel scheme is an income tax credit scheme for owners investing in new or rehabilitated dwellings, in areas where the housing market is under strain, in view of renting them: the amount of tax credit depends on the level of incomes of the tenants as well as the level of the rent. The Budget Law for 2021 provides a gradual reduction in the rate of the tax credit in 2023 and 2024, except for dwellings located in “priority urban areas” or which respect certain quality standards in particular of energy and environmental performance that go beyond the current regulations. This Budget Law foresees to end the scheme by the end of 2024.

Furthermore, the Budget Law for 2022 includes provisions to foster mid-range accommodations financed by institutional investors in order to improve the offer of affordable housing in urban areas where the market is under strain, where the needs are the greatest.

Milestone: Entry into force of the legislative changes to review the calculation modalities of APL to reflect current income of the households.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2021.

Milestone: Entry into force of the provisions of the Budget Law for 2021 concerning the legislative changes to the Pinel tax credit to improve its efficiency in view of increasing housing offer in areas where the market is under strain and of the provisions of the 2022 Budget Law concerning mid-range rental housing.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2023.

Investment 2 (C1.I2): Energy renovation and major rehabilitation of social housing (Component 1: Buildings renovation)

This measure consists in supporting social housing organisations (“offices HLM – Habitation à Loyer Modéré” are offices in charge of low-income housing) and local authorities operating social housing in order to support deep renovation of buildings. The ambition is to reach highest standards such as BBC ⁽¹⁵⁾ renovation label concerning the projects from the call for projects “MassiReno”, and gradually eliminate energy sieves. The grant shall be allocated provided that existing schemes (such as écoPLS and CEE ⁽¹⁶⁾), which may be combined with this new aid, are not sufficient to finance the operations of renovation. The measure shall also deploy industrial solutions for energy renovation in social housing buildings in order to achieve zero or positive net energy balance. First operations are expected to be financed in Q2 2021, and the financial envelope shall be allocated by State services at regional and local levels, on the basis of a survey identifying the needs. The selection of projects shall be done either through a call for projects launched in 2020 or through subsidies managed by decentralized State services or local authorities. Operations are intended to be committed in 2021 and 2022, and to be completed by the end of 2026.

⁽¹⁵⁾ BBC stands for “Bâtiment Basse Consommation”, i.e. with a maximum primary energy consumption of 50 kWh per m².

⁽¹⁶⁾ Éco-PLS : éco-prêt logement social (implemented in 2009, this scheme has been revised in 2019 and provides advantageous loans to social landlords to renovate their building stock). CEE (certificats d'économies d'énergie): the scheme was created in 2005, and imposes energy savings obligations to energy providers through certificates.

Target: 40 000 dwellings within the category of social housing receiving a grant for renovation, with an objective of achieving at least 30% of energy savings on average.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2022.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11150-2023-ADD-1-REV-2/en/pdf>
- Webpages on the France's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/frances-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/mesures/renovation-energetique-rehabilitation-lourde-logements-sociaux>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

National ESF+ programme Employment - Inclusion - Youth – Skills

Provisions on access and retention in housing (not on social housing in particular) as standalone measures or as part of accompanying measures towards employment.

Specific objectives

- 1) fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- 2) promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.

Description of the priority

Both specific objectives relate to the priority (1) on promoting labour market integration and social inclusion of those furthest away from the labour market and the most vulnerable/excluded. This priority (one of seven priorities in the programme) is one of the most important, accounting for 49% of the programme budget. It is primarily aimed at those furthest away from employment and encompasses all actions to support inclusion (either social or active inclusion or a combination of both).

Allocation

Total budget allocated for the mentioned objective 1 amounts to EUR 2 854 664. EU contribution amounts to 1 606 534.

Total budget allocated for the mentioned objective 2 amounts to EUR 524 472 153. EU contribution amounts to 295159 816.

These amounts cover all the measures under the two specific objectives, not only measures relating to housing.

Eligible types of actions

Under the mentioned objective 1, actions may include (i) more robust employment-supportive measures; (ii) involving businesses in employment schemes; and (iii) activities and measures to help integrate people with disabilities and people suffering from long-term illnesses into the labour market.

As part of the accompanying measures on social and professional integration, the ESF+ can help remove disincentives and barriers ('levée des freins') and therefore support access to and retention of housing.

Main target groups: groups furthest from employment ('Bénéficiaires du Revenu de Solidarité Active – BRSA', migrants, long-term unemployed, etc.) with a view to integrating them into employment.

Under the mentioned objective 2, which can finance measures not directly related to access to employment, such as measures to combat child exclusion and poverty, the programme will finance specific actions to support access to and retention of housing. This will include multidisciplinary housing-related support, including support to those living in temporary housing, to foster access to sustainable housing.

This specific objective is targeted at vulnerable members of society and those in precarious situations, e.g. BRSA recipients, migrants, single-parent families, vulnerable children and victims of violence.

The programme can also support people affected by housing problems or homelessness by acting in other areas, in particular through:

- a) broader actions for the social integration of people exposed to the risk of poverty or social exclusion;
- b) actions to support the schooling of children from households affected by poor housing (without a fixed address, in substandard housing or living in areas unsuitable for housing) (OS 4.F - promote equal access and adequate follow-up until the end of an education and training course);
- c) food and material aid actions for the most deprived (OS 4.13/M - EUR 29.5 million - 0.8%): homeless people are a main target group of this programme, including people living in illegal camps, shanty towns or squats, and people in uninhabitable or precarious accommodation.

Integrated approach

There is a possible synergy with investments supported by the ERDF (energy renovation) and the RRF (energy renovation and major rehabilitation of social housing).

Further information on the context

Measures are in line with the "Logement d'abord" (Housing first) plan, which makes direct access to housing a priority for the reintegration of homeless people, and with the national strategy for the fight against poverty.

Application of the partnership principle

When drafting the programme, relevant partners (including local authorities, social partners and civil society organisations as those you list above) were consulted to help analyse the needs and determine the priorities and objectives. Consultations led to several structural modifications to the national programme, including on the ESF+ intervention strategy for child welfare, access to social rights and housing.

ESF+ intermediary bodies and project promoters can also include these kinds of partners.

Targets and milestones

It is expected that by the end of 2029 the ESF + will have supported 32 000 homeless people or people facing housing exclusion. Half of those experiencing housing exclusion who have been supported under the ESF + (16 000) are expected to have access to sustainable housing 6 months after the end of the ESF + initiative.

Implementation modalities

Calls for proposals relating to Priority 1 have been launched. An EU amount of €156 million was programmed on 31 October 2023 (+/- 8% of the priority).

Further information

- The ESF+ in France: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-france>
- National portal: <https://fse.gouv.fr/les-appels-a-projets>

CROATIA

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Competitiveness and cohesion programme 2021 -2027

Specific objective

Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalized communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services.

Description of the priority

Priority Axis 6: Strengthening the health system, promoting social inclusion, education and lifelong learning.

Despite the intensification of social services' deinstitutionalisation efforts over the past 10 years, institutionalisation is still high – though there have been some positive shifts in institutionalisation levels. Institutional care is the form of care provided to more than 20% of children without adequate parental care, with behavioural problems or with developmental disabilities. Moreover, more than 80% of people with mental disabilities are in institutional care. This is because of the lack of certain community services, and the lack of programmes and activities to promote social inclusion.

Since the unequal availability of certain services has been identified as the main challenge, reducing the number of users of institutional care will require two types of investment: (i) investment to prepare the ground for the provision of community-based services for a greater number of users and areas; and (ii) investment to build, renovate or acquire housing units. Such investments will also reduce regional disparities in the availability of social services.

Allocation

EUR 142 500 000

Eligible types of actions

- provision of housing infrastructure for organised housing services;
- provision of infrastructure for other non-institutional services;
- provision of equipment for extra-institutional services;
- providing vehicles for non-institutional services;
- supporting the deinstitutionalisation process by investing in the Croatian Institute for Social Work and Family Centre's infrastructure and equipment.

Integrated approach

Community-based social service providers will continue to be strengthened thanks to ESF+ support. Setting up a network of community-based social services working on deinstitutionalisation will help former residents of institutions to adapt quickly to life in the community and increase social inclusion. Targeted services will be provided for people with disabilities.

Further information on the context

The process of de-institutionalising and transforming social institutions will be carried out in line with the operational plan for the deinstitutionalisation and transformation of state homes. The objectives include: (i) reducing the number of people using accommodation services; (ii) increasing the number of people involved in deinstitutionalisation; and (iii) preventing institutionalisation. Beneficiaries are children without adequate parental care, unaccompanied children, children with behavioural problems, children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities.

To that end, the operational plan envisages an analysis of the state, needs and possibilities of each service-providing institution to accommodate users entering organised social housing, ensure social inclusion, and help them adapt to life in the community. Of the country's 69 state homes, 24 are in the process of transformation, and the remaining 45 will be transformed in 2021-2027.

Targets

The target is to support 26 673 people in the framework of integrated actions for socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups.

Implementation modalities

A call for proposals is planned to be launched in Q2-2024.

Further information

- National portal: <https://strukturnifondovi.hr/en/>

ITALY

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services***Investment 2.1: Strengthening of the Ecobonus for energy efficiency (Mission 2 Component 3: Energy efficiency and requalification of buildings)*

The Superbonus measure finances the energy renovation of residential buildings, including social housing as specified in Article 119 of the so-called 'Decreto Rilancio' adopted to address the adverse economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is twofold: 1) to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the energy saving and emission reduction targets set by the Integrated National Plan for Energy and Climate of Italy (PNIEC) for 2030, and 2) to provide countercyclical support to the construction sector and to private demand to offset the effects of economic downturn.

The support is provided in the form of a tax deduction over five years. Until 16 February 2023, it is provided that the recipients, as an alternative to the instrument of tax deduction, may, instead of the direct use of the deduction, choose to use financial instruments (so-called "credit transfer" and "invoice discount"), to address the problem of the high initial investment costs. These alternative instruments provide that the tax deduction accrued by the beneficiary is made for an equal amount in:

- 1) a contribution in the form of a discount on the prepayment price from the supplier (i.e. construction companies, designers, or more generally the general contractor) who discounts it directly on the invoice and recovered in the form of a tax credit reducing the cost of the initial investment;
- 2) a tax credit to be ceded to a financial institution, which shall pay upfront the necessary capital. This mechanism offsets the possible disincentive to making the renovation because of the high initial investment costs. The choice of the general contractor or the financial institution shall be left to the beneficiary.

Condominiums, single-family buildings, undivided housing cooperatives, non-profit organizations and voluntary associations, amateur sports associations and clubs and social housing may benefit from this tax incentive. To be eligible, the renovation must be classified as "deep renovation" (that is, a medium renovation according to Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/786), thus entailing an improvement of at least two energy classes (corresponding on average to primary energy saving of 40%).

The scope of eligible interventions covered by this measure is wide, including for instance driving interventions, towed interventions, thermal insulation of opaque surfaces, and interventions on air conditioning systems (condensing boilers; heat pumps; connection to efficient district heating networks under specific conditions; solar thermal; biomass boilers under specific conditions), PV systems with related storage systems or infrastructure for charging electric vehicles. Two ministerial decrees of 6 August 2020 have already defined the technical requirements of the interventions and the procedures to certify compliance with the specific maximum requirements and costs.

The Superbonus has already been active since 1 July 2020 and shall remain in force until 30 June 2022 (for social housing until 31 December 2022). Access to the benefit may be required for a further period of six months, in the case of works on condominiums or social housing, when at least 60% of the works has been carried out before the dates indicated above. To give more time to more complex interventions it is planned to extend the application of the measure for condominiums until December 31, 2022 and for social housing until June 30, 2023, regardless of the completion of at least 60% of the works.

Milestone: The legal act(s) shall extend the Ecobonus and Sismabonus benefits until 31 December 2022 for condominiums and 30 June 2023 for social housing (IACP).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2021.

Target: Complete building renovation for at least 35 800 000 square meters which result in primary energy savings of at least 40% increasing at least two categories in the energy efficiency certificate.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Investment 2 - Autonomy patterns for people with disabilities (Mission 5 Component 2: Social infrastructures, families, communities and third sector)

The objective of this measure is to increase the autonomy of people with disabilities. The scope of the investment is to accelerate the process of de-institutionalization by providing community and home-based social and health services in order to improve the autonomy of people with disabilities. The measure shall promote access to housing and job opportunities, including new possibilities offered by information technology.

Target: At least 5 000 disabled people have received renovation of home space and/or provision of ICT devices. The services shall be accompanied by training on digital skills. Coverage of at least 5 000 people (1 000 existing plus 4 000 new) with disabilities as recipients of the interventions carried out by the TA. The definition of disabled people (based on ICF) is set out in the 2019 national plan for non-self-sufficient people. Guidelines for the project of autonomy for disabled people are already developed as a result of previous projects. The approval of a specific law n. 112/2016 and the establishing of a specific national fund on the action shall cover the entire national territory. All social districts shall be solicited to participate, the strategy being that such projects open the path to stabilize services through formal recognition of an essential level of social assistance to be granted on the entire territory.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2026.

Investment 3 – Housing First and Post Stations (Mission 5 Component 2: Social infrastructures, families, communities and third sector)

The objective of this measure is to protect and support the inclusion of marginalised people through housing first and post stations. The introduction of the 'housing first' approach means that municipalities shall make flats available for single individuals, small groups or families up to 24 months. In addition to this, customised projects shall be activated for each single person/family in order to implement personal growth development programmes and to help them achieve a higher degree of autonomy, also by providing them with training and with other services aimed at improving their employability level.

On the other hand, the implementation of 'post stations' means the creation of service and inclusion centre for homeless people. Such centres shall offer, besides a limited night reception, important amenities such as health services, catering, post distribution, cultural mediation, counselling, job orientation, legal consulting, and goods distribution among others.

Milestone: The operational Plan regarding projects on Housing First and Post Stations, shall define the requirements of projects that may be presented by local entities, and launch of call for proposal. Projects on Housing First envisage that local entities make flats available for single individuals, small groups or families up to 24 months, preferably through buildings' refurbishment and renovation of State property. This shall be complemented by development and autonomy programmes. Projects on Post Stations envisage the development of service and inclusion centres for homeless people. This shall be complemented by job placement programmes, in collaboration with employment centres.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2022.

Target: Taking care of at least 25 000 people living in severely material deprivation as recipients of Housing First and Post stations interventions.

The satisfactory fulfilment of the target also depends on the satisfactory fulfilment of a secondary target: at least 3 000 people shall be provided temporary accommodation for at least 6 months under the Housing First projects and at least 22 000 people shall benefit from the services offered under the Post Stations projects carried out by the social district.

People in conditions of severe deprivation are defined as follows: see Linee di indirizzo per il contrasto alla grave emarginazione in Italia, approved by the Conferenza Unificata on 11.05.2015 and art. 5 of the Annual Decree on the Poverty Fund 2018 where (art. 5) for this aim they are identified as a) living in the street or in precarious shelter; b) using public dormitory; c) are hosted in hostels for the deprived; d) are exiting from structures (including jail) and do not have a place to live in.

The action shall cover the entire national territory, however areas where problems of homelessness and severe poverty are more urgent (metropolitan areas but also some rural areas with large numbers of seasonal workers - many of which foreigners) shall be privileged.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2026.

Investment 6 - Innovative Plan for Housing Quality (Mission 5 Component 2: Social infrastructures, families, communities and third sector)

The objective of this measure is to build new public housing accommodations and redevelop degraded areas, mainly focusing on green innovation and sustainability. The investment shall provide support to: (I) redevelop, reorganize and increase the offer for public housing; (II) regenerate areas, spaces and public and private properties; (III) improve the accessibility and safety of urban areas and the provision of services; (IV) develop participatory and innovative management models to support social and urban welfare.

Milestone: At least 15 Regions and Autonomous Provinces (including municipalities and/or metropolitan cities located in those territories) signed the agreements to redevelop and increase social housing. Agreements signed with at least 15 Regions and Autonomous Provinces involved in projects. Building: new public housing accommodations to: - redevelop, reorganize and increase the assets intended for public housing; - re-functionalize areas, spaces and public and private properties also through the regeneration of the urban and socio-economic fabric; - improve the accessibility and safety of urban areas and the provision of services and urban local infrastructures; - regenerate areas and spaces already built, increasing environmental quality and improving climate resilience to climate change also by means of operations with impacts on urban densification; - identify and use innovative management and inclusion models and tools, social and urban welfare, as well as participatory processes. Housing units and public spaces supported shall be intended as benefitting from the activities described in the related milestone.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2022.

Target: Support to at least 10 000 housing units (in terms of both construction and rehabilitation). The satisfactory fulfilment of the target also depends on the satisfactory fulfilment of a secondary target that is covering at least 800 000 squared meters of public spaces.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2026.

Investment 17. Financial instrument for energy renovations of public and social housing, and low-income and vulnerable households (Mission 7: REPowerEU)

The objective of the measure is to support renovation for low-income and vulnerable households and alleviate energy poverty. This measure shall consist of a public investment in a Facility, the "Financial instrument to alleviate energy poverty", in order to incentivise private investment and improve access to finance energy renovations in social and public housing achieving a minimum 30% energy efficiency improvement.

The Facility shall be managed by the Implementing Partner. This may be Cassa Depositi e Prestiti or the European Investment Bank. Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and the European Investment Bank may also act together as implementing partners. The implementing partner shall be clarified in the further specifications of the operational arrangements. The Facility shall operate by providing grants and/or subsidised loans to Energy Service Companies for the energy efficiency renovation of housing units.

On the basis of the RRF investment, the Facility aims at initially providing at least EUR 1 381 000 000 of financial support. The Facility shall include the following product lines:

- Public housing: This product line shall provide financial support in the form of grants, interest rate subsidies, subsidised loans, market loans to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) for the energy renovation of public housing.
- Social Housing: This product line shall provide financial support in the form grants, interest rate subsidies, subsidised loans, market loans to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) for the energy renovation of social housing.

- Energy renovations in low-income households in multi-apartment buildings: This product line shall provide financial support in the form grants, interest rate subsidies, subsidised loans, market loans to Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) for energy renovations in low-income and vulnerable households in multi-apartment buildings. Two-third of the facility shall be dedicated to energy renovations of public housing and social housing; one-third shall be dedicated to energy renovations in low-income households in multiapartment buildings

Milestone: Define the terms of reference of the financial instrument, which shall target public and social housing and energy renovations in low-income and vulnerable households in multi-apartment buildings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2024.

Milestone: Entry into force of the Implementing Agreement in line with the requirements specified in the description of the measure. In particular the Implementing Agreement shall include eligibility criteria concerning the minimum energy efficiency improvement that the instrument shall achieve (at least 30% in reduction of primary energy demand), and the eligible households (where eligibility is defined on the basis of their vulnerability).

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2025.

Milestone: Italy shall transfer EUR 1 381 000 000 to the Implementing Partner for the Facility.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2024.

Target: The Implementing Partner shall have entered into legal financing agreements with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) for an amount necessary to use 100% of the RRF investment into the Facility (taking into account management fees). The financing agreement with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) shall specify the asset that will be subject to energy efficiency renovation. 100% of this financing shall contribute to climate objectives using the methodology in Annex VI of the RRF Regulation.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16051-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Italy's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/italys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: <https://www.italiadomani.gov.it/it/home.html>

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programmes

Social housing infrastructure measures are supported under various regional programmes and under the National Programme Inclusion and poverty reduction 2021-2027 and the National Programme Metro+ and southern medium cities 2021-2027.

Specific objectives

- Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services;
- Integrated development in urban areas.

Allocation

In total, the programmes provide EUR 500 581 365 (of which EUR 314.214.613 is ERDF funding) for social housing.

Further information

- Single national website portal: Open Coesione - <https://opencoesione.gov.it/>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Measures on social housing and integrated services are supported under various ESF+ programmes, both at national and regional level.

At national level, these measures are programmed mainly under the National Programme Inclusion and poverty reduction 2021–2027 and the National Programme Metro+ and southern medium cities 2021–2027.

Various regional programmes have also included investments to support access to housing for vulnerable groups.

The information refers therefore to the ESF+ support to social housing and accompanying measures provided under different programmes.

Specific objectives

- Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services;
- Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children
- Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived persons, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion

Description of the priority

Social-housing measures are programmed under the social-inclusion priorities, which include investments for strengthening access to health and social services, and for increasing the social and economic inclusion of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, such as: (i) migrants; (ii) Roma; (iii) LGBTIQ+ people; (iv) older people; (v) homeless people; and (vi) persons with disabilities.

Allocation

The allocation in the programmes is at the level of specific objectives and intervention fields. Allocations are not available only for social housing.

Eligible types of actions

The actions supported by the ESF+ programmes in Italy include:

- Targeted multidimensional support to vulnerable groups and persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion, including access to housing and strengthening of housing services;
- Actions to strengthen housing services and support access to housing in line with the Housing First approach. Access to housing is accompanied by individualised and multidimensional support to achieve autonomy.
- Development of new management and prevention models for housing emergencies;
- Activation of emergency social services for people in difficulty, such as victims of violence, victims of trafficking, minors, non self-sufficient people. Services will aim at providing a prompt response in a qualified way;
- Pilot projects to facilitate access to social housing for specific groups (such as persons with disabilities, homeless persons, migrants, families and persons in difficult economic situations), for example through co-

housing and other forms of support. Strengthening services for marginalised communities (such as Roma) or third country nationals, with particular regard to housing inclusion and overcoming informal settlements;

- Integrated services for persons who are homeless or affected by housing exclusion. Services can include: reach-out activities, low-threshold services and personalised support to access health, education, housing, employment and active inclusion services.
- Combining food and material distribution for people in extreme marginalisation and homeless people (under 50 m) with the strengthening of and access to housing services.

Integrated approach

- Synergies should be ensured with the Recovery and resilience plan: Mission 5, Component 2, Social Infrastructure, households, community and third sector.
- Synergies should be also ensured with ERDF infrastructural investments in social housing, programmed under national and regional programmes.

Application of the partnership principle

Relevant actors, including social partners and civil society organisations, were involved in the programmes' preparations and the partnership principle will be respected in all phases of the implementation.

Implementation modalities

ESF+ implementation varies across the Italian programmes.

Further information

- The ESF+ plus in Italy: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-italy>
- National portal: <https://opencoesione.gov.it/it/>

CYPRUS

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Investment 3 (C5.213): Establishment of home structures for children, adolescents with conduct disorders, persons with disabilities and people in need of long-term care (Component 5.2: Labour Market, Social Protection and Inclusion)

The objectives of the investment are to: (i) support the Republic of Cyprus to meet its obligations under the Refugee Act 2000-2016 to provide care and to safeguard the rights of unaccompanied minors who arrive in the Republic, (ii) meet the housing needs for children and adolescents with particular difficulties who are placed under the guardianship of the social welfare services, (iii) enhance community-based supported living structures for persons with disabilities to avoid institutionalisation and social exclusion and (iv) address gaps in long-term care services.

The investment consists of the establishment of at least eight state structures for children or persons with disabilities and the establishment or renovation of at least eighteen homes for children, adolescents with conduct disorders and people in need of long-term care (through tender procedures and aid schemes). The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: Signing of contracts/funding agreements for the establishment of at least 26 buildings for the needs of children or persons with disabilities and for homes for children, adolescents with conduct disorders and people in need of long-term care.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024.

Target: Establishment of at least 26 buildings for the needs of children or persons with disabilities and for homes for children, adolescents with conduct disorders and people in need of long-term care.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision - <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15571-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Webpages on the Cyprus's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/cyprus-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- <http://www.cyprus-tomorrow.gov.cy/cypresidency/kyprostoavrio.nsf/all/B37B4D3AC1DB73B6C22586DA00421E05/%24file/Cyprus%20RRP%20For%20Upload%2020052021.pdf?openelement>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

"Thalia programme"

Specific objective

Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children.

Description of the priority

Stepping up equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services. This includes services that help with access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare. Further objectives include: (i) modernising social-protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; (ii) improving accessibility to public services, including for people with disabilities; and (iii) improving the effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and LTC services (ESF+).

Allocation

Out of the total of EUR 70 455 180 allocated to the specific objective, EUR 27 500 000 were allocated to the actions of the priority.

Eligible types of actions*Housing in relation to deinstitutionalisation*

Independent living in the community and access to the necessary support services are a right for persons with disabilities under the UN Convention. To that end, the network of community support services will be strengthened, and continuously enhanced with new services that enable the social inclusion of people with disabilities and support their choice to live in accessible housing in the community – with the necessary support services, or to continue living in their own homes.

Example:

The project *'Inclusion of people with disabilities into supported living programmes'* aims to develop supported living facilities for people with disabilities. The target is to provide 85 people with access to living support services in the community by 2029.

Integrated approach

Synergies should be ensured with the RRP actions in the framework of the component 5.2, investment 3: *Establishment of home structures for children, adolescent with conduct disorders, persons with disabilities and people in need of long-term care (LTC)*.

Application of the partnership principle

Regional authorities and other civil society organisations were involved in the process.

Targets

Number of social houses: 7

Implementation modalities

Implementation is ongoing - some calls were launched and others are in the pipeline (to be cross-checked with the relevant government department).

Further information

- The ESF+ in Cyprus: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-cyprus>
- National portal: http://www.dmsw.gov.cy/dmsw/dsid/dsid.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument

LATVIA

National multi-fund programme (ERDF/CF, ESF+, JTF)

There is no specific ESF+ allocation for housing or homelessness. ESF+ will provide food and material assistance to people below a certain low-income threshold. ESF+ will also cross-finance infrastructure for community-based services to support the desinstitutionalisation process and Latvia will use: (i) the ERDF for social and municipal rental housing for vulnerable people; and (ii) the RRF for affordable low-rent dwellings.

Specific objectives

Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services.

Description of the priority

The programme is being implemented under Priority 4.3. Employment and social inclusion.

Eligible types of actions

- The renovation of social housing and the construction of new housing (incl. measures promoting the energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources);
- Consultative measures to make sure the environment and equipment are functional and accessible for individuals with different functional disabilities.

Integrated approach

The housing created under the programme would be available and rented out to the most vulnerable people in accordance with the Law on assistance in solving apartment matters ⁽¹⁷⁾, which already ensures that discrimination and segregation in the provision of housing are prohibited. This means that, when offering and providing housing, the municipality is obliged to allocate housing according to the order in which individuals registered in the 'waiting list' (based on their submission of an application for the relevant type of aid). It also obliges the municipality to consider the individual needs of a person. For those applying for housing aid, it is permitted for a person to reject two reasonable offers without affecting their place on the waiting list.

To ensure that new social housing is built in areas with employment opportunities, there must be an assessment of the economic development of areas surrounding those where housing is proposed to be built. This assessment considers issues such as job opportunities in the surrounding area to promote opportunities for those who are particularly disadvantaged to obtain a job and improve their social circumstances.

Investments in social-housing renovation and new construction will only be supported in municipalities that offer accessible community-based social services.

Only municipalities that have people on the "waiting list" for social housing are eligible for support.

Further information on the context

The programme will contribute to the achievement of the objectives defined in national policy planning documents, such as the National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027 ⁽¹⁸⁾, Social Protection and Labour Market Policy Guidelines 2021-2027 ⁽¹⁹⁾ and Housing Affordability Strategy 2023-2027 ⁽²⁰⁾.

⁽¹⁷⁾ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/56812-par-palidzibu-dzivokla-jautajumu-risinasana>

⁽¹⁸⁾ https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/NAP2027_ENG_3.pdf

⁽¹⁹⁾ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/325828-bpar-socialas-aizsardzibas-un-darba-tirgus-politikas-pamatnostadnem-2021bb2027b-bgadamb?&search=on>

⁽²⁰⁾ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/347211-par-majoklu-pieejamibas-pamatnostadnem-2023-2027-gadam>

Application of the partnership principle

The programme's implementation provisions have been developed in close cooperation with municipalities and the organisations that represent municipalities (for instance, the Association of Regional Development Centres, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, and the Association of Large Cities of Latvia). In addition, both the rules for implementing the programme and the evaluation criteria for the projects were submitted for discussion to the Monitoring Committee, which consists of members whose organisations represent the interests of different social groups ⁽²¹⁾.

Targets

It is expected that 1 865 people would be accommodated by 2029 in the new or renovated social housing.

Implementation modalities

The rules for implementing the programme have been agreed upon with the institutions and social partners and were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2023.

The initial call to select open project applications was launched in December 2023. The actual implementation of projects is expected to start in the second half of 2024.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Latvia: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-latvia>
- National portals: <https://www.esfondi.lv/> and <https://www.cfla.gov.lv/lv/2021-2027-projektu-atlases>

⁽²¹⁾ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/337234-par-eiropas-savienibas-fondu-20212027-gada-planosanas-perioda-uzraudzibas-komitejas-sastavu>

LITHUANIA

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Programme for the European Union funds' investments in 2021-2027

Specific objectives

To promote socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services.

Description of the priority

This action plans to develop a social-housing fund to protect the right of a child, family or individual to suitable living conditions. This will in turn better integrate people in unfavourable conditions, i.e. people with a disability (with mobility and/or mental disabilities) who need specially adapted housing and, where needed, large low-income families. This action will take into account the general principles of sustainable development to seek to ensure access to employment, healthcare, education, childcare, and social, cultural and other services needed by individuals and families. This activity will be implemented in mid-west Lithuania and in the Capital region of greater Vilnius.

Allocation

The overall envelope amounts to EUR 94 million. It consists of the EU contribution (EUR 73 million) and municipal budgets (EUR 21 million).

Eligible types of actions

The development of a social-housing fund will be promoted in every possible way: through construction, renovation (renovation of old buildings and adaptation of old buildings to meet the requirements of modern social housing), purchase, etc. The action will also promote the repair/reconstruction of purchased housing and will involve purchasing the necessary furniture and equipment.

In 2021-2027, EU funds will be allocated to the development of a social-housing fund for disabled and large families. The rental housing market in many municipalities is insufficient for people with a disability (due to housing that is often unsuitable for people with disabilities) and large families (due to the typically small size of cheap housing on the market). For these two groups of people (people with disabilities and large families), suitable housing is either difficult to access or impossible to access on the traditional private rental market. In 2021-2027, this action aims to ensure that the waiting period for renting social housing for these groups of people does not exceed 3 years.

Integrated approach

Since 2023, for people and families included in Lithuania's list of people and families eligible to rent social housing the municipal administrations are obliged to plan and organise social services according to the procedure laid down by the Law on Social Services in order to promote the socio-economic activity and autonomy of these people and families according to their needs and capabilities. The obligation for municipal administrations to plan and organise social services was also made applicable for people and families to whom social-housing units have been leased. It is expected that these provisions will help these two groups to access housing and escape poverty.

Application of the partnership principle

This action will apply the CPR partnership principle to involve social-housing associations, local authorities, service providers' representatives, fundamental rights bodies and civil society organisations. These bodies represent the interests of marginalised groups, such as the Roma, people with disabilities, people with a migrant background, homeless people, etc.

In addition, the description of the conditions for financing the social-housing projects was coordinated in detail with other ministries and municipalities (the promoters of the social-housing projects include 60 Lithuanian municipalities). The final draft of the description of conditions was announced publicly.

Implementation modalities

Social-housing projects are planned and developed by municipalities. Projects are included in regional development plans (there will be 10 such plans, since there are 10 regions in Lithuania), which are submitted for review to the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The ministry has already reviewed the development plans of three regions. For these regions, the administering agency is preparing plans for calls for proposals. A call for proposals for one of the three regions has already been launched.

Further information

- National portal: <https://lrv.lt/lt/>

Multi-fund

Programme

Programme for the European Union funds' investments in 2021–2027

Fund or multi-fund scheme

National multi-fund (ESF+, ERDF, CF, JTF)

Specific objectives

- Improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers, in particular young people, especially through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, for long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and for inactive people, as well as through the promotion of self-employment and the social economy;
- Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships;
- Promoting equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Promoting lifelong learning, in particular flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility;
- Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services.

Description of the priority

The investments programmed under the priority 4 'A more socially responsible Lithuania' will promote social cohesion (especially in the labour market), and better access to good quality social and health services. Particular attention will be paid to the most vulnerable groups in Lithuanian society. Skills shortages and mismatches are among the

obstacles preventing businesses from expanding into knowledge-based activities. For this reason, investing in upskilling, reskilling and job-to-job transitions will remain a significant investment priority in the years to come.

Substantial investments will be made in improving the quality of education, in particular in general and vocational education, and adult learning. Under this priority, the programme will support the transition from care delivered in an institutional setting to family and community-based care services, in particular for people with disabilities. Primary healthcare will be strengthened by increasing the range of services provided by the primary healthcare teams, expanding their capacity (including their capacity to provide integrated services). To ensure a steady supply of health professionals, the programme will invest in: (i) the training of professionals to attract specialists to work in priority investment areas; and (ii) addressing skills shortages at regional level.

10 specific objectives (6 ESF+ and 4 ERDF) were designed to address the above challenges.

Social housing is supported by the ERDF under specific objective RSO4.3. 'Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services'. Lithuania plans to increase social-housing capacity to address the need for adequate living conditions for children, families and individuals. This activity will be implemented in two regions: the Capital region of greater Vilnius and middle-west Lithuania.

Allocation

32% of the overall investments- EUR 1.81 billion will be covered by the ESF+ and ERDF (without Technical assistance). ERDF will invest EUR 58 656 818 in social housing for the most vulnerable people.

Integrated approach

People who are eligible for social housing are also entitled to receive other services depending on their individual needs. These other services include job training, access to all levels of education, health services, and social-inclusion services.

Application of the partnership principle

The partnership principle is a general and cross-cutting principle applicable to all priorities and all stages of programme design and implementation in line with the European code of conduct on partnership as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Infrastructure mapping

The need for social infrastructure was presented by the managing authority during the negotiations, before the adoption of the programme. As the Cohesion policy funds could not satisfy the need, social infrastructure is planned also under the RRP.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Lithuania: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-lithuania>
- Website of the Programme: <https://www.esinvesticijos.lt/lt>
- The Ministry of Finance is the MA of the Programme and has the overall responsibility for programme implementation: finmin@finmin.lt
- The Ministry of Social Security and Labour is responsible for the development and implementation of social housing policy: post@socmin.lt

LUXEMBOURG

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services***Reform: Housing Pact 2.0 (Component 1C: Increase of supply of affordable and sustainable public housing))*

In Luxembourg, a high degree of private property concentration and little incentives to release land for development limit the ability of public authorities to tackle the chronic under-supply of housing, which continues driving up prices in the face of the strong population growth. Meanwhile, household indebtedness continues to increase and amounts to 170% of GNI in 2018 (most of which is mortgage debt and is unevenly distributed, making the poorer households relatively more vulnerable).

Against this backdrop, this reform shall put in place a 'Housing Pact 2.0', as a reference framework to encourage municipalities to mobilise land for construction, and dwellings for renovation, in order to increase social housing in view of the lack of affordable housing; and to encourage the construction of schools and nurseries to cope with the growing population. This scheme builds on the lessons learned from the 'Housing Pact 1.0', which has been in force since 2008.

Under the Housing Pact 2.0, each municipality may engage by signing an 'initial convention' with the State, which allows the municipality to be assisted by a 'housing counsellor'. If it does so, the municipality shall then set up and adopt its own municipal strategy for housing development ('Programme d'action local logement' or PAL). Municipalities shall then sign an 'implementation convention' with the State, which entails an obligation for the municipality to implement the development projects detailed in the PAL, with financial support from the State on the basis of the affordable housing units placed on the rental market in the previous year.

The Housing Pact 2.0 shall take into account the development priorities set out in the sectoral plans and the new national Master Programme for Spatial Planning (PDAT), and to the extent the number of signing municipalities allows, contribute to a coherent land use development at the national level, with a view to sustainably increase the housing supply. The reform aims to place on the market at least 1200 housing units by 2025.

While most municipalities had signed an agreement under the Housing Pact 1.0, this has not resulted in a noticeable increase in the supply of social housing. Compared to its predecessor, the Housing Pact 2.0 shall provide that the financial envelope available for State transfers to municipalities is calculated on the basis of the number of affordable housing units in their territory placed on the rental market during the previous year (either through construction or acquisition and renovation), and no longer on the basis of population growth.

In addition, the financial contributions granted to municipalities shall be paid on the basis of the implementation of projects approved under the Housing Pact 2.0 and aimed at achieving its objectives. A closer cooperation between the State and municipalities is a key objective of the reform, aimed at strengthening the public sector capacity to increase meaningfully the public residential stock and scale up the practice of affordable and sustainable rental housing. In this sense, the draft Housing Pact 2.0 provides that between 10% and 30% of each development project shall be dedicated to affordable housing placed on the rental market. The reform offers the opportunity to meaningfully address the trend of house prices inflation, which is also considered one of the main barriers to investment and growth.

Milestone: Entry into force of the 2.0 Housing Pact Law, with the aim of increasing the supply of affordable and sustainable housing at municipal level. The aim of the Housing Pact is to draw up implementing agreements with the municipalities enabling the implementation of a "Local Housing Action Programme".

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2021.

Target: Signature of the initial agreement with 70 % of the municipalities in Luxembourg.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2023.

Target: Signature of the implementation agreement with at least 50 % of the municipalities in Luxembourg. This agreement specifies among others the modalities for paying the financial support the municipality is entitled to.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2022.

Investment: Project “Neischmelz” in Dudelange – renewable energy (Component 1C: Increase of supply of affordable and sustainable public housing)

This measure consists in supporting sub-projects of the far-reaching project to convert the former industrial ‘Neischmelz’ site, located in the municipality of Dudelange, to develop a new urban district, thereby contributing to addressing Luxembourg’s shortage of affordable housing. More than half of the dwellings created as part of that programme are intended for affordable renting. The overall programme is expected to be completed by 2035.

In this context, the electricity shall be produced by photovoltaic panels installed on the large roofing surface on the rehabilitated old structure. The heat shall be produced either through an innovative deep geothermal energy system or a set of solar thermal panels, depending on the feasibility of the geothermal system being confirmed following further investigations.

Energy system works are not contingent on the progress of operations to rehabilitate the polluted land on the site. Regarding heat production through geothermal energy, a works contract shall be awarded by 31 December 2022 to launch the new test drilling, to confirm the promising results of a first test drilling performed in 2018, and a final decision shall be taken by 30 September 2023 to confirm the development of the geothermal energy system, or to fall back on a solar thermal panel power plant. In either case, work on the heat networks shall be launched by 30 September 2024. By 31 December 2025, if feasibility is confirmed, the two definitive drillings for the geothermal energy system shall be completed; if not, the solar thermal panel-based heating power plant shall be operational. Regarding electricity production, at least 8 000 m² of photovoltaic solar panels shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Milestone: Award of the works contract, following tender, for the new test drilling to confirm the feasibility of a geothermal energy system on the site.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2022.

Milestone: Purchase order signed by the Fonds de Logement to project manager, requesting the launch of a new phase of the project, referring to the decision taken on the selection of the renewable heat production technology (geothermal energy/solar thermal energy) based on the results of the new test drilling referred to in milestone 1C-4 above.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2023.

Milestone: Purchase order signed by the Fonds de Logement to contractor for the launch of the heat network and heat production plant works.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024.

Target: A total of 8 000 m² of photovoltaic panels installed and made operational.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Milestone: Following the purchase order referred to in milestone 1C-6 above, acceptance of works for a total installed heat production capacity for 1000 dwellings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Further information

- Luxembourg’s recovery and resilience plan - https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/luxembourgs-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- Council implementing decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16022-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

- Housing Pact 2.0: Article 29bis – Pacte logement 2.0 - government.lu (gouvernement.lu)<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/mesures/renovation-energetique-rehabilitation-lourde-logements-sociaux>
- “Neischmelz project in Dudelange”: “Neischmelz” a national project for housing and culture - government.lu (gouvernement.lu)

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Specific objectives

Promoting equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities

Description of the priority

There is no specific focus on housing nor homelessness. Homelessness is tackled through OS 4.h (social inclusion) which includes actions and pathways to support the integration of marginalised or vulnerable groups (such as ex-prisoners and homeless) into employment. For housing, there are no specific actions, except indirectly through actions under SO 4.f targeting the inclusion of children (the Ministry of Housing is one of the actors involved in these types of actions).

Eligible types of actions

Priority Social inclusion (target: disadvantaged people)

Expected results

- Support for disadvantaged people through work;
- Reduction in social exclusion, in particular by promoting sustainable professional integration;
- Acquisition and development of skills for successful vocational (re)orientation of disadvantaged people.

Main types of actions

- Integrated pathways to work including training, workshops for social and professional reintegration, personalized social support
- Specific actions for refugees and people with a migrant background
- Partnerships with economic actors to foster the employment of disadvantaged people
- Measures targeting child poverty (youth under 18), in particular supervision and support services for young people in difficult situations to develop integrated active inclusion policies in cooperation with relevant stakeholders

Priority Education and Child Guarantee

For this priority, there is no specific focus on housing, except indirect approach through actions under SO 4.f targeting inclusion of children (Ministry of Housing being one of the actors involved in these types of actions).

Expected results

- Support for Luxembourg's national action plan for childcare;
- Active integration and inclusion of children at risk of poverty;
- Promoting equal opportunities for young people at risk of poverty

Main types of actions

- Creation of an exchange platform for pupils, parents and teachers to support the integration of newly arrived pupils;
- Preventing marginalisation of newly arrived pupils and actions to promote their integration;
- Projects for young people experiencing difficulty in their education and training;
- Measures targeting child poverty (people under 18), in particular supervision and support services for young people in difficult situations.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Luxembourg: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-luxembourg>

HUNGARY

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)*C3.R1: Creating framework conditions for an effective integrated support to the most disadvantaged settlements (Component 3: Catching Up Settlements)*

The objective of the measure is to support the effective and transparent implementation of the Catching up Settlements programme, which aims to develop the most disadvantaged settlements in Hungary and address key socio-economic challenges of their inhabitants. The measure shall consist of two actions to establish framework conditions for the implementation and monitoring of the Catching-up Settlements programme.

First, the non-governmental organisations implementing the various elements of the programme shall be selected through a transparent procedure based on criteria related to professional experience, capacity and merit. The Rules of procedure shall be published on the dedicated website of the Programme. Second, a thematic monitoring committee for the Catching up Settlements programme shall be established to review the results and provide recommendations for further increasing the effectiveness of the programme. The scope of the monitoring committee's review shall cover the relevant interventions – from national and EU funding sources (including ESF+ and ERDF elements) – supporting the programme's objectives in the 300 most disadvantaged settlements.

To this end, the membership of the monitoring committee shall include competent ministries and authorities, representatives of municipalities, civil society organisations working on social inclusion and Roma inclusion. The civil society organisations shall be selected based on professional experience, capacity and merit. The monitoring committee shall meet on a regular basis, at least quarterly. Its documents, including the minutes, shall be published on the dedicated website of the programme.

The implementation of the reform shall be completed by 31 March 2023.

Milestone: Rules of procedure shall ensure a transparent selection of non-governmental organisations and other organisations that shall implement the various elements of the Catching-up Settlements Programme. The Rules of procedure shall be published on the dedicated website of the Catching-up Settlements Programme. Selection shall be based on criteria related to professional experience, capacity and merit.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2021.

Milestone: Thematic monitoring committee shall be established for the Catching up Settlements programme, including its ESF+ and ERDF elements, possibly together with other similar social inclusion programmes. The committee shall review the results and provide recommendations for further increasing the effectiveness of the programme. Members of the monitoring committee shall include competent ministries and authorities, representatives of municipalities, civil society organisations working on social inclusion and Roma inclusion. The civil society organisations shall be selected based on professional experience, capacity and merit. The monitoring committee shall meet at least quarterly. Its documents, including the minutes shall be published on the dedicated website of the programme.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q1 2023.

C3.I1: Construction and renovation of social housing, improvement of housing conditions (Component 3: Catching Up Settlements)

The objective of the investment is to improve the quality of life and housing conditions of people living in the most disadvantaged municipalities selected under the Catching up Settlements Programme and to alleviate housing poverty, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The measure shall consist of purchasing and renovating at least 1 600 dwellings, as well as building 400 new houses and renting them out as social houses. The construction of new houses shall take place as centrally as possible within a municipality to make use of dilapidated houses and empty plots of lands. No social housing shall be provided in isolated areas or beyond the populated area of a municipality. New and renovated houses for social purposes may be placed outside the targeted municipalities in a minority of cases, in non-segregated areas with better access to employment and services, but in those cases the social housing stock shall be allocated to people

living in those 300 targeted municipalities, who may apply for rental housing through an open call for applications, and may, on a voluntary basis, move in a dwelling outside of their settlement.

As part of the measure, an Intervention Plan shall be prepared and published. This Plan shall provide guidance on the selection of the dwellings to be refurbished and the new social houses to be built. The Plan shall take into account the surveys conducted to map out the needs and the selection of projects shall prevent further risks of segregation and combat existing risks of segregation. The renovation work shall include interventions such as the renovation of at least one heatable room and one bathroom per dwelling as well as the preparation of safe electricity collection points, building fences, rodent control and use of insecticide.

These post-renovation and newly constructed dwellings shall be owned by the organisations implementing the Catching up Settlements Programme for at least 20 years and managed by a social housing agency under a public service contract. The social housing agency, to be selected by an open tender, shall allocate the housing to eligible tenants in the form of a rented property, through a public tender system. New buildings shall comply with Nearly Zero Energy Buildings requirements.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone: An Intervention Plan shall be adopted by the main organiser of the Catching-up Settlements Programme to identify the renovation needs and the settlements where new social houses shall be built or purchased.

New and renovated houses for social purposes may exceptionally be placed outside the 300 most disadvantaged municipalities (in non-segregated areas with better access to employment and services), but in those cases the social housing stock shall be allocated to people living in those 300 targeted municipalities, who may apply for rental housing through an open call for applications, and may, on a voluntary basis, move in a dwelling outside of their settlement. The plan shall take into account the surveys conducted to map the needs and the selection of projects shall not generate segregation risk. The plan shall be published on the dedicated website of the Catching-up Settlements Programme.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2022.

Target: Purchasing and renovation of at least 800 dwellings selected according to the published Intervention Plan and rent them out as social houses. This includes interventions such as renovation of at least one heatable room and one bathroom per dwelling as well as preparation of safe electricity collection points, building fences, rodent control, insecticide. These post-renovation dwellings shall be owned by the organisations implementing the Catching up Settlements Programme for at least 20 years and managed by a social housing agency under a public service contract. The social housing agency shall allocate the housing stock to eligible tenants in the form of a rented property, through a public tender system.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2024.

Target: Purchasing and renovation of at least 800 additional dwellings selected according to the published Intervention Plan. This includes interventions such as renovation of at least one heatable room, one bathroom per dwelling, preparation of safe electricity collection points, building fences, rodent control, insecticide. These post-renovation dwellings shall be owned, managed and rented to eligible tenants according to specifications in milestone 53.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15964-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Hungary's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/hungarys-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme (multi-fund scheme)

Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme Plus/TSDOP+ (Terület- És Településfejlesztési Operatív Programme/TOP+).

Specific objectives

- fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups (ESF+)
- fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas (ERDF)
- fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in areas other than urban areas (ERDF)

Description of the housing operation - Social urban rehabilitation

ERDF component:

The aim is to tackle complex problems concentrated in the deprived areas of cities in order to support the social integration of the people who live there. Integrated social urban rehabilitation should mainly be carried out in deprived neighbourhoods characterised by low educational levels, low economic activity, high levels of long-term unemployment, disadvantage, and a severely degraded environment.

According to the evaluation of the 2014-2020 social settlement rehabilitation programme, new programmes should comply with the anti-segregation strategy in place for Hungary's cities. Segregated areas should be identified with the help of experts, and every effort should be made to purchase real estate in these areas for social rehabilitation purposes. It is also recommended to involve a methodological control organisation in the project so that the Directorate-General of Social Opportunity Creation can ensure the highest degree of professionalism.

The assessment underlines the importance of housing desegregation (i.e. equal access to quality housing). The projects related to this priority are therefore expected to supply as much of the target group as possible with adequate social housing.

It is necessary to take a partnership approach to planning and implementing the programmes, involving the local population and the relevant stakeholders. Housing investments that propagate segregation cannot be supported.

ESF+ component

Similar to the ERDF-funded project described above, this action aims to halt the cycle of poverty and social and labour market disadvantage for people living in declining, vulnerable urban areas and isolated settlements. It also aims to create the conditions for the social integration of communities and individuals, by preparing the ground for the target group to move to an integrated area.

It also promotes employment in cooperation with the national employment partnership programme, as well as early childhood, childhood and non-formal education, health promotion, and access to social services in cooperation with 'county opportunity pacts'. Where relevant, it makes the use of existing integrated services compulsory.

Programme (multi-fund scheme)

Territorial Operational Programme Plus (TSDOP+): housing agency model as well as the housing guarantee program under the "Priority 4: Infrastructural development in Budapest

Description of the measures

Budapest will launch a targeted social housing programme. Housing policy measures in Budapest will be completed with a new type of housing services to alleviate housing shortages for vulnerable groups, i.e. for Roma.

The planned measures will include modernizing and renovating vacant rental apartments owned by local governments, then renting them out to needy and vulnerable groups; transforming previously non-residential properties that have not been used for a long time into housing. These apartments are planned to be accessible and energy efficient. Complementary measures will help the new tenants to have access to the services, social assistance, and the labour market.

With ESF+ support, a housing agency model is planned to be created by developing the organizational and regulatory conditions. The housing agency provides affordable, safe housing for Budapest residents living in housing poverty. The agencies would have partially owned apartments by municipalities and partly rented from the private sector are managed within the framework of a special financial model. In cooperation with the districts, the housing stock concerned will reach at least 50,000 apartments. The apartments will be rented out by the Housing Agency after a complex reconstruction that also includes deep energy renovation.

The housing guarantee program also helps to deal with housing problems in Budapest. This tool will provide targeted support for housing costs of those who do not have regular income, like homeless person, old-age pensioners. In addition, the Housing Service will help them with legal aid, social work, advice on arrears management and mediation to keep their housing, not lose their housing and support their family.

Programme (multi-fund scheme)

Human Resources Development Operational Programme Plus (HRDOP+)

Specific objectives

- Promoting socio-economic inclusion of marginalized communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including persons with special needs, through integrated measures, including housing and social services (ERDF HRDOP+);
- Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalized communities, such as the Roma (ESF+ HRDOP+).

Description of the measures

The interventions include the mobilization of people living in settlement-like housing conditions and the improvement of their service and housing conditions under Priority 3 (ERDF) and Priority 4 (ESF+). For housing investment developments, interventions may take place on privately owned properties owned by the disadvantaged or serving their integration. The infrastructural measures should be completed by the complex development of the living conditions of people living in segregated rural areas by eliminating disadvantages (access to mainstream employment, education, health, community, housing, transport and other services) in a coordinated, integrated manner and with the active participation of the stakeholders, local communities, local governments, national governments, civil organizations and churches.

Human Resources Development Operational Programme Plus (HRDOP+)

Priority 7 on Catching-up settlements (FETE) includes small infrastructural ERDF investments and "soft" ESF+ interventions supporting the improvement of housing conditions, such as activities promoting financial awareness (e.g. debt management support) in the 300 pre-selected most disadvantageous settlements. These aim at initiating and strengthening desegregation processes, preventing and managing territorial segregation to complete the RRP actions.

Allocation

Total: ERDF: 8.75 billion HUF and ESF+ 14,7 billion HUF (of which 85 % EU and 15 % national co-financing)

Eligible types of actions

- Expansion and development of the functions of the affected city districts, if necessary, the liquidation of isolated settlements and the integration of the people living there.
- Development of spaces and facilities that strengthen community formation.

- Legalizing housing, increasing housing security, improving housing infrastructure, mobilising target group to an integrated area.
- Development of a solar power plant and energy community for social purposes on a pilot basis.
- Design and development of Sure Start Children's House and Tanoda (non formal education service for disadvantaged children).
- Interventions of cities included in the catch-up settlements program.
- Mentoring the target group.
- Supporting their mental and physical health conditions.
- Support the early childhood, childhood non-formal and informal education.
- Prepare the target group for entering the labour market.
- Ensure the accessibility of integrated services.
- Anti-discrimination programs.
- Improvement of crime prevention and public safety actions.

Target groups include people living in the action area.

Integrated approach

The ERDF supported action is carried out in an integrated manner with the ESF+ elements of the social urban rehabilitation. ERDF development must be linked to ESF+ development. Knowing the results of the 2022 census, the publication of further pilot calls will be examined.

Further information on the context

The program must be clearly consistent with the city's Integrated Settlement Development Strategy or Settlement Development Plan and, within that, its Anti-Segregation Program, as well as the Local Equal Opportunity Program and equal opportunity plan. Moreover, the action (target) area has to be in the Integrated Settlement Development Strategy or Program.

Application of the partnership principle

Partners are consulted before the launch of any call for proposals. These include social partners, municipalities, associations of the municipalities, European Commission and professional experts on the field of social issues. Moreover, planning and implementation of the programmes needs to be ensured in an integrated way with the involvement of the population living in the action area and in partnership with the relevant local organizations.

Infrastructure mapping

Eligible areas are those with a segregated area and/or an area at risk of segregation and/or a supplementary eligibility area (in the legal sense only). Areas supported by social urban rehabilitation initiatives are the segregated areas of the city, identified on the basis of objective delimitation based on Hungarian Statistical Office (HSO) data (in the case of supplementary eligibility area, the HSO provides an official statement).

Targets

It is planned that 41 207 disadvantaged persons will be reached by the programmes.

Implementation modalities

Social urban rehabilitation call for proposals (ERFD and ESF+) were launched in December 2021. The evaluation, contracting process, and the implementation of the projects are in process. To ensure the consistency with the adopted text of the Operational Programme in December 2022, the revalidation of the selection criteria of this call has also been launched.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Hungary: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-hungary>
- National portals:
- <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/szocilis-teleplsrehabilitci-eredmnyessgnek-rtkelse>
- <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/top-plusz-122-21-szocilis-cl-vrosrehabilitci-1>
- <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/top-plusz-312-21-szocilis-cl-vrosrehabilitci-esza->
- https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/terulet_es_telepulesfejlesztési_operatív_program_plusz

MALTA

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

There are no straightforward priorities related to social and affordable housing.

Malta national programme - total programme budget: EUR 204.9 million (EU co-financing 124.4 million) with a focus on the following specific objectives:

- fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services.

Overview of the main priorities in the policy area

In the area of active inclusion, the Maltese ESF+ programme plans to focus on: (i) empowering vulnerable groups through training and support services for vulnerable groups; (ii) active ageing measures; (iii) empowering families in vulnerable situations; (iv) basic skills acquisition, including financial capability, literacy and digital skills; and (v) second chance opportunities.

The programme also focuses on increasing active inclusion for people with a disability through: (i) generic and specific training services; (ii) work exposure support; (iii) apprenticeships; (iv) job coaching; (v) guidance; (vi) mentoring services; and (vii) awareness raising. In addition, the programme focuses on improving life chances (including the life chances of disadvantaged children and young people) as part of the Child Guarantee Initiative, covering measures pertaining to: (i) healthcare; (ii) housing; (iii) sports and education; (iv) support services to AROPE families; (v) research studies; (vi) training; and (vii) awareness campaigns.

Finally, this programme focuses on: (i) fostering a culture of social entrepreneurship; (ii) promoting the development of social enterprises; and (iii) supporting an active role for voluntary organisations. On access to services, the Maltese ESF+ programme focuses on improving the effectiveness and resilience of both healthcare systems and long-term care services, through: (i) training for health and care workers; (ii) sickness prevention campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being; and (iii) health research.

The programme also focuses on improving social-protection systems, through the training and upskilling of professionals, carers, and other providers of social-protection services. In addition, this programme focuses on taking a comprehensive approach to addressing children's needs through: (i) early intervention and studies; (ii) the adaptation and development of programmes; and (iii) capacity building measures for improved service delivery.

Finally, this programme focuses on capacity building for social partners and other NGOs through training, studies, networking measures, and activities jointly undertaken by social partners. In the area of material deprivation, the Maltese ESF+ programme plans to focus on: (i) food distribution; and (ii) information on – and support for – available social services for vulnerable households and individuals.

Over 5 000 people will benefit from active inclusion measures, including over 1 400 people with disabilities. Over 6 500 people will benefit from measures to promote access to social services. Nearly 900 people are set to benefit from social innovation measures and more than 12 500 people should receive food support.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Malta: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-malta>

POLAND

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)*B3.5 Reform of housing construction for people with low and average incomes, taking into account the higher energy efficiency of buildings (Component B: 'Green Energy and Energy-Intensity Reduction')*

The objective of the reform shall be to increase the supply of energy-efficient housing for low- and average-income households. That objective shall be achieved by increasing the rate of public co-financing for buildings that meet energy efficiency standards 20% more ambitious than the minimum energy efficiency standard in force in Poland (Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings standard, NZEB). The reform shall be completed by 30 June 2022.

Milestone: The amendment to the act shall provide for increasing the support for investments in construction of buildings with an energy standard higher by 20% than NZEB. Support shall be increased as compared to standard housing from 80% to 95% for buildings for low-income households and from 35% to 60% for households with average incomes. These provisions shall apply to any source of public support.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2022.

B3.5.1 Investment in energy-efficient housing for low- and average-income households (Component B: 'Green Energy and Energy-Intensity Reduction')

The objective of the investment shall be to increase the supply of energy-efficient housing for low and average-income households. The investments shall support the creation of dwellings forming part of the municipal housing stock, sheltered dwellings, accommodation facilities, shelters for the homeless, heating and temporary accommodation, and the participation of the municipality or an inter-municipal association in a project of another investor, consisting of the creation of dwellings for rent for low-income people who cannot afford an accommodation on the private market. Investments shall be made to construct low-emission multi-apartment residential buildings using RES installations (including in particular photovoltaic panels, solar collectors) and other 'green' solutions that increase the energy efficiency of buildings. The energy consumption of supported buildings shall be 20% lower than the minimum energy performance standard (Nearly-zero Energy Building) for new buildings.

The investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 7820 apartments qualified for financing (for low- and average-income households). The investments shall be realised by local authorities and social housing investors (mainly social housing associations and social housing initiatives).

Contracts signed with beneficiary entities (local authorities and social housing investors (mainly social housing associations and social housing initiatives) shall specify that:

- at least 75% of these apartments shall be allocated to those applicants for the apartments who are in the lower half of the list of applicants drawn up based on the income of the applicants in descending order, and
- the apartments shall be built to an energy efficiency standard 20% more ambitious than the minimum energy efficiency standard in force in Poland (Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings standard/NZEB).

The beneficiary entities shall be selected via transparent and competitive calls open to all local authorities and social housing investors (mainly social housing associations and social housing initiatives). The criteria for selection of beneficiary entities shall in particular reflect the needs for increasing the supply of energy-efficient housing for low- and average-income households.

The calls shall include eligibility criteria that ensure that the selected projects comply with the requirements to do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C 58/01).

Where new construction activities take place in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected

areas), compliance with Articles 6(3) and 12 of the Habitats Directive, and Article 5 of the Birds Directive shall be required, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or screening shall be carried out where required under the EIA Directive. All investment projects financed under this component which require an EIA decision shall comply with Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. Specifically, all new projects that require an EIA shall be authorised under the Act on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment as amended by the Act of 30 March amending that Act and certain other acts. Provisions of the ‘Guidelines on remedial actions for projects co-financed by EU Funds affected by the infringement 2016/2046’, as communicated to Poland on 23 February 2021 (ref. Ares(2021)1423319), shall be taken into account for the implementation of all investment projects for which an environmental decision or a construction or development permit was requested or issued before the entry into force of the Act of 30 March 2021.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2024.

Target: 7820 apartments completed (for low- and average-income households). The investments shall be realised by local authorities and social housing investors (mainly housing associations and social housing initiatives).

The beneficiary entities shall be selected via transparent and competitive calls open to all local authorities and local housing associations. The criteria for selection of beneficiary entities shall in particular reflect the needs for increasing the supply of energy-efficient housing for low- and average income households.

The apartments shall be constructed in such a way that no significant harm be done to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C 58/01). Where new construction activities take place in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas), compliance with Articles 6(3) and 12 of the Habitats Directive, and Article 5 of the Birds Directive shall be required, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or screening shall be carried out where required under the EIA Directive. All investment projects financed under this component which require an EIA decision shall comply with Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. Specifically, all new projects that require an EIA shall be authorised under the Act on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment as amended by the Act of 30 March amending that Act and certain other acts. Provisions of the ‘Guidelines on remedial actions for projects co-financed by EU Funds affected by the infringement 2016/2046’, as communicated to Poland on 23 February 2021 (ref. Ares(2021)1423319), shall be taken into account for the implementation of all investment projects for which an environmental decision or a construction or development permit was requested or issued before the entry into force of the Act of 30 March 2021.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15835-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Poland’s recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/polands-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portals: <https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/media/109762/KPO.pdf> and <https://www.gov.pl/web/planodbudowy>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Overview of the funding opportunities

Housing support is implemented in Poland through a variety of legal, organisational and financial instruments and tools. For vulnerable people, housing-support actions are complemented by support from European Funds. The 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement points to the need for action in the field of housing to be implemented in a multifaceted manner spanning many different policy areas. Due to the specificities of the housing problem and

the different groups that Poland wishes to support, support by EU-funded programmes makes complementary use of both the ESF+ and the ERDF.

In practice, implementing measures include: (i) social elements; (ii) services to combat homelessness; (iii) support to people in a homelessness crisis (including through street-working services); and (iv) housing, in particular by using the 'housing first' model.

Support for housing in social services is intended to support the creation and operation of 'trainer' housing and assisted housing. Such housing is offered to adults who, due to difficult living circumstances, age, disability or illness, need support for day-to-day operations but do not require 24/7 care services. Adults targeted by housing assistance of this sort include in particular: (i) people with mental disorders; (ii) homeless people; (iii) people leaving foster care; and (iv) foreigners who have obtained refugee status, subsidiary protection or temporary residence permits in Poland.

Trainer and assisted housing are supported by a form of social assistance that either: (i) prepares people living in these types of housing to lead an independent life; or (ii) supports people living in these types of housing in their daily life. This preparation is delivered by social workers. These social workers provide services, social work, and training in the fields of: (i) the consolidation of independence; (ii) self-service agility; (iii) and training in specific social roles/jobs to help people to integrate into their local community in order to enable independent living.

Assisted housing is intended in particular for people with disabilities (including physical disabilities); people with mental disorders; older people; or people with a chronic illness. Trainer housing can be used for people with disabilities or mental disorders in order to prepare them for a future independent life, but it can also be used for other social groups, such as people in a homelessness crisis, people at risk of homelessness, people leaving foster care, migrants, refugees, non-EU nationals, etc.

Support in trainer accommodation is granted for a limited period of time – as is also the case with support in assisted housing. However, in particularly justified cases (e.g. where a person has a certificate of severe or moderate disability or in other relevant situations), such assistance may be granted for a longer period.

The above actions on housing support from the European Social Fund Plus are possible under several specific objectives:

- PO4(h) supporting active inclusion in order to promote equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and enhance employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;
- PO4(i) supporting the socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants;
- PO4(j) supporting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities such as the Roma;
- PO4(k) enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including those that support access to housing and person-centred care, including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services;
- PO4(l) supporting the social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children.

The multi-fund regional programmes, present in all 16 regions of Poland, use all of the above objectives to improve the housing situation of people in need of special support.

Additionally, the national programme "European Funds for Social Development" (FERS) provides support for housing through innovative instruments and tools, including in the area of creating solutions for social housing services (e.g. social rental agencies).

The European Regional Development Fund makes interventions in the area of housing infrastructure possible, through both providing housing itself (e.g. social, adaptive) and improving the quality of housing. In particular, the ERDF will support improvements to energy efficiency in residential and non-residential buildings in accordance with the amended Directive (EU) 2018/844 of the European Parliament and of the Council in order to contribute to the

decarbonisation of the building stock by 2050, thereby reducing energy consumption and allowing energy-poor households to save money.

The ERDF also supports investments in infrastructure, including investments in housing for marginalised communities and disadvantaged groups, low-income households, and migrants.

These investments cover two specific objectives:

- PO4(iii) supporting the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services;
- PO4(iv) supporting the socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants, through integrated actions including housing and social services.

Both objectives are used in all Polish multi-fund regional programmes. In addition, Poland's national programme 'European Funds for Climate and Environment Infrastructure' (FEnIKS) focuses on activities to increase the share of energy-efficient buildings in the total housing stock and reduce energy poverty. This includes investments aimed at:

- improving the insulation of buildings;
- the use of heat-recovery technologies;
- connections to district heating networks (or in some cases to a gas network);
- the installation of new, low-carbon or renewable heat or electricity sources for homes' own use, including backup energy-storage facilities and heat pumps;
- the replacement of lighting with more energy-efficient lighting;
- devices enabling individual billing for the delivery of heat or cooling with remotely readable functions;
- the use of building energy-management systems (BMS);
- the modernisation of ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

Further information

Information on the possibility of obtaining support from EU funds (including for housing purposes) is available through the European Funds Information Points Network (PIFE): <https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/strony/o-funduszach/punkty/#/>

PIFE advisors provide free information material, training, advice and assistance on applying for the European funding.

Examples of programmes

Programme

European funds for Lubuskie 2021-2027

Multi-fund

European Social Fund Plus

European Regional Development Fund

Specific objectives

The intervention of the programme is a regional response to the identified challenges for Poland for the 2021-2027 period and it is specifically based on the objectives of the Lubuskie Regional Development Strategy 2030 and the sectoral documents.

Description of the priority

Priority 5 – European Funds to increase accessibility of regional social infrastructure including (European Regional Development Fund):

- Measure 5.1 Education infrastructure;
- Measure 5.2 Social inclusion infrastructure;
- Measure 5.3 Health infrastructure;
- Measure 5.4 Cultural and tourism infrastructure.

Priority 6 – European Funds to support citizens including (European Social Fund Plus):

- Measure 6.1 Occupational activation of unemployed persons registered with district employment offices;
- Measure 6.2 Implementation of measures in favour of disadvantaged people in the labour market;
- Measure 6.3 Healthy, active and competent worker;
- Measure 6.4 Primary and secondary education;
- Measure 6.5 Vocational training;
- Measure 6.6 Professional teacher;
- Measure 6.7 Education – territorial instruments;
- Measure 6.8 Adult education;
- Measure 6.9 Active socio-occupational integration;
- Measure 6.10 Social entrepreneurship;
- Measure 6.11 Active socio-occupational integration – territorial instruments;
- Measure 6.12 Integration of third-country nationals;
- Measure 6.13 Social and health services;
- Measure 6.14 Social activation, housing and family support.

Allocations

Priority 5 – EUR 73 659 388

Priority 6 – EUR 239 187 565

Eligible types of actions

Social inclusion infrastructure

- I. Development of social infrastructure to promote social inclusion, socio-occupational activation and deinstitutionalisation of services (i.e. encouraging services to be delivered in ordinary homes rather than hospitals, homeless shelters, etc.). This social infrastructure should include:
 - reintegration-facilities (RP) infrastructure;
 - infrastructure for day-to-day, community-based and respite care provided in a deinstitutionalised setting;
 - the infrastructure of family homes or apartments (including assisted/protected housing or other services-related infrastructure);
 - infrastructure to support families, children and young people in the local community (including day support facilities);
 - infrastructure for the development of family forms of foster care (including foster families, family homes, family care and child-raising facilities) combined with actions funded by the ESF+ in Actions 6.9-6.11, 6.13 and 6.14, in areas such as: foster care; family support; care and assistance services; support for people in a homelessness crisis; or support for socio-occupational activation.

- II. The development of infrastructure for palliative and hospice care in deinstitutionalised settings, providing services in the local community. This is in keeping with the principles of individualisation of support, ensuring that people have control over their lives and the decisions that affect them. It also prioritises the individual needs of residents over organisational requirements. Development of this infrastructure will be combined with actions funded by the ESF+ in Actions 6.8 and 6.13 in areas such as: (i) community health services; (ii) the deinstitutionalisation of medical care; and (iii) the training of staff, including medical and non-medical professions.
- III. The development of housing infrastructure (including assisted/protected housing, in keeping with the principles of personal choice and independent living) or environmental support services. This type of infrastructure will be combined with actions funded by the ESF+ in Action 6.13 in areas such as long-term care (social and healthcare) and care services.
- IV. The development of infrastructure to enable adaptable and sheltered/assisted housing or other housing to be combined with services, in particular services for: (i) people leaving foster care, correction facilities or youth education centres; (ii) people with disabilities; (iii) people recovering from a homelessness crisis; and (iv) migrants.

Applying the partnership principle

Action 5.2

Projects may be implemented in partnership with partners such as:

- territorial self-government units;
- non-state actors of integration and social assistance;
- non-governmental organisations;
- entities of the social economy

It is permissible to implement the project with the involvement of entities other than those set out in the list of beneficiaries of the measure in question by implementing jointly a project to achieve a comprehensive outcome. This must be done with the proviso that all expenses incurred by these entities will be included as costs ineligible in the project budget.

Action 6.13

Projects can also be implemented in partnership with the participation of partners that are entities listed in the catalogue of beneficiaries such as:

- the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation;
- integration and social-assistance institutions;
- labour market institutions;
- farm advisory bodies;
- organisational units acting on behalf of local government units;
- territorial self-government units;
- SMEs;
- non-state actors of integration and social assistance;
- non-public healthcare facilities;
- non-governmental organisations;
- entities of the social economy;
- public health establishments.

Measure 6.14

Projects may also be implemented in partnership with partners who are entities listed in the beneficiaries' catalogue such as:

- organisational units acting on behalf of local government units;
- territorial self-government units;
- non-governmental organisations;
- entities of the social economy.

Further information

- <https://rpo.lubuskie.pl/fundusze-europejskie-województwa-lubuskiego-2021-2027>
- info@rpo.lubuskie.pl

Programme

Regional programme European Funds for Świętokrzyskie 2021-2027

Specific objective

- Enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that support access to housing and person-centred care, including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility, including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of health systems and long-term care services.
- Fostering social inclusion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children.

Description of the priority

Priority Social and health services

Under this priority, social services are planned to be implemented using – among other resources: care assistants; community self-help homes; daycare homes; and sheltered/assisted/adaptable housing. The programme helps to empower people living in institutions full-time through assisted housing services, personal assistants, support circles and other specialist services. Support will also be directed towards the establishment and operation of daycare facilities to prevent people in need of support from being placed in round-the-clock institutional settings. In order to complement the support, staff training is planned for the provision of services in the local community.

Projects will take into account the application of social aspects. Projects with housing support are planned to pursue the New European Bauhaus objectives.

Solutions will also be implemented combining social and housing support as a starting point for supporting people in homelessness crises, including the 'housing first' programme, followed by actions related to health improvement and active social inclusion.

Allocation

Total: EUR 155 929 579

Eligible types of actions

Increasing the accessibility of social and health services

Increase the accessibility of social and health services and support the deinstitutionalisation process by: services provided in protected and assisted housing;

Support for families and foster care

Comprehensive family support, support for the deinstitutionalisation of foster care, and support for the development of family-based forms of foster care. This includes comprehensive support for the empowerment of adult foster care parents and people leaving other residential institutions with children and adolescents (possibility of supporting new places in housing with support).

Actions for people in a homelessness crisis and at risk of housing exclusion include the following types of project:

- projects to support the combination of housing and social components for people in a homelessness crisis, and people affected by exclusion from access to housing or at risk of homelessness by using the 'housing first' model of housing, assisted living, protected housing (as part of comprehensive support) and other solutions;
- social services for people in a homelessness crisis and at risk of housing exclusion, including support for services.

The target group:

people in a homelessness crisis and at risk of housing exclusion, people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, environments confronted by people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Further information on the context

The actions planned in Priority IX will be in line with THE strategic objective 5 of the Strategy for the Development of Social Services – Public Policies until 2030 (with an outlook until 2035) and will be consistent with the National Programme against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Update 2021-2027 with a 2030 perspective as well as with the Regional Plan for the Development of Social Services (Deinstitutionalisation Plan).

Implementation modalities

On 8 September 2023, a call was launched for Measure 9.5 'Family Support and foster care' to support people at risk of housing exclusion and homelessness. As part of this measure, the task of creating new places in housing with support is foreseen.

On 8 September 2023, the call for Measure 9.5 on support for self-employed persons was completed, which provided for the task of creating places in supported housing.

In the timetable for the call for funding for the Regional Programme European Funds for Świętokrzyskie 2021-2027, a call for proposals was planned for Measure 9.4 'Enhancing the availability of social and health services' for the fourth quarter of 2023, with the task of creating housing with support.

PORTUGAL

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Reform RE-r04: National Urgent and Temporary Housing Plan (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the reform is to create a national public network to respond to urgent and temporary housing needs as part of the renewal of housing policies in Portugal, with a view to protect and empower the identified target groups, and to foster social inclusion and combating inequalities.

The reform shall consist of the creation of a structured and cross-cutting response for people in need of emergency or temporary accommodation solutions and develop the necessary legal and regulatory framework to establish the governance model of the Investment RE-CO2-i02 (National Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Grant) and establishes methodologies for signposting and referral to accommodation and social support for the persons supported.

The implementation of the reform was to be completed by 31 June 2021.

Milestone: The Decree-Law shall define the structure of the Plan and the housing stock in particular as regards eligible beneficiaries, housing solutions and the financing model. Alongside the legal framework, the National Housing Plan shall be presented to and approved by the Government, which shall incorporate the strategic planning of the housing solutions to be promoted and the necessary support for this purpose, depending on local needs and specificities and socio-territorial cohesion.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2021.

Investment RE-CO2-i01: Support Programme for Access to Housing (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to safeguard decent and adequate housing for families with the greatest needs and for the most vulnerable groups.

The investment shall consist of providing mainly social housing accommodation, but also providing financial support for renovation or construction to the identified target groups that do not have the financial capacity to guarantee the adequacy of their own housing, for at least 26 000 households by 2026. The investments shall consist of the construction of new buildings or the renovation of existing dwellings, as well as, whenever necessary, the acquisition of new buildings or the lease of buildings to sublease.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 75 signature of collaborative or funding arrangements. The local accommodation strategies are presented by the municipalities. These strategies identify 1) all the needs eligible under this programme (as specified in Decree-Law No 37/2018 of 4 June), and 2) the entities promoting housing solutions. After the IHRU (Housing and Urban Rehabilitation Institute) has validated the local accommodation strategies' compliance with the programme, the collaboration agreements with municipalities or the financing agreements with the other beneficiaries framing the concrete investments to be promoted are signed and the deadline for their implementation specified.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2022.

Target: 22 360 dwellings delivered to eligible households of the programme. New buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings (except for projects ongoing and budgeted for 2021 and 2022, representing up to EUR 188 250 000 of the total allocation for this measure). For rehabilitation, reference unit per dwelling is 73 square meters, for new constructions 95 square meters for the 22 360 dwellings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment RE-CO2-iO2: National Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Grant (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of this investment is to provide temporary or emergency accommodation to the vulnerable population groups in mainland Portugal. This investment serves to implement the Reform of the National Urgent and Temporary Housing Plan included in the component. The following risks or social emergencies frame the interventions planned: unforeseeable or exceptional events, the need for urgent accommodation and empowerment of persons temporarily deprived of housing, including victims of domestic violence, victims of human trafficking, persons under international protection, homeless persons; extraordinary and duly substantiated needs for urgent and temporary accommodation for persons at imminent and actual risk of being left without accommodation or in the process of de-institutionalisation; accommodation needs, temporary and indispensable to the public interest, of state officials and agents.

The investment shall consist of the creation of 2 000 emergency accommodations, as well as 473 habitational units, three blocks for security forces (in cases justified by public interest) and five centres for the temporary accommodation for humanitarian or security reasons.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 1 000 accommodations for which funding agreements are signed. Entities submit their applications for funding in the call for tenders opened by the IHRU (Housing and Urban Rehabilitation Institute) which, after assessing and requesting an opinion from the ISS (Institute of Social Security) on the validity and feasibility of the submitted applications, contracts the funding and sets the deadline for its implementation. Accommodation means part or all of a building with independent access consisting of one or more housing compartments and additional private spaces or residential units for more than one household.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q3 2024

Target: Delivery of 2 000 accommodations to the sponsoring bodies. Accommodation means part or all of a building with independent access consisting of one or more housing compartments and additional private spaces or residential units for more than one household. New buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings (except for projects ongoing and budgeted for 2021 and 2022, representing EUR 14 800 000 of the total allocation for this measure). Reference unit is 73 square meters, on average, for the 2000 accommodations.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment RE-CO2-iO3-RAM: Strengthening of the supply of social housing in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of this investment is to respond to the housing needs of families living in difficult conditions and who do not have the financial capacity to meet the cost of access to adequate housing in the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

The investment shall consist of the construction and/or acquisition of social housing accommodations for 805 households (the investment shall also include studies, projects, land acquisition and construction), support the rehabilitation of the 325 private dwellings (including improved energy performance). The investment also foresees the procurement of services for the development of information systems and e-government solutions in the housing sector.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 805 dwellings allocated to eligible households in connection with the construction of social housing or the purchase of residential accommodation for supported social housing. New buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings. Reference unit per dwelling is 90 square meters on average for the 805 dwellings. Moreover, the investment also includes procurement of services for the development of information systems and e-government solutions in the housing sector.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Target: 325 private owner-occupied dwellings renovated for the target groups lacking financial resources to carry out rehabilitation works.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment RE-02-i04-RAA: Increasing housing conditions in the housing stock of the Autonomous Region of the Azores (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to strengthen the housing offers at various levels, following a noticeable worsening in the degradation of the buildings in the Autonomous Region of Azores and a reduction in the supply on the property market. The investment shall consist, across various islands, of:

- the construction of 100 buildings
- the finalisation of 75 apartments; and
- the rehabilitation of buildings (deep renovation for 63 buildings, medium renovation of 329 buildings and small intervention in 135 buildings) for a total of 527 interventions.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Target: 100 interventions, including urbanisation of land where necessary, with works finalized in order to increase the social housing stock. Where it involves new construction, new buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings. The dwellings have an average size of around 120 square meters.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Target: 602 interventions. The investment includes the renovation or finalisation of buildings and apartments, measured by the number of interventions. The interventions may include: - the conversion of non-residential public buildings into housing, - the operationalisation of a plan to promote youth rental (e.g. conversion of local accommodation -Alojamento Local- into longterm rental, rehabilitation of urban centres). - Financial support for the reconversion of degraded social buildings (Bairros Sociais)- renovation of public housing to comply with the current housing legislation, mainly energy efficiency requirements. Energy efficiency renovations shall achieve, on average, at least a medium-depth level renovation as defined in Commission Recommendation on Building Renovation (EU) 2019/786. The dwellings concerned have an average size of around 100 square meters.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Investment RE-CO2-i07-RAA: Infrastructure for parcels of land for residential housing (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to create or improve infrastructure for parcels of land in the Autonomous Region of the Azores and to allocate them to selected candidates. The aim is to enable the selected candidates to construct their own houses on these parcels of land at controlled costs. This programme is established in the Regional Legislative Decree No 21/2005/A of 3 August 2005. The investment shall allocate 145 parcels of land.

When selecting candidates to construct their own houses on these lots, young people (under 35 years if single or having a total age under 70 years if married or living in a couple) shall be given priority.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 145 parcels of land with infrastructures created or improved and allocated to selected candidates, following a selection procedure that defined the conditions and requirements for selection. Young people shall be given priority, as specified in the description of the investment.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment RE-CO2-i08-RAA: Reinforcement of the social housing stock (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to reinforce the social housing stock of the Autonomous Region of the Azores. The investment shall consist of the construction of 126 dwellings.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Target: 126 constructed dwellings finalised. New buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings. The average size of the dwellings is around 101 square meters.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Investment RE-CO2-i05: Affordable public housing stock (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to respond to the current house price dynamics vis-à-vis the income levels of Portuguese households, especially in large urban environments, by providing a public stock of houses that may be rented at affordable prices for specific target groups. The investment shall consist of the construction, including acquisition, of new buildings and rehabilitation of public dwellings to provide 6 800 accommodations and subsequent renting at affordable prices for the target groups identified.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: 6 800 delivered dwellings to the eligible households via the housing exchange at affordable cost (DL 82/2020 of 2 October) or through municipal programme. Affordable housing is defined as the one made available in accordance with the Access Lease Programme, established by Decree-Law No 68/2019 of 22 May, of the rental scheme supported, established by Law No 81/2014 of 19 December, as amended, of the conditional rent scheme, established by Law No 80/2014 of 19 December, of the system of controlled costs, governed by Ministerial Implementing Order No 65/2019 of 19 February, or of special municipal programmes. Where it involves new construction, new buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment RE-CO2-i09: Scaled-up measure: Support Programme for Access to Housing (loan) (Component 2: Housing)

The objective of the investment is to scale-up investment RE-CO2-i01: Support Programme for Access to Housing, under component 2. The scaled-up part of the measure shall increase the number of dwellings provided to households.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Target: An additional 3,640 dwellings delivered to eligible households of the programme. New buildings shall have a primary energy demand at least 20% below the requirements of nearly zero energy buildings. For rehabilitation, reference unit per dwelling is 73 square meters, for new constructions 95 square meters for the 3 640 dwellings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13351-2023-ADD-1-REV-1/en/pdf>
- Portugal's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/portugals-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: <https://recuperarportugal.gov.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/PRR.pdf>

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Azores 2030

Specific objectives

In line with the New Generation of Housing Policies, the aim is to step up investment in the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock, thus contributing to the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities.

Description of the priority

The public investment to be carried out will continue the measures approved in the Recovery and Resilience Plan on Rehabilitation.

In general, the aim is to promote the removal of architectural barriers in social housing and to improve the energy performance of these buildings.

Allocation

Indicative allocation: EUR 2 000 000

Eligible types of actions

This action provides for small fitting-out works for buildings, such as:

- a) construction of access ramps;
- b) expansion of vans;
- c) conversion of divisions;
- d) adaptation/improvement of toilets.

In terms of energy efficiency, interventions include equipping buildings with more efficient energy consumption equipment and the adoption of more energy-efficient building elements. As in the RRP, these interventions will reduce energy bills and dependency, improve indoor air quality and comfort levels and reduce energy poverty.

Further information on the context

The investment to be made is particularly targeted at households in severe economic need, which have been relocated by the Region, with particular emphasis on persons with reduced mobility or disabilities. This action adopts the objectives set out in the Regional Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, in that it supports families in removing architectural barriers and improving the conditions of the buildings where they live.

The main constraints that may affect the implementation of this action relate to: (i) the limited range of service providers in the region (in terms of architects and engineers in both the private sector and the public sector, which is essential for licensing); and (ii) issues directly related to logistics associated with the transport of materials from mainland Portugal to the region, which not only raise costs but make it difficult to comply with deadlines.

Targets and milestones

The aim is to renovate between 66 and 99 dwellings from the regional estate (Critical Success Factor) by 2029, which will improve housing conditions for between 264 and 396 people (Tarta).

Implementation modalities

The actions to be carried out under this action are expected to take place between 2024 and 2029. We want to start developing projects in the course of 2024 so that we can complete the first interventions in 2026.

Further information

- National portal: <https://portugal2030.pt/>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Programme

Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion Thematic Programme (Pessoas 2030)

Azores Regional Programme (Açores 2030)

Madeira Regional Programme (Madeira 2030)

Specific objective

Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived persons, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion.

Description of the priority

This priority will uphold the principles of Article 19 of the ESF+ Regulation and help people take their first steps out of poverty by addressing their most basic needs (i.e. food and basic materials for personal use). It plans to use accompanying measures to foster social inclusion, and integrate and upskill participants with budget-management skills.

Aid will be targeted at any person who falls into the category of severe economic need, as set out in national law (this can include homeless people or people in precarious housing situations).

Allocation

Pessoas 2030: EUR 202 688 335 from ESF+ (total budget: EUR 225 209 262)

Açores 2030: EUR 14 000 000 from ESF+ (total budget: EUR 15 555 556)

Madeira 2030: EUR 14 000 000 from ESF+ (total budget: EUR 15 555 556)

Total: EUR 230 688 335 from ESF+ (total budget: 256 320 374)

Eligible types of actions

Acquisition and distribution of food to people in severe economic need. These actions are complemented by a suite of accompanying measures focusing on: (i) advice on money management and household budgeting; (ii) advice on food and nutrition; (iii) advice on access to services; and (iv) support to promote social inclusion. Portugal is trying to implement an electronic food-voucher system to implement SO(m) in the mainland territory.

Further information on the context

The Roadmap for Social Inclusion provides the overall policy framework and outlines an extensive range of measures and targets, including for child poverty, housing, access to early learning and care and education.

Application of the partnership principle

The implementation and operationalisation of operations to fight material deprivation under SO(m) is done by resorting to three intermediary bodies in Portugal: the Social Security Institutes of the Mainland, of Azores and of Madeira. These are experienced public bodies that already organised the purchase and distribution of food products in 2014–2020. The distribution and storage of the goods is carried out by partner entities, who also implement accompanying measures, ensuring complete coverage of the Portuguese territory.

Implementation modalities

The implementation in the Mainland is more advanced than in the Outermost Regions of Azores and Madeira, having already approved selection criteria and launched calls. The ORs have approved selection criteria on the last quarter of 2023.

Further information

- The ESF+ in Portugal: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-portugal>
- National portals:
 - <https://pessoas2030.gov.pt/>;
 - <https://acores.portugal2030.pt/>;
 - <https://madeira.portugal2030.pt/>

Programmes (focus on the support for integration of homeless people, including housing support)

Norte Regional Programme (Norte 2030)

Centro Regional Programme (Centro 2030)

Lisboa Regional Programme (Lisboa 2030)

Alentejo Regional Programme (Alentejo 2030)

Algarve Regional Programme (Algarve 2030)

Madeira Regional Programme (Madeira 2030)

Specific objective

Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups (ESF+)

Description of the priority

The aim is to remove barriers to people's participation in society, as well as adopt active inclusion measures in order to promote the active participation, equal opportunities and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups.

Under the typology “measures to promote equal opportunities and active participation”, priority SO (h) includes support for homelessness people, through housing support responses (even if temporary) and actions which promote employability and social and professional inclusion.

Allocation

The typology “measures to promote equal opportunities and active participation”, which promotes support to homeless people, has the following allocations:

Norte 2030: EUR 10 500 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 12 352 000)

Centro 2030: EUR 15 950 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 18 764 000)

Lisboa 2030: EUR 12 600 000 from ESF+ (total EUR 25 200 000)

Alentejo 2030: EUR 9 000 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 10 588 000)

Algarve 2030: EUR 900 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 1 125 000)

Madeira 2030: EUR 2 000 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 2 352 000)

Total: EUR 50 950 000 from ESF+ (total: EUR 70 381 000)

Further information

- <https://www.norte2030.pt/>
- [https://www.centro2030.pt/;](https://www.centro2030.pt/)
- <https://www.lisboa.portugal2030.pt/>
- [https://www.alentejo.portugal2030.pt/;](https://www.alentejo.portugal2030.pt/)
- <https://www.algarve.portugal2030.pt/>
- <https://madeira.portugal2030.pt/>

ROMANIA

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)*Reform 4: Improving housing quality (Component 10: Local Fund)*

The objective of this reform is to reduce severe housing deprivation for vulnerable categories and groups, especially for persons in marginalised communities in urban and rural areas.

The reform shall be implemented through the entry into force of a legislative act to secure the implementation of the National Housing Strategy and its Action Plan, including through the use of mechanisms such as metropolitan areas and administrative consortia. Equally, these documents shall be accompanied by a mapping of housing needs especially in marginalized communities and groups, including informal settlements in urban and rural areas. The reform shall ensure complementarity with the existing or future Integrated Community Centres investments (i.e. delivering education, social and basic healthcare services) funded under the ESF+ and the future Cohesion Policy, and shall not lead to social segregation.

The implementation of the reform shall be completed by 30 June 2026. The legislative act to secure the implementation of the National Housing Strategy and Action Plan shall be adopted and enter into force by 30 June 2022.

Milestone: The legislative act shall secure the implementation of the National Housing Strategy and Action Plan in view of improving housing quality for vulnerable categories and groups decreasing severe housing deprivation, especially for persons in marginalised communities in urban and rural areas. The Strategy and the Action Plan shall:

- be accompanied by a mapping of housing needs especially in marginalized communities and groups, including informal settlements, in urban and rural areas (as per the updated version of the Atlas of Marginalized Communities),
- ensure an approach that secures complementarity/matches the existing or future Integrated Community Centres investments (i.e. delivering education, social and basic healthcare services) funded under the ESF+ and the future Cohesion Policy funds,
- ensure complementary access to education and healthcare services in marginalized communities (as identified in the updated version of the Atlas of Marginalized Communities),
- not lead to social segregation,
- ensure the possibility to use metropolitan areas, administrative consortia and the intercommunity development associations for implementation of the investments.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2022.

Target: Reduced housing overcrowding rate by 6,1 pps as per Eurostat indicator (ILC_LVH005A) using baseline figure at 2020 of 45,1%.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Target: Decrease by 20% of the share of population living in informal settlements situated in functional urban areas and increase their integration in the communities. The number of persons living in informal settlements with poor or lack of housing facilities shall be established following the mapping process developed in accordance with the law on territorial and urban planning.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment 2 Construction of housing for youth and for professionals in health and education (Component 10: Local Fund)

The objective of this investment is to increase access to quality housing for youngsters in need and professionals in healthcare and education providing such services in marginalised communities and to marginalised groups.

The investment shall consist of building new housing units for young people from vulnerable communities and groups in line with the provisions of the National Housing Strategy and the Action Plan and shall be accompanied by measures to foster social and economic integration of the targeted groups. Houses shall be equally built for health and educational professionals in urban and rural areas where marginalised communities and groups are living and shortages in providing healthcare and education services have been previously identified. The newly built houses shall comply with the objective of achieving a primary energy demand at least 20% lower than the nearly zero-

energy building requirement according to national guidelines, which shall be ensured through energy performance certificates.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone: The grant funding scheme shall be drawn up on the basis of the provisions of the National Housing Strategy and the Action Plan, aligned with the specifications of the milestone 312. The funding scheme shall be open for all Administrative Territorial Units/Metropolitan areas/Administrative Consortia and comply with the following mandatory specifications:

- A) The housing for youth shall be granted to Administrative Territorial Units/ Administrative consortia/ Metropolitan Areas based on an integrated action plan to improve the living conditions of youngsters in vulnerable communities and groups and their household, including measures to foster social and economic integration of the targeted groups. The young people benefitting shall satisfy cumulatively the condition of coming from a vulnerable community/group, aged between 18 and 35 years old, with an income per family member below the average monthly wage per economy, does not own a house/has not owned a house, currently living in overcrowded/poor housing conditions. The criteria would also take into account if the young people have one or more children in care/living in their household.
- B) The housing units for medical and education professionals shall be granted to Administrative Territorial Units/ Administrative consortia/ Metropolitan Areas based on an integrated action plan to improve medical or educational services for vulnerable communities and groups as identified by the mapping of needs especially in marginalized communities and groups. Equally, the investment shall be done in correlation with the investments in the Education, Health (e.g. Development of prehospital medical infrastructure aiming to increase the access to basic medical services) and to the Renovation Wave components of the national recovery and resilience plan, as well as with the Investment 3 of the current component (moderate renovation of public buildings), with the Operational Programmes (2014-2020 and 2021- 2027) or other programmes.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2022.

Target: 3 490 housing units for young people coming from vulnerable communities / groups, supported by complementary measures such as social/educational/labour market measures for all young people previously identified, in accordance with the requirements under milestone 317. New buildings shall comply with the objective of achieving a primary energy demand (PED) at least 20% lower than the nearly zero-energy building requirement according to national guidelines, which shall be ensured through energy performance certificates

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Target: 873 housing units built for professionals in health and education, in towns or rural areas where access to education and healthcare is insufficient due to lack of professionals, as identified in the milestone 317. New buildings shall comply with the objective of achieving a primary energy demand (PED) at least 20% lower than the nearly zero-energy building requirement according to national guidelines, which shall be ensured through energy performance certificates.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Further information

- Romania's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/romania-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- Council Implementing Decision <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15833-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Programme

Programme for Social Inclusion and Dignity (PoIDS)

Fund

Multifund scheme: ESF+ and ERDF

Specific objectives

- promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services (ERDF);
- enhancing equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services(ESF);

Description of the priorities

Under **Priority 1** (action 1.2) individual social housing will be financed, depending on the need identified at the community level.

The development of housing infrastructure (individual social housing will respect the principles of avoiding spatial/geographic/social segregation, according to the European Commission's Guide (Guidance for Member States on the use of European Structural and Investment Funds in tackling educational and spatial segregation.).

Under **Priority 3** (action 3.1), ERDF funding will be granted for the construction, rental/purchase and rehabilitation/renovation of affordable individual social housing. This measure aims to improve living conditions for the vulnerable population. These interventions will be implemented in territorial administrative units to respond to the needs of the people who live there, including for situations where the relocation of informal settlements is required, the potential beneficiaries being the local public authorities. Through the TSI project of the European Commission carried out with the World Bank, 21R004 – Support for addressing the needs of vulnerable groups living in informal settlements, in addition to the prioritization of informal settlements, the need for social housing necessary for situations in which population relocation is required will also be prioritized, respecting the principle of desegregation. Thus, within this action, an allocation from the related ERDF funding will be ensured, directly proportional to the resettlement needs of the population from the informal settlements, resulting from the TSI project.

Within the action 3.3, approximately 200 informal settlements will be supported through the ESF+, by supporting regulatory measures accompanied by integrated series that will facilitate inclusion in the community. The action will thus include the cadastral-urban planning regulation of the land, the identification of the legal and economic regime of the land on which the informal settlement is located, the registration of buildings in the cadaster and land book system, as well as integrated services provided on the basis of case management, such as deeds of identity/access to health services/health education/access to education/professional training/employment. The sustainability and continuation of services at the level of the selected communities will be pursued.

Under **Priority 6**, the action 6.2 (ERDF) will support the provision of individual social housing adapted for the elderly affected by housing problems in accordance with the interventions provided for in the National Strategy on social inclusion and poverty reduction for the period 2022-2027 (Specific Objective 3.3. Integrated social services, oriented towards the promotion of independent living in the community respecting the principle of non-segregation). Such an integrated and complementary approach contributes to reducing the risk of long-term hospitalization or institutionalization of dependent elderly people, in permanent residential centers such as homes for the elderly, medico-social units, palliative care centers, etc., ensuring, at the same time, an increase in the quality of life and the safety of elderly people in situations of social, medical or housing vulnerability.

Under **Priority 8**, action 8.2, for homeless people will be financed provision/access to integrated services: social services, employment, specialized medical services through counseling, social assistance, medical assistance, support services on the street, counseling and mediation services for employment, access to shelters and good quality housing, continuation/reintegration into the education system, provision of active employment measures, counseling, training, socio-professional reinsertion/accompanying, with a view to socio-professional, accompanying measures, etc.) in accordance with specific needs, including through the use of innovative solutions. The social

exclusion of homeless people is a problem that requires a multisectoral approach from the point of view of public policies with a role in its solution.

Allocation

Priority 1, action 1.2 (ERDF): EUR 20 000 000 euro; total: EUR 22.189.474

Priority 3, action 3.1 (ERDF): EUR 109.658.182; total EUR 150.084.228

Priority 3, action 3.3 (ESF+): EUR 28.500.000; total EUR 34.283.824

Priority 6, action 6.2 (ERDF): EUR 13.593.208; total EUR 18.011.000

Priority 8, action 8.2 (ESF+): EUR 24.000.000; total EUR 32.021.647

Eligible types of actions

Priority 1, action 1.2 (ERDF):

- Children and elderly from marginalized urban communities for whom it is necessary to improve accessibility to social services.
- Urban Local Action Groups.

Priority 3, action 3.1 (ERDF):

- People from marginalized groups, such as Roma, migrants, people with disabilities and other special needs, the elderly, the homeless or people with reduced access to decent housing.

Priority 3, action 3.3 (ESF+):

- People living in informal settlements.

Priority 6, action 6.2 (ERDF):

- Vulnerable elderly people affected by housing problems.

Priority 8, action 8.2 (ESF+):

- Homeless people.

In order to avoid double funding, the guidelines for applicants are to mention that, in the situation where people from the target group have benefited from similar interventions, they will not be able to be beneficiaries under the eligible projects related to the respective call.

All PoIDS investments are to follow the principles of desegregation and non-discrimination, with a particular commitment to address and combat spatial and educational segregation at all levels of education. They are to focus on promoting access to inclusive mass services in education, social housing, employment, health, and long-term care, especially for marginalised groups such as Roma, people with migrant origins, people with disabilities and other special needs, older people, and the homeless. There will be no investments that maintain or lead to the segregation/isolation of the aforementioned marginalised groups.

Integrated approach

The PoIDS initiatives aimed at the social inclusion of people belonging to vulnerable groups, reducing the rural-urban gap in terms of poverty and social exclusion and increasing access to quality services, are complementary to the RRF measures regarding the minimum income for inclusion (VMI), which intends to increase the degree of coverage and adequacy of social benefits and their correlation with measures to activate the labour market, regulated by Law No. 196/2016.

Investment 2 'Housing for young people and for health and education professionals' consists of building new housing units for young people from vulnerable communities and groups, as well as mapping housing needs, especially in

marginalised communities and groups, including informal settlements in urban and rural areas. It is complementary to the PoIDS initiatives that ensure access to social housing in Priority 1 and Priority 3, as well as the regulation of informal settlements in Priority 3.

In Priority 3, the action dedicated to the construction of social housing is also complementary to Reform 5 (Development of the planning system - The land use, urban planning and construction code) and Investment 2 (Construction of housing for young people and for health and education specialists). Their objective is to increase access to quality housing for disadvantaged young people and for health and education professionals who provide such services in marginalised communities and marginalised groups.

The complementarity of actions under PoIDS and RRF will be ensured at the level of programme implementation, through a mechanism implemented by the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration (MDLPA) under the Territorial Observatory.

With regard to older people, PoIDS initiatives finance the development of housing solutions and support services for older people at risk of housing exclusion, in compliance with the principle of non-segregation, and training (continuous learning) for specialists who work with older people. Thus, these investments are complementary to those in the RRF, which aim to ensure the strategic framework necessary for the development of long-term care services and active ageing and the development of a network of day centres for assistance and rehabilitation for older people (76 day centre services of assistance and recovery and 76 care units).

Further information on the context

In the field of housing, the National housing strategy (Strategia Națională a Locuirii (SNL)) for the period 2022-2050 promotes a vision oriented towards the involvement of all relevant players in ensuring and promoting accessible, inclusive, adequate, sustainable and resistant housing, which contributes to improving the quality of life. PoIDS will contribute to the fulfilment of the targets set in the field of housing through the 2022-2027 action plan, related to SNL, in relation to the strategic objective of improving, facilitating and simplifying the access of people from marginalised communities and vulnerable groups to adequate housing and living conditions.

To support inclusive housing, SNL promotes a series of measures that take into account the housing situation of people with low incomes, people at risk of eviction, those without adequate shelter and those in the categories at risk, marginalisation and social exclusion, such as people belonging to the category of vulnerable groups. The SNL actions aim to increase access to adequate housing by building social housing for people from vulnerable groups and categories at risk of social exclusion and marginalisation, including through PoIDS 2021-2027. The measure aims to build 8 000 housing units by 2027, the main sources of funding being the Social Housing Construction Programme under Housing Law No. 114/1996 and PoIDS. The SNL action plan envisages the legal regulation of 200 informal settlements, the measure being compatible with financing under PoIDS.

The provision of individual social housing adapted for older people affected by housing problems, in accordance with the actions provided for in the national strategy on social inclusion and poverty reduction for the period 2022-2027, Specific objective 3.3. (Integrated social services), is oriented towards the promotion of independent living in the community while respecting the principle of non-segregation.

Regarding the inclusion of the vulnerable Roma population, PoIDS envisages initiatives in the key policy areas of the new EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation: education, employment, education, health, housing, and anti-gypsyism. PoIDS thus contributes in a synergistic manner to the achievement of the targets assumed in the new EU strategic framework on Roma: equality, inclusion and participation.

Application of the partnership principle

The development of PoIDS was coordinated by the Ministry of Investments and European Projects. It involved close cooperation with the public authorities responsible for the policies in the fields financed by the programme, and with the main types of beneficiaries, and other representatives of civil society, and the academic and socio-economic environment involved or targeted by the actions financed by PoIDS. The development of PoIDS 2021-2027 was also carried out in close collaboration with the bodies that deal with the promotion of fundamental rights, the rights of people with disabilities, and the rights of Roma communities.

In order to finalise the composition of the partnership structure at the PoIDS level, in addition to the social partners selected within the national call, representatives of the main institutions involved in the PoIDS development process, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the national authority, were appointed by a joint ministerial order on the rights of people with disabilities, children and adoptions by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, POCU Management Authority, POR Management Authority, and the National Agency for Equal Opportunities.

Also, other institutions and entities were involved in the developing the programme, such as associated local authorities in Romania, the Directorate-General of Social Assistance and Child Protection, and the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

The PoIDS Monitoring Committee is a relevant and useful tool to ensure coordination between CPR funds. The PoIDS Monitoring Committee also includes the civil society organisations and national authorities representing the interests of marginalised groups, such as Roma, and people with disabilities.

Targets

P1, ACTION 1.2, ERDF: Children and elderly from marginalized urban communities for whom it is necessary to improve accessibility to social services.

Output Indicator: Capacity of new or modernized social housing.

Target: 612 people.

Result Indicator: Annual users of new or modernized social housing.

Target: 612 people.

P3, ACTION 3.1, ERDF: People from marginalized groups, such as Roma, migrants, people with disabilities and other special needs, the elderly, the homeless or people with reduced access to decent housing

Output Indicator: Capacity of new or modernized social housing

Target: 2 852 people.

Result Indicator: Annual users of new or modernized social housing.

Target: 2 852 people

Output Indicator: Capacity of social housing purchased or rented

Target: 3 251 people.

Result Indicator: Annual users of social housing bought or rented

Target: 3 251 people.

Output Indicator: Population covered by projects in the framework of integrated actions for socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups.

Target: 6 103 people.

Result Indicator: Number of persons relocated from segregated communities to conventional areas.

Output Indicator: Population covered by projects in the framework of strategies for integrated territorial development.

Target: 531 people

Output Indicator: Strategies for integrated territorial development supported.

Target: 4 contribution to synergies.

P3, ACTION 3.3, ESF+: People living in informal settlements.

Output Indicator: Informal settlements supported

Target: 200 informal settlements.

Result Indicator: Regulated informal settlements

Target: 200 informal settlements.

Output Indicator: Homeless or affected by housing exclusion

Target: 44 800 people.

Result Indicator: Persons who overcome the housing exclusion situation

Target: 38 582 people.

P6, ACTION 6.2, ERDF: Vulnerable elderly people affected by housing problems.

Output Indicator: Capacity of new or modernised social housing

Target: 200 people.

Result Indicator: Annual users of new or modernised social housing

Target: 200 users.

P8, ACTION 8.2, ESF+: Homeless people.

Output Indicator: Homeless or affected by housing exclusion

Target: 4 670 people.

Result Indicator: Homeless persons whose situation improved leaving

Target: 4 670 people.

Further information

- The ESF + in Romania: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-romania>
- National portals: <https://www.fonduri-ue.ro> and <https://mfe.gov.ro/pids-21-27/>
- "Opportunities-EU" platform: https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/apeluri/?_sfm_programe=7939&_sfm_status=activ
- Calendar for the calls for proposals: <https://mfe.gov.ro/calendar-apeluri-de-proiecte/>

SLOVENIA

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**Measures related to housing and associated services***Investment C: Ensuring a safe living environment for dependent persons (Component 15: Long-Term Care)*

The objective of the investment is to provide appropriate housing to address the expected increase in demand for institutional care due to the ageing of the society.

The investment consists of the construction of new housing infrastructure of at least 539 places in the form of smaller, stand-alone housing units for long-term care users in need of basic, social and medical care. It shall focus on the provision of adequate spatial conditions for the provision of community services and programmes to enable independent living and prevent social exclusion of users, to ensure the effective management of risks related to communicable diseases, and to provide quality and safe treatment of persons with a high degree of dependence on assistance from others.

The investment shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone: Selected projects shall ensure that new institutional care facilities shall be in the form of smaller, stand-alone housing units aimed at long-term care users in need of basic, social and medical care adapted to their needs, ensuring the quality and safe treatment of persons with a high degree of dependence. New buildings shall comply with requirements for nearly zero energy buildings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2023.

Target: Completed construction works and operating licence released for 539 additional places in institutional care facilities in compliance with the requirements under milestone 203.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Reform A: Strengthening the stock of public rental housing (Component 16: Affordable Housing)

The objective of the reform is to increase the number of public rental housing in Slovenia primarily for socially disadvantaged and marginalised groups. The reform consists in the entry into force of amendments to the Housing Act which shall harmonise the level of non-profit rent by public housing funds and allow additional borrowing by such funds.

These amendments are expected to ensure the long-term financial stability of public housing funds in Slovenia. The amendments shall also establish a public rental service with the objective of acquiring and renovating existing privately owned empty apartments for the purpose of affordable housing. Overall, the reform is expected to facilitate the construction of at least 5 000 additional dwellings and the activation of an indicative 2 000 currently empty private dwellings to be acquired and renovated by public housing funds.

The milestone and target related to the implementation of the reform shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

Milestone: The amendments to the Housing Act are expected to promote an effective and balanced approach to housing provision. They shall include an update of the level of non-for-profit rent while minimising the impact on tenants at social risk; the possibility for further borrowing by public housing funds, and the possibility for activating existing but unoccupied housing stock for use as public rental housing.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2021.

Target: At least 4500 new public rental housing dwellings in compliance with the requirements under the Housing Act shall be constructed or purchased, excluding those foreseen in targets 208 and 209.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2026.

Investment B: Provision of public rental housing (Component 16: Affordable Housing)

The objective of the investment is to reduce the deficit of public rental housing in Slovenia. The investment consists in the construction of 480 new housing units. The projects of municipal housing funds and other affordable housing organisations shall be selected through a competitive call for proposals.

The milestone and targets related to the implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

Milestone: The selected projects shall ensure the construction of new dwellings with an average surface area expected to be between 47 and 58 m². All dwellings shall be used solely for the purpose public rental housing. New buildings shall comply with requirements for nearly zero-energy buildings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q2 2022.

Target: 480 construction works completed and use permits issued for additional public housing rental dwellings, in compliance with requirements under milestone 207. The area of dwellings shall be in accordance with the conditions under the Rules on the allocation of non-profit housing (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia Nos 14/04, 34/04, 62/06, 11/09, 81/11 and 47/14) and the average surface area is expected to be between 47 and 58 m². The total amount of funding shall be at least EUR 60,000,000.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2025.

Further information

- Slovenia's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/slovenias-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- [Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan of Slovenia](#) and [Annex corrigendum](#)
- National portals:

https://www.gov.si/assets/organi-v-sestavi/URS00/01_si-rrp_23-7-2021.pdf

<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/nacrt-za-okrevanje-in-odpornost>

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF is set to finance the following measures under Priority Objective 4, within the specific objective of RSO4.3:

- **investments in social infrastructure**, which will be intended for integrated community services and forms of care and will contribute to the inclusion of individuals in the community and, consequently, to a more independent life and ensuring a better quality of life for the target groups. Within the RRP, the measure "Ensuring a safe living environment for persons who depend on the help of others" will be implemented by investing in new institutional capacities for the care of the elderly, while within the framework of the ERDF funds, we will invest in the purchase and adaptation of social infrastructure for adults and children with disabilities, including infrastructure in the field of long-term care, which will be implemented as a priority in the following areas:
- **establishment of housing groups** for the transition from institutions to independent living in the community: the measure will support providers of integrated community forms of services that offer a transitional service of integrated care with accommodation in smaller housing units. We will try to implement the measure in such a way that free housing capacities across the country will be used, as long as they are suitable for housing people and in accordance with the rules and guidelines of deinstitutionalization with consistent respect for the fundamental rights of individuals.
- **day care centers for people with dementia and other forms of cognitive decline**: the measure addresses the challenge of establishing centers that will provide day care for the elderly, in which individuals can join for any number of days and hours (8 hours or less) and thereby getting the opportunity to stay in their home environment, which will reduce the need to go to institutions, prevent deterioration of the health

condition and possible hospitalization, etc., which is consistent with the goal of transitioning from institutional to community forms of services. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of intergenerational integration and the integration of activities with the local environment. This measure will be linked to the measure of strengthening social welfare services within SC ESO4.11, where staff training in day care centers and assistance to relatives will be provided.

- **permanent housing units for the temporary solution of the housing needs of vulnerable target groups** will be intended to temporarily solve the housing needs of vulnerable groups, such as the homeless, evicted families and individuals, persons with mental health problems, migrants, etc., who find themselves in a crisis situation and require immediate accommodation until the situation in the home environment is properly resolved. The measure will be implemented in accordance with the deinstitutionalization guidelines with consistent respect for the fundamental rights of individuals.

SLOVAKIA

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Specific objective

Support for the social integration of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived persons and children

Allocation

Total allocation for the entire objective amounts to EUR 197 910.000

Eligible types of actions

An individualized measure of support for a professional worker, an auxiliary professional worker and a peer worker will be activities focused on the needs of clients intended for the provision of housing and current expenses intended for assistance applied in bringing housing closer together, rapid relocation or other housing-based approaches (e.g. legal, social and psychological services, counseling, peer-to-peer, accompanying, housing mediation, etc.)

The main activities will include:

- search for affordable apartments/flats
- identification of suitable social service users and necessary support
- provision of professional activities such as basic and specialized social counseling, assistance in exercising rights and interests protected by law, social rehabilitation, assistance in job placement, assistance in running households, assistance in managing money, support in organizing free time and resolving crisis situations, preventive activities, connecting the client to specialists as needed, assistance in securing affordable health care
- preparation and supervision of the client to maintain independent housing

Integrated approach

Access to non-segregated housing, employment, health, social care in the mainstream community and social services within ESF+.

Further information on the context

National Strategy on Preventing and Ending Homelessness has been approved April 2023. the SK Action Plan on Preventing and Ending Homelessness is being prepared.

Application of the partnership principle

The principle of partnership was applied in the preparation of the call for proposal with local authorities, representatives of service providers, civil society organisations, organisations working with homeless people, and relevant ministries.

Further information

- The ESF + in Slovakia: <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/support-your-country/esf-slovakia>
- Contact data: komisija.po4@employment.gov.sk

Programme

Programme Slovakia 2021 – 2027

Fund

Multi-fund scheme: ERDF and ESF+

Specific objectives

- Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services (ERDF RSO4.3);
- Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people (ESF+ ESO4.10).

Description of the priorities

Reconstruction and construction of suitable forms of housing for socially dependent groups of the population with an emphasis on marginalized Roma communities (MRC)

Experience from the previous programming period shows success of initiatives, mostly implemented by non-governmental, non-profit organizations, supporting the self-help construction of houses and apartments. Projects aimed at self-help construction, but also other forms of better housing accessibility (such as construction of standard apartments, reconstruction of dwellings, etc.) will help improve hygiene standards and the quality of life of residents of MRC. These interventions will also be complemented by activities using financial instruments (see in question 5 – Affordable Home Social Housing Support). An integral part will be the inclusive nature of investments, which will be implemented in accordance with 3D principles.

Ensuring integrated comprehensive approach with focus on improving living conditions and with an emphasis on the nature of the needs and specific problems of the locations, listed in the 2019 Atlas of Roma Communities (including subsequent updates, or a combination of the current ARC and its updates):

Interventions from previous OPs brought a limited positive impact, as many municipalities were not sufficiently prepared for them. These experiences, as well as the recommendations of the external evaluation of Priority Axis 5 and Priority Axis 6 OP HR, point to the need for an integrated comprehensive approach ensured by a combination of investments from the ESF and the ERDF and high-quality professional services (assisting professions). So far, these have been implemented through separate national projects and coordinated by various entities of the state administration. The goal is to create development teams at the level of selected municipalities, which will be coordinated and methodically managed by the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities. Their task will be to contribute to solving adverse situations at the level of the entire residential community, with an impact on both the minority and the majority, through combined ESF+ and ERDF investments, and coordinated interventions in areas such as employment, education, equal opportunities, social affairs and others, which will be prioritised based on comprehensive community development plans.

ESF+ priorities envisioned under specific objective ESO4.10: national project development teams.

Chosen as one of the strategic impact operations of this programming period, the main objective of the national project development teams is to provide an integrated comprehensive approach focusing on improving living conditions with an emphasis on the nature of the needs and specific problems of 60 municipalities selected from the Atlas of Roma Communities based on pre-approved selection criteria.

The basic philosophy of the national project is to provide support to all age groups of the MRC and the whole municipal community in the areas set out in the strategy for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma by 2030 (education, employment, housing and combating anti-Roma racism) through an integrated comprehensive approach.

The integrated comprehensive approach in the national project consists in the interrelatedness and interconnectedness of the combined ESF+ and ERDF investments that have an impact on both the minority and the majority.

The ESF+ investments will support the interlinked activities of the members of the development teams in the areas defined in the strategy for equality, inclusion and participation for Roma by 2030: education (early childhood care, non-formal youth education), housing, employment and employability, and the fight against Roma racism.

The ERDF investments will support infrastructure investments under a separate integrated call for civil and technical infrastructure in the municipalities involved in the development teams project, which is part of Priority: 4P6 and aims to create decent living conditions for the MRC, with a view to benefiting the whole municipality in line with the principles of desegregation.

Affordable home social housing support.

In coordination with selected NGOs and a private bank, financial instruments will be used to provide long-term affordable rental homes for marginalised or vulnerable groups of people.

Self-aided house construction assistance.

Selected NGOs will be working with local residents to support self-aided construction of low-cost homes for MRC, involving short- and mid-term work with future residents in the area of financial literacy.

Allocation

- 1) Expected allocation dedicated towards housing in the integrated calls: EUR 42 000 000.
- 2) National Project « Development Teams , Phase I.» total budget (including other focal activities not related to housing): EUR 59 200 000 (36 months)

Affordable Home: EUR 3 962 000 (financial instruments, 72 months)

Self-aided house construction: EUR 3 000 000 (demand-oriented, 36 months)

Eligible types of actions

1) Main target groups:

- MRC population;
- Population of municipalities with MRC

2) Main target groups:

- MRC population;
- Population of municipalities with MRC;
- Young people in MRC;
- Municipal employees.

Integrated approach

Envisioned projects and calls for proposals are in synergy with other activities and national projects to be funded via the MRC allocation, namely:

- Assistance to municipalities with the presence of marginalized Roma communities in arranging legal relations to land under settlements;
- Local civil and prevention services;
- Field social work and Community centres;
- Monitoring and Evaluation;
- Capacity building by providing professional assistance to municipalities with the aim of strengthening the synergistic effect with other interventions at the municipal level;
- Supporting profession in Education.

Implementation modalities

ERDF priorities envisioned under RSO4.3. will focus on integrated calls for proposals (CfPs), similar to CuRI calls:

- CFP for selected municipalities involved in the National Project “Development Teams”;
- CFP for all municipalities listed in the 2019 Atlas of Roma Communities (ARC), or subsequent updates.

Both integrated calls will enable eligible municipalities to apply for funding for a selection of activities, including social housing construction, water, sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure, landfill treatment, etc.

Targets and milestones

5 500 social housing should be modernised by 2029.

Implementation modalities

- CFP for the National Project “Development Teams” to be launched throughout August 2023
- CFP for Self-aided house construction » assistance planned to be launched in September 2023.
- CFP for all municipalities in the 2019 Atlas of Roma Communities under RSO4.3 planned for Q4 2023.

Further information

- National portals: <https://eurofondy.gov.sk/> and <https://romovia.vlada.gov.sk/sekcia-europskych-programov/>
- Strategy for Roma integration until 2020 <https://romovia.vlada.gov.sk/strategie/strategia-pre-integraciu-romov-do-roku-2020/>
- Strategy of equality, inclusion and participation of Roma until 2030

<https://romovia.vlada.gov.sk/strategie/strategy-of-equality-inclusion-and-participation-of-roma-until-2030/>

- Action plans of development of the least developed counties, separate action plan for each county available at <https://www.nro.vicepremier.gov.sk/akcny-plan/>
- 2020 National consultations for the EU Funds Priorities <https://mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/cko/politika-sudrznosti-eu/narodne-konzultacie-k-eurofondom-2021-2027/>
- Atlas of Roma Communities 2019, available at: <https://romovia.vlada.gov.sk/atlas-romskych-komunit/atlas-romskych-komunit-2019/>
- EU SILC MRC: https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1563/analyticka_sprava_eu_silc_mrk_2020_elektronicka_final.pdf
- Ministry of Environment Investment Project Prioritization: <https://www.minzp.sk/iep/strategicke-materialy/priorizacia-investicnych-projektov-rezorte-ministerstva-zivotneho-prostredia-sr.html>

SWEDEN

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

Measures related to housing and associated services

Investment 1: Investment aid for rental and student housing (Component 5: Investment for Growth and Housing)

The investment measure aims to relieve the housing shortage by increasing the supply of new rental dwellings with a lower rent relative to new non-subsidised housing. Together with restrictions concerning income requirements, these dwellings shall be economically accessible to a larger number of households, easing the situation also for individuals in the lower half of the income distribution, students or people becoming active on the labour market. Construction subsidies shall be paid to houses to be completed in 2022 and 2023.

Several conditions shall be attached to ensure that the target group is reached, namely, the investment aid is conditional on a maximum rent whereas the landlord may not refuse a prospective tenant to rent a subsidised dwelling on the ground that the income is too low, as long as the person or household is in a position to pay the rent. The support scheme shall give support to investments that achieve at least a 20% reduction in the primary energy demand at the level of the building compared to the requirements of the building regulation. This is expected to fall in line with historical experience.

The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2023.

Target

4 800 new completed dwellings. Statistics on the total payments and number of dwellings delivered that fulfil the conditions to ensure that the target group is reached, namely, the investment aid is conditional on a maximum rent whereas the landlord may not refuse a prospective tenant to rent a subsidised dwelling on the ground that the income is too low, as long as the person or household is in a position to pay the rent. The data on rents shall be compared to non-subsidised new dwellings.

Indicative timeline for completion: Q4 2023.

Further information

- Council Implementing Decision: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14474-2023-ADD-1/en/pdf>
- Sweden's recovery and resilience plan: https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/swedens-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en
- National portal: <https://www.regeringen.se/rapporter/2021/05/sveriges-aterhamtningsplan/>

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

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All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you online (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

On the phone or in writing

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696,
- via the following form: european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us_en.

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website (european-union.europa.eu).

EU publications

You can view or order EU publications at op.europa.eu/en/publications. Multiple copies of free publications can be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local documentation centre (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex (eur-lex.europa.eu).

EU open data

The portal data.europa.eu provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.

