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++ EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND
 INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESI-FUNDS) ++ EUROPEAN
 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) ++
 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) ++ YOUTH
 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (YEI) ++ COHESION FUND ++
 EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL
 DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) ++ EUROPEAN MARITIME AND
 FISHERIES FUND (EMFF) ++ TERRITORIAL
 DEVELOPMENT ++ SUSTAINABLE URBAN
 DEVELOPMENT ++ COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL
 DEVELOPMENT (CLLD) ++ EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
 COOPERATION (ETC) ++ EU PROGRAMME FOR
 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (EASI) ++
 PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL
 SOLIDARITY (PROGRESS) ++ EUROPEAN
 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (EURES) ++ YOUR FIRST EURES
 JOB ++ MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP FACILITY (MF/SE) ++ FUND FOR
 EUROPEAN AID TO THE MOST DEPRIVED (FEAD)
 ++ EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND (EGF)
 ++ CREATIVE EUROPE ++ ERASMUS ++
 ++ EUROPE FOR CITIZENS ++ ERASMUS FOR YOUNG
 ENTREPRENEURS ++ RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND
 CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME ++ JUSTICE PROGRAMME ++
 ASYLUM AND MIGRATION FUND ++ PROGRAMME FOR THE
 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (LIFE) ++
 CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF) ENERGY,
 TRANSPORT AND BROADBAND NETWORKS ++
 EMERGENCY AID INSTRUMENTS ++ UNION CIVIL
 PROTECTION MECHANISM ++ EUROPEAN UNION
 SOLIDARITY FUND (EUSF) ++ HORIZON 2020 ++
 FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND
 INNOVATION ++ EU HEALTH PROGRAMME ++

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YOUR GUIDE TO EU FUNDING



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

This report was commissioned by the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament.

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It was supported by the Green New Deal (www.greennewdeal.eu).
February 2014

THE REPORT IS ACCESSIBLE AT THIS WEBSITE: WWW.GREENS-EFA.EU/YOUR-GUIDE-TO-EU-FUNDING-11778.HTML

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The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament



FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Greens/EFA group we want to make Europe a good place to live for everyone while respecting the physical limits of our planet. This requires making the European Union a catalyst for sustainable investment. Investment in a green Europe, which makes its infrastructures the most resource- and energy-efficient and protects and restores its natural resources. Investment in a social Europe, which puts social protection, inclusiveness and cohesion at the heart of its goals. And investment in a learning and innovative Europe, able to invent, build and deploy solutions to the global challenges of this century. Transparency in planning and preparation and involvement of civil society in decisions on public investment are prerequisites for us. Only with such a Green New Deal will Europe get out of the crisis for good.

After all the legislative work was done, we felt the need to compile information on investment instruments and funding opportunities for the new generation of programmes and initiatives in order to see the full picture of EU funding for the years from 2014 to 2020.

You will be amazed to discover what can be done with European money for more sustainability and social inclusion! We now look back on a long period of - sometimes painful - negotiations on the new regulations, in many cases for the first time on an equal footing with the Member States in the decision making process, and we were delighted to register considerable successes. More EU money than ever before is earmarked for sustainable projects. Close involvement of civil society including on local and regional level has been strengthened and responsibility and capacities of local and regional actors were underlined.

Now it is time to act! And in order to put into practice what we achieved in our work in the European Parliament, we understood that we need to provide user-friendly information to those people who can play a role in preparing funding programmes, developing and implementing projects and making the best out of the new opportunities on national, regional and local level. We prepared this guide to EU funding which shall help accessing EU funds. We would like to transfer our experience from the negotiations to local and regional level actors, in particular Green local and regional councillors, stakeholders and partners.

First and foremost, we thank our partners on the ground for their effort to take the adventure and go for a sustainable European project. We would also like to thank all colleagues and staff of the Greens/EFA group for their contributions, and we particularly appreciate the support from the working group Green New Deal.

NIKOS CHRYSOGELOS AND ELISABETH SCHROEDTER
MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CLLD	Community-led Local Development
ESI-FUNDS	European Structural and Investment Funds
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EASI	EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
EGF	European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIF	European Investment Fund
ELENA	European Local Energy Assistance
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
EU	European Union
EURES	European Employment Services
EUSF	European Union Solidarity Fund
FEAD	Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Groups
JASPERS	Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions
JESSICA	Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
MF/SE	Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Facility
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NUTS	Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics
PROGRESS	Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

YOUR MEPs WORKING ON EU FUNDING



1) INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) allocates considerable financial resources to projects and actions that are related to EU policies and their implementation. This money is used for investments in a broad spectrum of areas, such as sustainable economic development, decent work, research & innovation, education, culture, health and environmental protection. Whereas some funds are allocated to EU Member States, where national or regional authorities implement them, other funds are distributed and managed directly by the European Commission.

At the end of 2013, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union came to an agreement on the budget for the EU for the next 7 years (2014-2020). A huge part of this new budgetary plan, with a total amount of 960 billion €, is used for EU funding instruments, programmes and initiatives. Parallel to the negotiations on the multiannual budget 2014-2020, as well the EU's investment programmes and funding instruments have been redesigned.

In the last two years, the European Parliament and the Member States reviewed, in cooperation with the European Commission, the strategic outline of these programmes, adapted them to current social, economic and environmental challenges and set new thematic priorities for the upcoming 7 years of EU investments. The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament played an active role in the negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework and the revision of the EU funds for the period 2014-2020. We advocated for more sustainable, integrative, environmental and climate friendly, transparent and simplified EU funding programmes.

This year, the implementation of the new programmes begins. We want to ensure that our achievements during the negotiations on the new programme strategies do actually deploy a change towards more Green EU investments on the level of implementation. With this guide we seek to provide local and regional actors, as well as young people, user-friendly information on how to access EU funding opportunities for your own projects and ideas.

This document follows 3 key objectives:

- ➔ It gives our local and regional Green stakeholders, namely local and regional councillors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), an insight into the functioning of the huge variety of EU funds.
- ➔ It provides young people in the EU with information on how they can directly benefit from Europe by taking part in one of the numerous EU programmes.
- ➔ It offers guidance on how to set-up your own EU project.

A) HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

CHAPTER 2 gives a brief overview of EU funding opportunities adapted to specific target groups. Here you will find a summary of the most important information on your eligibility for EU funds, plus relevant programmes for your field of work.

CHAPTER 3 offers a step-by-step guide to your EU project.

This serves as a guide, from the very first considerations to be made, to the important aspects of your project proposal and budgetary planning.

CHAPTER 4 is written in the format of a reference book. It will give you a comprehensive overview of EU funds for the period 2014-20 divided into thematic fields. Here you will find brief explanations of the different EU programmes and suggestions on where to find further information.

B) WHAT ARE EU FUNDS?

The EU funds can roughly be divided into three types: structural and investment funds, programmes and initiatives and third country funds. Whilst the first two types are allocated internally within the EU, the latter particularly addresses actions outside the EU. This guide addresses explicitly only the first two types of funding – EU funds invested within the EU. The types of financing from the EU budget can vary. EU funds are mostly allocated through grants awarded on the basis of calls for proposals, in which different actors compete for the support of the EU. Two types of grants can be distinguished: action grants for projects with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented;

and operating grants providing financial support for the regular work and activities of an organisation. Furthermore, EU institutions award public contracts, which are awarded through calls for tenders to buy services, goods or works that ensure the operations of the EU institutions and their programmes. Eventually, several other types of financing by EU funds exist, such as direct subsidies or indirect funding through intermediary bodies in the form of loans, risk capital, seed funding, subsidies, etc.

Another aspect to differentiate between the EU funds is their respective management structure. In some cases the European Commission manages the funds itself, i.e. the responsible department (Directorate General) or external agency publishes calls for proposals that invite candidates to present project proposals, selects projects, monitors the implementation and evaluates the outcome.

In other cases, the implementation of the funds are delegated to the EU's Member States, which then designate national or regional managing authorities. This is called shared management, because the Commission only supervises the implementation of funds, but the Member State takes responsibility for the management. This is especially the case for the European Structural and Investment Funds. The calls for proposals are published by the national or regional managing authorities on the basis of operational programmes, which outline the investment strategy of each fund or priority. This takes into consideration national or regional needs and challenges.

C) KEY IMPROVEMENTS FOR GREENER EU SPENDING

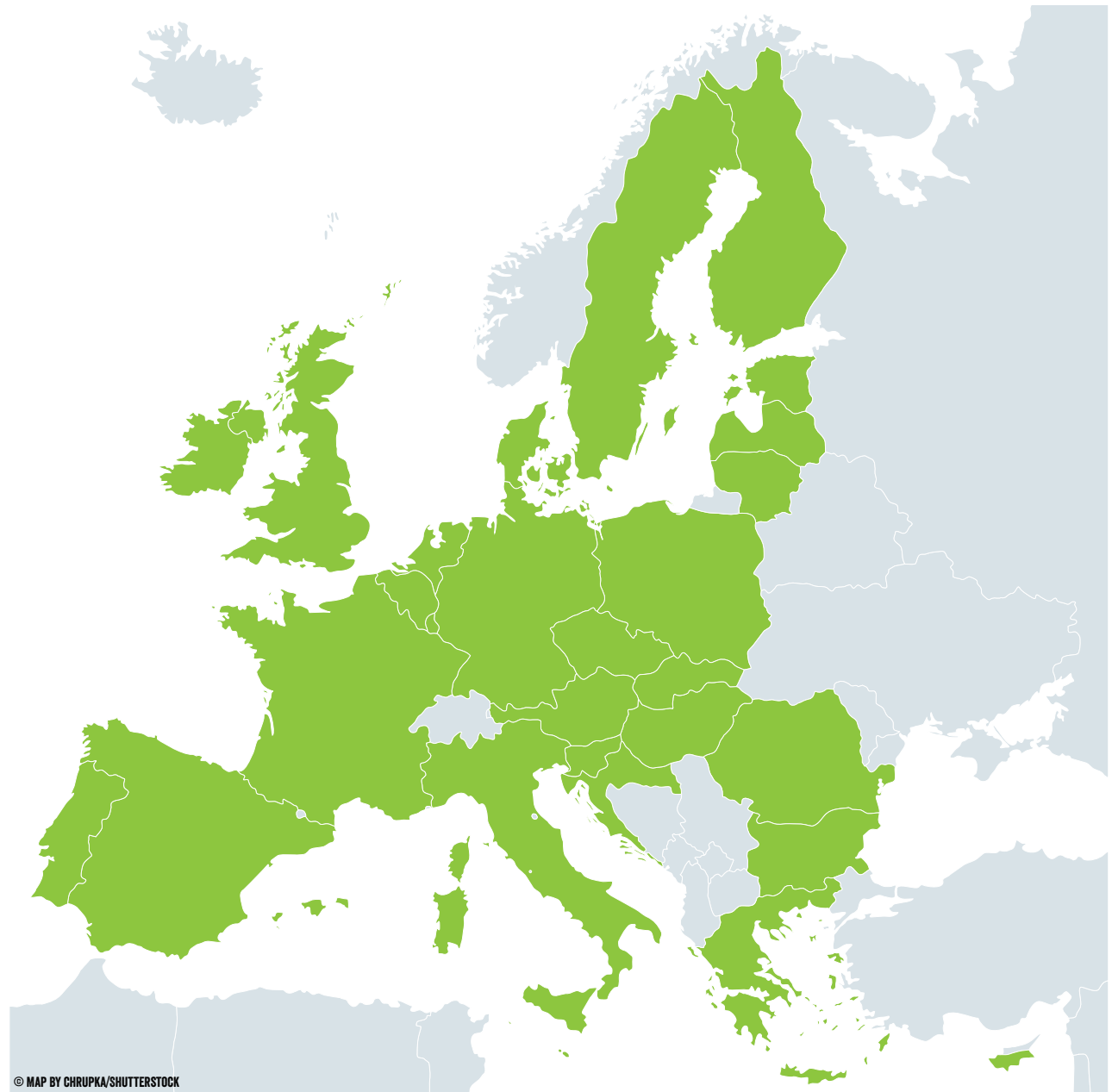
The Greens/EFA group regrets that, for the first time in the EU's history, the multi-annual budget 2014-2020 shrinks in real terms – an 85 billion Euro cut over the next seven years – and that the EU budget continues to depend on national contribution, without any possibilities to increase its own resources. Nevertheless, the stronger role of the European Parliament in the negotiations of the funding programmes allowed the Greens/EFA group to steer the review of the EU funds into a more environmental, climate friendly, socially oriented and inclusive direction. Although we still see room for improvement in numerous policy areas, we wish to share our successes with you and explain key improvements for Greener EU spending 2014-2020.

The EU agreed in the new budget that at least 20% of the 960 billion € will be spent on climate change related actions. In order to achieve this target, climate change is mainstreamed into the most important EU spending areas. Furthermore, an increased contribution of the budget directed at gender equality is a declared goal of EU investments.

A central claim of the Greens/EFA group throughout the negotiations of the different funding instruments has been the establishment of strong provisions on horizontal principles, in order to ensure a more prominent role to gender equality, non-discrimination, sustainable development and climate action in the implementation of EU Funds.

Furthermore, the involvement of civil society and NGOs as partners for EU funding in a variety of fields, such as social inclusion, environmental action, cultural exchange, research or women's rights, has been a major issue for our political work.

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI-Funds), which represent the largest part of the EU budget, have been subject to reforms leading to a genuine "Greening" of Cohesion Policy and ensuring a more sustainable and participative planning and implementation of investments in local and regional development, low-carbon economies, employment and social inclusion. The Greens/



GROWING GREENER!

EFA group's political work for **'INVESTMENTS IN PEOPLE NOT HIGHWAYS'** bear fruit: the share of ESI-Funds for investments in decent work, the fight against poverty and exclusion, as well as anti-discrimination measures will take a stronger role than in the previous period.

The new Cohesion Fund and European Regional Development Fund should also offer a variety of Green investment opportunities: minimum shares ensure that more money than ever will be invested in the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Although we were not successful in excluding investments into large-scale road projects completely, we managed to prevent fossil fuel infrastructures as well as nuclear power plants from funding opportunities. Because of our long-standing pressure, consultations with regional and local authorities, economic and social partners as well as civil society and NGOs are now an obligation and pre-requisite for programmes and projects.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament has been tirelessly advocating for EU support to those Member States and regions that are most affected by rocketing youth unemployment. Already in our Youth report in 2009 we called for earmarking EU funding for Youth Employment, which has finally been realised by assigning 3 billion € of the European Social Fund and additional 3 billion € of a separate budget line to Youth Employment.

The Partnership Principle is an important element of the ESI-Funds, which is underpinned by a legally binding European Code of Conduct on Partnerships and sets out a set of requirements for the involvement of partners. This principle shall ensure that regional and local authorities, social and economic partners, as well as civil society and NGOs are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes.

GET INVOLVED! Europe needs to benefit from the local knowledge, expertise and experience in all steps of the implementation of EU funds and make the Union's investments as transparent as possible. First experiences from different regions show certain deficiencies and shortcomings in the application of the partnership principle. For this reason, we want to encourage you to claim your right for participation in your region and get actively involved in the implementation of ESI-Funds.

Another instrument for stronger involvement and empowerment of actors on the local level is the **NEW COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT** approach. Based on previous experience, this bottom-up approach for the implementation of ESI-funds gives local actors in rural, coastal and urban areas the opportunity to design their **OWN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND DEVELOP THEIR OWN PROJECTS** with support of the EU.

In the field of rural development, the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament was able to make a difference in the negotiations with regards to the following: NGOs, local development networks and rural enterprises remain eligible for most of the support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); 30% of the EAFRD for the period 2014-2020 will be invested in a list of measure that includes organic farming and agricultural environment; cooperation projects for short food chains are included in the funded activities. The Greens/EFA group was able to prevent the new Programme for Employment and Social Innovation becoming a purely labour market oriented tool: we succeeded in giving the fight against poverty and the promotion of social inclusion a prominent role, making funding available for small scale projects and steer support towards young unemployed. The European Parliament, including the Greens/EFA group as one of the driving forces, achieved a broader access to investments into culture and media under the Creative Europe Programme. Furthermore, we were able to protect funding opportunities for smaller scale projects and safeguard a more active promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity. The Greens/EFA group campaigned actively

for an extension of the Europe for Citizens programme. We consider it to play an important role for a more democratic and participative Union. It is a missed opportunity that the budget and the scope of actions of the programme are cut back in the current period. We consider the available budget as being too little with regards to the huge potentials of this type of support.

As regards the redesign of the LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action, two aspects are worth highlighting as Green successes: Firstly, in the new period, the selection of project funding will be based on merits, and not on a prefixed National allocation. This allows a more effective use of EU money for projects with the most relevant effects on environmental protection and climate adaptation/mitigation. Secondly, projects in the field of biodiversity will receive higher co-financing from the Commission, thus making it easier to realise biodiversity projects, for which it was difficult to receive additional funding.

In the negotiations on the design of the new HORIZON 2020 Framework Programme for investments in research and innovation, the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament was able to achieve modifications in a broad spectrum of fields. We successfully integrated multi-disciplinary approaches, social sciences and achieved a more participation with citizens, end-users, civil society and public sector organisations across the whole programme. The programme supports eco-innovation in a large range of fields, both at local and international level and due to our initiative scientific publications resulting from HORIZON 2020 funding will be publicly accessible. We want to encourage all types of actors from civil society, social businesses and SMEs as well as local and regional authorities to get actively involved in the development of eco-innovative ideas and good project.

2) EU FUNDING BY TARGET GROUP

This chapter gives you an overview of EU funding. The most important funding tools are synthesised on a few pages per target group.

A) LOCAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

The EU acknowledges that local and regional stakeholders are important actors for change. The new period of EU funds offers ample opportunity for public actors at the local and regional level to initiate and implement projects and actions on the local level. Support may include measures, such as capacity building, funding of programmes for decent work, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, the establishment of local sustainable development initiatives, or investments into local infrastructures.

ESI-Funds offer the most important funding opportunities for local and regional councillors. These funds share a common catalogue of principles for their implementation (Common Provisions Regulation) and the scope of actions in every region (and Member State) are specified in operational programmes.

A primary aim of the European Regional Development Fund is the promotion of sustainable growth, reinforcing economic, social and territorial cohesion. It offers funding in a broad spectrum of fields, for example investments in local infrastructures (e.g. energy efficiency projects in public buildings) and development of strategies in the field of sustainable urban development (e.g. sustainable urban mobility concepts or CO₂-reduction strategies).

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund offer support to rural and coastal communities to meet their economic, social and environmental challenges. Public bodies can become beneficiaries for EAFRD or EMFF investments in order to implement measures for poverty reduction, social inclusion and advisory services for farmers/fishers and entrepreneurs in the area.

The European Social Fund promotes modernisation of public services and the strengthening of institutional capacities. Furthermore, it funds projects for equal access to education, supports the work of employment services and the fight against youth unemployment.

The CLLD mechanism gives local councillors in rural, coastal or urban areas the possibility to engage more actively with local stakeholders. This instrument offers support for the establishment of comprehensive local development strategies in bottom-up approaches and provides financial assistance for the implementation of planned projects.

For the first time, Member States, are obliged to invest 5% of the European Regional Development Fund into sustainable urban development, i.e. European cities will receive financial support to meet social, economic, ecological, demographic and climate challenges. While in some Member States and regions these cities are already pre-defined in the operational programmes of the European Regional Development Fund, others organise competitions for sustainable urban development projects.

The field of European Territorial Cooperation offers support for cooperation amongst municipalities. It opens up opportunities for the exchange of good practices and the development of initiatives in a variety of fields, such as culture, sustainable tourism, or sustainable urban mobility. Important institutions for the realisation of regional projects funded by the ESI-Funds are the EU's special support instruments JASPERS, JESSICA and ELENA. These support instruments offer assistance in the preparation phase of major projects, urban development projects and investments in sustainable energy.

Further EU funds that are potentially of interest for local and regional councillors are offered on the European level, directly managed by the European Commission. These programmes generally aim to support projects with a European dimension.

The EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation promotes the development and testing of innovative tools and approaches in the employment and social policy sector. The Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity can offer training to public bodies for the better application of EU law. Under the EURES programme employment services can benefit from cooperation partnerships and the use of EU-wide support-tools for job seekers.

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived offers assistance for the implementation of local and regional support schemes, providing food to the most deprived persons, clothing and other essential goods to the homeless and to materially-deprived children. Assistance might also address accompanying measures, such as activities aiming at the social integration or actions to make more efficient use of local food supply chains.

The Europe for Citizens Programme supports town twinning projects and networks of towns in order to promote the democratic engagement and civic participation in EU policy-making.

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme offers local and regional public actors the chance to participate in networking activities at the European level amongst bodies specialised in EU citizens rights, gender equality and anti-discrimination measures. Furthermore, actors can benefit from training activities, including staff exchanges or train-the-trainer events. The same applies for the Justice Programme in the field of Victim Rights and Drug Prevention and Information Programmes. The Asylum and Migration Programme provides support to local and regional authorities for the integration of different types of immigrants.

The LIFE Programme can support municipalities in the implementation of projects for environmental protection, climate action and related issues, such as reduction of noise or the promotion of a circular economy. Additionally, LIFE offers the opportunity to support the cooperation of public authorities on prevention measures as so-called integrated projects.

The newly designed **HORIZON 2020** Programme for investments in research and innovation integrates a closer participation of citizens, end-users, civil society and public sector organisations. The most important funding opportunities for local authorities can be found under the programme strands **Societal Challenges** and **Science in Society**.

The **Union Civil Protection Mechanism** is a EU instrument to promote more effective systems for preventing and responding to natural and man-made disasters. For local authorities this instrument is interesting as regards measures for preparedness and prevention of disaster.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The **Committee of the Regions** is the official body for the representation of the European regions in the EU. You can find on its webpage further information on EU activities in the regions and contact information to your regional representatives.

➔ <http://cor.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

The **European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities** is a platform for the development and exchange of innovative solutions to the major environmental, societal and health challenges facing European cities today.

➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/>

Local Councillors Network of the European Green Party

➔ <http://europeangreens.eu/local-councillors-network>

The **Covenant of Mayors** is a Europe-wide association of local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories:

➔ http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html

B) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

NGOs are active in almost all fields of society and accordingly involve in most of the areas that are covered by EU funding activities. Therefore, NGOs are eligible to a vast part

of EU funding instruments, of which only the most important tools will be highlighted in this section.

WHICH ORGANISATIONS FALL UNDER THE DEFINITION OF NGO?

The definition of NGOs is not very clear, because it is not a legal term. What organisations are considered to be NGOs or civil society organisations in the field of EU funding is only specified in the specific calls for proposals. However, the Commission offers in the “**Beginners Guide to EU funding**” a list of common characteristics of NGOs, which shall help to identify yourself as a NGO:

“NGOs are not created to generate profit (although they may have paid employees and engage in revenue-generating activities, they do not distribute profits to members); NGOs are voluntary; NGOs must have some degree of formal or institutional existence (e.g. statutes or other governing document setting out their mission, objectives and scope) as they are accountable to their members and donors; NGOs are independent, in particular of government, public authorities, political parties or commercial organisations; NGOs are not self-serving in aims and related values: their aim is to serve the public as a whole or specific groups of people.”

(European Commission, 2012: **Beginners Guide to EU funding**, p. 12)

NGOS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF EU FUNDING:

ACTION GRANTS AND OPERATIONAL GRANTS

Action grants provide NGOs with funding for projects with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented. These can be projects of European dimension with the aim to create European added value or projects in the context of national, regional or local context, which e.g. encourage sustainable development, create decent work, or promote social inclusion. Operating grants provide financial support for the regular activities of a civil-society organisation. These grants are provided on the basis of an analysis of the organisation's objectives, scope of activities and their compatibility with the general European interest and EU policy.

The **Partnership Principle**, underlined by a legally binding **European Code of Conduct on Partnership**, is a new element of the **ESI-Funds**. This ensures that regional and local authorities, social and economic partners, as well as civil society and NGOs are actively involved in the strategic planning and decision-making for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes. The **Greens/EFA group** in the **European Parliament** believes that the key for sustainable development lies in the regions and local communities. The active involvement and empowerment of local societies is a strong added value for the elaboration and implementation of development strategies. We want to encourage you to not only involve in the implementation of **ESI-Funds** as beneficiaries, but to participate as partners in the monitoring and evaluation on regional and local level. This can take place in the context of monitoring committees as well as in the context of local development approach, so called **community-led local development (CLLD)**. CLLD is a bottom-up method for the implementation of **ESI-Funds** that allows a stronger involvement and empowerment of stakeholder in rural, coastal and urban communities. Based on previous experience, this bottom-up approach for the implementation of **ESI-funds** gives local actors the opportunity to design their own development strategies and develop their own projects with support of the EU. At the time of publication of this Guide (February 2014) the drafting and negotiations of the **Operational Programmes** for the implementation of the **ESI-Funds** in the regions is still on-going. The success of the reforms of the Funds depends very much on their implementation and active use in the field. Therefore we encourage you to:

ENGAGE IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS OF YOUR REGIONAL MANAGING AUTHORITY

CONTACT THE COMMISSION IN CASE OF DISREGARD OF RULES BY YOUR AUTHORITIES

PRESSURE THE COMMISSION TO INSIST ON THE RESPECT OF HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES (GENDER EQUALITY, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, SUSTAINABILITY)

MOST IMPORTANT EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGOS

As mentioned above, civil society and non-governmental organisations can play a more prominent role in the EU funding period 2014-2020: more funding programmes include NGOs as beneficiaries, and the Partnership Principle as well as CLLD approach build the ground for a more active involvement of NGOs in the implementation, monitoring and decision-making on the ESI-Funds on regional and local level. Furthermore, NGOs are for the first time explicitly included as potential beneficiaries of technical assistance, which aims at the development of the necessary institutional capacity for the implementation of the programmes.

The European Social Fund offers the most attractive funding opportunities of all European Structural and Investment Funds for the support of NGOs. In the new period, the funding activities will pay more attention to the fight against poverty and exclusion, and anti-discrimination measures. Simplified funding procedures will make it easier for small NGOs to apply for project support.

A central EU instrument for support of NGOs is the Europe for Citizens programme. It provides operating grants for NGOs that are active in the fields of European remembrance and citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU. Furthermore, Europe for Citizens helps NGOs to realize projects for a broad spectrum of EU-related activities that gather citizens and empower them for participation in the EU policy-making process.

The Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity supports the development, testing and rollout of new solutions to current socio-economic challenges in the EU Member States. It provides operating grants to NGOs and networks that are active in the promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The sub-programme Culture (part of the Creative Europe Programme) supports bodies active at the European level in the field of culture and promotes special actions designed to stimulate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding in the EU. These actions are supposed to make the richness and diversity of European cultures more visible.

The new Asylum and Migration Fund covers the support of actions in relation to asylum, legal migration and the integration of third-country nationals, as well as return operations. NGOs are generally eligible as beneficiaries, further details depend on the more specific national programmes for the implementation of the fund. We want to encourage NGOs to involve actively in the elaboration of these programmes and push Member States to devote higher importance to the support and integration of refugees. The LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate action is an important funding tool for Environmental NGO. It offers in its two strands Environment and Climate Action operational as well as action grants.

The newly designed HORZION 2020 Programme for investments in research and innovation integrates a closer participation of citizens, end-users, civil society and public sector organisations. The most important funding opportunities for NGOs can be found under the programme strands Societal Challenges and Science in Society. Nonetheless, NGOs may also actively seek to participate under the Industrial leadership programmes, where activities should be funded to ensure better integrating society's concern.

CENTRAL NGO PLATFORMS ON EUROPEAN LEVEL:

The European Youth Forum is the platform of 99 youth organisations in Europe

➔ <http://www.youthforum.org>

The Green 10

➔ <http://www.green10.org>

Social Platform - The Platform of European Social NGOs

➔ <http://www.socialplatform.org>

European Anti- Poverty Network

➔ <http://www.eapn.eu/en>

European Network Against Racism

➔ <http://www.enar-eu.org>

C) YOUNG PEOPLE : ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ is a new framework programme for EU funding in the areas of education and training, youth and sport, which integrates the most popular EU programmes for young people: Erasmus, Leonardo and Youth in Action. Erasmus+ is supposed to provide support to over four million Europeans for their studies, training, work experience or volunteer work abroad in the next seven years.

Leonardo da Vinci provides opportunities for young people in vocational education and training to gain work experience abroad allowing them to learn new skills or languages. You can undertake a traineeship or apprenticeship in a company, a public organisation, an NGO, or a vocational education institution with periods of work-based learning in a company. Your stay abroad may last from two weeks to a year.

Erasmus supports students to spend parts of their studies abroad for three to twelve months (including a complementary traineeship period, if planned). Students can benefit from Erasmus support for each study cycle (Bachelor, Master and doctoral level).

The Youth in Action Programme gives you the opportunity to take part in youth-exchanges and voluntary placements abroad. Funding is available for groups of young people from different countries meeting for a short period of time (one to three weeks) to attend a non-formal learning programme and for young people volunteering in different countries through the European Voluntary Service for periods of between two weeks and twelve months.

Three new funding instruments that address young people are Your First EURES Job, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and Student Loan Guarantee Facility

Your first EURES Job is a new programme that offers young people aged 18-30 information and guidance on traineeships and apprenticeship placements in the EU, and on jobs in sectors that face a shortage in workforce.

Furthermore, this programme can provide you with money for your travel expenses to your job interview abroad or

your moving abroad to take up a new job. Under certain conditions, you can receive as well language training and soft skill seminars. The implementation of the programme is managed by your regional or national employment service that participates in the EURES programmes.

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme is designed to provide assistance to young entrepreneurs who are planning their own business. It offers help by financing an Erasmus stay abroad in order to learn from an experienced host entrepreneur running a small business. In order to participate in this programme, you need to be in possession of a viable business plan, or be still in the phase of planning it, or you might have already started your own business and are not longer in operation than three years. The programme is open to all sectors.

The Student Loan Guarantee Facility is a new instrument in the field of education and training that aims at facilitating for students the participation in a Masters programme abroad by making a loan available that covers parts of the costs. It ensures at participating banks and loan agencies favourable conditions, such as better than market interest rates and up to two years to allow graduates to get into a job before beginning repayment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The European Youth Portal offers all information on offers and opportunities for young people across Europe:

➔ http://europa.eu/youth/splash_en

Eurodesk is the main provider of information on European policies and opportunities for young people and those who work with them:

➔ <http://www.eurodesk.org/edesk/>

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- ➔ **LOCAL & REGIONAL COUNCILLORS**
 - ➔ **NGOs**
 - ➔ **YOUNG PEOPLE**

2) TARGET GROUPS

3) STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO YOUR EU-PROJECT

This chapter gives you guidance for the development of your own EU project. It explains the central aspects that need to be considered before the submission of a project proposal, leading you through the important steps in the elaboration process.

This guide is non-exhaustive and can only provide a first understanding of how to start a EU project. In the last section, you will find links to sources that provide you with more detailed information on the development of a EU project. In this guide, the term “EU project” is understood as a project that is implemented with the financial support of the EU.

The EU is allocating its financial grants in form of calls for proposal. Depending on the programme, these are published once or several times a year. Usually, an annual work programme specifies the thematic priorities of the calls, which will be published. These documents allow actors to begin preparation of an application prior to the publication of the call. For a successful application for EU funding, it is important to receive information on the calls as soon as possible. Where to find this information is further explained at the end of this section.

A) PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

As a first step in the development of a EU project, and prior to the decision to apply for EU project funding, you should make certain preliminary considerations. These considerations include your general precondition to be eligible as a beneficiary for EU funds and the cost-benefit balance of the implementation of your project.

General preconditions for the implementation of a EU project, usually include sufficient expertise in the area of intervention and financial independence. The project call will give further specifications concerning the financial and content-related capacities of beneficiaries. Another condition for funding is that the organisation exists for at least three years and is in possession of sufficient own resources to guarantee the pre-financing of the project.

Thus, the foundation of an organisation in order to implement a EU project is not possible.

The financial incentives for the implementation of a EU project depend very much on the size and eligible costs of the specific project - the larger the size and the duration of the project, the higher are the eligible staff and material costs. Even though EU projects are quite popular amongst organisations, you should be conscious of their considerably high administrative costs, which often cause additional personnel costs. Furthermore, in case of delays with the payment, your organisation must be able to bridge the period of delay with own resources.

Another important aspect for the planning of a project proposal, which is often underestimated, is the choice of the right programme. Some EU funds cover similar thematic fields and overlap in the supported activities. Therefore, it is important to clarify prior to the drafting of a project proposal, whether the funding instrument addresses rather actions on a regional/national context, or focuses on the creation of a European added value. In principle, one project idea can be used for the elaboration of two different proposals. However, in order to have a realistic prospect of success, it is important to adapt the proposals to the respective programme's objectives. A general guideline for the choice of programmes is the principle of speciality, i.e. the programme that addresses a topic more specifically, should take priority.

Certain programmes, usually those managed directly by the European Commission, require the co-operation of a European partner organisation. However, finding a reliable and competent partner is not always a straightforward exercise. If you wish to avoid hours of online research using internet search engines, you can sometimes find project partners listed on the official website of the programme. Other ways to find project partners include participation in European conferences on topics of interest and the use of more recent search tools, Facebook and LinkedIn.

B) FROM PROJECT OUTLINE TO PROJECT PROPOSAL

The second step for the development of a EU project is the drafting of a project outline. It should be no longer than a few pages and should include the following sub-categories: project title, applicant/lead partner, objectives, planned activities, target group, financial planning, and contact address. This outline helps to make a loose idea more precise, serving as a clear format to share with potential partners and a useful layout when seeking advice from helpdesks.

The project proposal itself should only be written after the publication of a call for proposals and the thorough reading of the conditions for participation and thematic focus of the call. The drafting of a project proposal is a time-consuming exercise and a task that can keep a single person busy for weeks. You should, therefore, either start your proposal early or consider dividing the work between a team of people.

Of course, the application form can have different layouts, but will always ask for similar information and all the information on the form must be completed. Most of the EU programmes make use of the so-called eForm, which is an online application tool that replaces written applications. The most important elements of a project proposal are the description of actions to be performed and the expected results of the actions. The outline of actions that are not covered by the programme, too few actions or not enough innovative actions can lead to a rejection of the proposal. Further elements with high importance are the budget and the work plan, both of which should comprehensively reflect the actions and expected results. It is crucial to understand key terms of project proposals:

➔ **AIM OF THE PROJECT:** a statement of quantified requirements so that the project can be regarded as successfully implemented. The aim should include information about the delivered quality in relation to the planned timeframe and the budget plan.

➔ **PROJECT ACTIONS:** specific measures that are implemented in the course of the project, such as workshops, the publication of a book or the development of a new curriculum for an educational programme. These are the central element of the proposal.

➔ **EXPECTED RESULTS:** results of the project actions. They can be of material (road construction, educational material, organisation of a conference) or immaterial nature (management-skills, exchange of experiences, sensitisation).

➔ **EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE:** this is generally understood as projects of transnational character that create a social, cultural, economic or other advantage for as many regions as possible. For this purpose the dissemination and communication of project results and best practices play an important role.

➔ **SUSTAINABILITY:** sustainability is a core value of EU funding, which shall ensure that project achievements continue to exist after the end of the project period without additional funding.

A very helpful tool for a structured project development is the Logical Framework Approach, often abbreviated as Logframe. This official tool allows a schematic visualisation of all elements necessary for a consistent project proposal, in one matrix. It requests certain information for each cell, such as the justification of the project, the result indicators, the assumptions and risks. The Logframe is compulsory for the application for EU development aid funds, but its use can be recommended as well for all other project proposals. Make sure that you submit the proposal before the deadline ends and that your application includes all the requested documents.

C) BUDGET & ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS

Certain general rules for EU funding as regards the eligibility of costs should be considered in the financial planning and budget calculation.

The costs for the preparation of a project are usually not eligible for EU funding. Only the lifelong learning programme includes the funding of preparatory meetings of project partners.

All costs related to the implementation of the specific project, such as the purchase of equipment, office material, the renting of facilities, insurance costs and communication costs are potentially eligible as indirect project cost. You should keep in mind that when purchasing an item, it has to be depreciated corresponding to the period of use and only the portion of costs of the period of use is eligible.

The personnel costs have to include all related costs, i.e. not only the gross salary, but as well the employer's contribution to social security, further taxes and charges, holidays and special payments. The work of volunteers does not have any effect on EU co-financing. Further types of costs that can be covered by EU funding are travel costs, daily rates for food and accommodation, as well as costs for subcontracting, e.g. for interpreting services. Most of the project funds do not cover 100% of the costs, but co-finance a certain share. The maximum co-financing rates as well as more specific rules on the eligibility of costs are specified in each call for proposal.

D) FURTHER INFORMATION ON EU CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

The most important websites for EU calls for proposals is the Tenders Electronic Daily. It presents information about every EU procurement document, it is updated on a daily basis with public procurement notices from the European Union, and it allows you to search for procurement by sector, country and region.

➔ <http://ted.europa.eu/TED/misc/chooseLanguage.do>

Furthermore, the official websites of the Programmes or the responsible Directorate General's website publish information on their planned, on-going and closed procurements. The Commission has one central website, which provides you with a list of links to the different thematic fields:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/grants_en.htm

Another way to remain up to date about the publication of calls for proposal is the subscription to newsletters of the institutions that work in the field of interest. Furthermore, several private organisations offer professional information services on EU project calls.

PARTNER FINDING TOOLS

Otlas is an online partner finding tool for international projects in the youth field. Organisations can register their contact details and areas of interest in Otlas, and also create partner requests for project ideas.

➔ <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/>

Most of the official websites of the EU funding programmes offer a partner finding tool.

E.g.: Directorate General for Education and Culture offers for its programmes in the field of education (Erasmus, Comenius, etc.) a project partner search:

➔ http://lp.teamwork.fr/partner_search/partner_search.php

LinkedIn EU Projects Partner Search:

➔ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/EU-Projects-Partner-Search-2842114>

Facebook Partner Search for EU & International Projects

➔ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Partnersearch/?fref=ts>

4) EU FUNDING INSTRUMENTS BY THEMATIC FIELDS

This section will give you an overview of the broad spectrum of EU funds for the period 2014 - 2020. They are ordered by thematic field, so you can directly go to the section, which is linked to your field of work and interest.

Each section begins with general information on the respective EU fund and an outline of important achievements of the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament during the negotiations of the new programming period. In addition, the supported activities, the implementation method and the general eligibility are briefly described.

A) EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESI-FUNDS)

In the period 2014 - 2020, the EU has bundled its structural funds and main investment instruments in one regulatory framework: the Common Provisions Regulation. This framework sets common rules for the Union's largest funds, the Cohesion Policy investments in growth and jobs and the regional development tools of the agricultural and fisheries funds, in order to better coordinate the use of funds, increase synergies and simplify their implementation.

1) COHESION POLICY - INVESTMENTS IN GROWTH AND JOBS

The economic and social situation varies significantly between the 271 regions of the EU. The main objective of the EU's Cohesion Policy is to reduce these divergences by promoting job creation, competitiveness and sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In order to achieve these targets, the EU invests more than a third of its budget, roughly 325 billion €, during the course of the next seven years. These investments are directed at European regions, citizens and economies. Indeed, all regions in Europe receive funding from the Cohesion Policy, however, the budget is allocated according to the level of development of a respective region. This is expressed in different categories: less developed, transitional and more developed regions. A significant proportion, about 80%, of the Cohesion Policy budget is invested in the EU's poorest regions.

The Cohesion Policy consists of three different funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund. Furthermore, the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and the EU mechanisms for territorial development are financed by the ESI-Funds and parts of the EU Cohesion Policy.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament played an important and active role in the negotiations with the Commission and the Member States on the new generation of EU Cohesion Policy. Our involvement ensured that a number of the European Commission's good reform proposals leading to a genuine "Greening" of Cohesion Policy are maintained and strengthened within the new regulations.

The prominent role of the Partnership Principle for the implementation of funds, reinforced by a legally-binding code of conduct, makes sure that partners from the regional and local level, social and economic partner, and as well civil society and NGOs are actively involved in the strategic planning and the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funding programmes. Furthermore, a set of provisions on horizontal principles, such as sustainable development, gender equality and non-discrimination give our central political values a prominent position in Cohesion Policy, its implementation and the funded projects on regional and local level. Go for it!



"The Partnership Principle is the democratic pillar of EU cohesion policy and an essential element for more transparency. Thanks to our constant pressure and for the first time ever, there are minimum standards for the involvement of the partners and a legally binding code of conduct for good democratic practice."

// ELISABETH SCHROEDTER

(1) EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

The ERDF is the biggest single source of EU funding. The central aim of the ERDF is to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion by encouraging the sustainable development and structural adjustment of regional economies.

Following the need for concentrating means in order to increase effectiveness of investments, the so-called thematic concentration, the Member States have to invest a minimum share of the funds into four key priorities: research & innovation, information & communication technologies, competitiveness of SMEs and low carbon economy.

The minimum share depends on the category of region: less development regions allocate a minimum of 50% into these fields, transition regions 60% and more developed regions 80%. Additionally, the Member States are required to contribute with 20% of their investments to the climate adaption and mitigation objectives of the EU.

Furthermore, the ERDF encompasses actions in the field of territorial cooperation (cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation) and it addresses specific territorial characteristics (urban development, community-led local development). These programmes are outlined underneath in sections 4) a) iv. and v.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament achieved central improvements for the new funding period, which lead overall to more Green investment opportunities and a more prominent role of sustainable development concepts.

More money than ever before will be invested into the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the housing sector. Investments in transport infrastructure should be clearly reduced and in parts shifted towards sustainable urban mobility concepts. A minimum of 5% of the ERDF budget per Member State has to be invested in sustainable urban development and the cities themselves can assume more power for its implementation.



“The aim of EU regional policy is to reduce territorial inequalities throughout Europe and promote local and sustainable development. The new ERDF will invest less into large-scale useless projects or multinational companies, but more into energy transition, social and solidarity economy, SMEs and small-scale infrastructures. Sustainable investments are the best proof to demonstrate EU solidarity.” // KARIMA DELLI

SPECIAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS JASPERS, JESSICA ELENA

Important institutions for the realisation of regional projects funded by EU Cohesion Policy are the EU's special support instruments JASPERS, JESSICA and ELENA. EU funding usually covers only a share of the project costs. The financing of the remaining costs can sometimes be a challenge to regional and local authorities. The EU support instruments address this issue by offering assistance in the preparation phase of major projects, urban development projects and investments in sustainable energy.

JASPERS (Joint Assistance in Supporting Projects in European Regions) is a technical assistance facility that provides advice and assistance in the preparation of major projects in the twelve EU countries, which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007. Support by JASPERS is targeted to major infrastructure projects – e.g. rail, water, waste, energy and urban transport projects – in the with a minimum total investments volume of 50 million €. Further information: <http://www.eib.org/products/jaspers/index.htm?lang=en>

JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) is a EU initiative with the objective to assist all regions to establish strategies for sustainable urban development and realise urban development projects through the set-up of (revolving) financial instruments. Further information: <http://www.eib.org/products/jessica/index.htm>

ELENA (European Local Energy Assistance) is a technical assistance facility supporting the preparation and implementation of cities' and regions' sustainable energy projects. It aim to increase the capacity of local authorities by providing advisory service and financial aid for measures, such as feasibility and market studies or energy audits, promoting cross-sectoral approaches and encouraging the exchange of best practices among actors. Further Information: <http://www.eib.org/products/elena/index.htm>

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The thematic objectives of the ERDF touch upon a broad spectrum of areas, under which projects and activities can be funded:

- research & innovation (e.g. research infrastructure, promotion of business investment research & innovation, social and eco-innovation, cluster development)
- ICT (e.g. extending broadband infrastructure, developing of ICT products, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture, e-health)
- competitiveness of SMEs (e.g. promoting entrepreneurship and the economic exploitation of new ideas)
- low carbon economy (e.g. promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in enterprises, public infrastructure and the housing sector, smart energy management, promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, sustainable urban mobility)
- climate change adaptation and risk management (e.g. investments for adaption to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches, investments to ensure disaster resilience)
- environmental protection and resource efficiency (e.g. investments in the waste and water sector, protection of natural and cultural heritage, biodiversity (Natura 2000), green infrastructure and urban environment, promotion of ecosystem services, eco-innovation and resource-efficient economy)
- sustainable transport (e.g. TEN-T, regional mobility, developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, railway systems including noise-reduction measures, smart grids)
- employment, social and educational infrastructure
- social inclusion and anti-discrimination (e.g. support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas, support for social enterprises, investments in the context of community-led local development strategies)

- institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders

Each region (or Member State) agrees with the Commission on an operational programme for the implementation of the funds. These documents are currently (January 2014) in preparation and will give more detailed information on the investment priorities, funded activities and target groups in your region.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The ERDF falls under shared management, which means that depending on the Member State the ERDF is implemented and projects are selected at regional or national level by a managing authority. The Commission only supervises and controls the implementation.

Support from the ERDF often takes the form of grants, which are awarded to co-finance specific projects, usually through calls for proposals. The managing authority organises the calls for proposals, which are published in the national language. Furthermore, ERDF support can be given through financial instruments, e.g. indirect funding through intermediary bodies in the form of loans, risk capital, seed funding, etc.

More specific information on the implementation of ERDF funds in your region is available on the webpage of your regional or national managing authority. There you find information on the availability of funds from the ERDF for your specific field of work, deadlines of on-going and future calls for proposals, as well as project examples.

ELIGIBILITY:

In general, a wide range of actors is eligible for funding by the ERDF:

- local, regional and national authorities and administrative bodies
- social, cultural and educational institutions,
- NGOs

- companies, SMEs including micro-enterprises and Social Economy Enterprises, and associations

The eligibility criteria are further specified in the calls for proposals, published by your managing authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the ERDF:

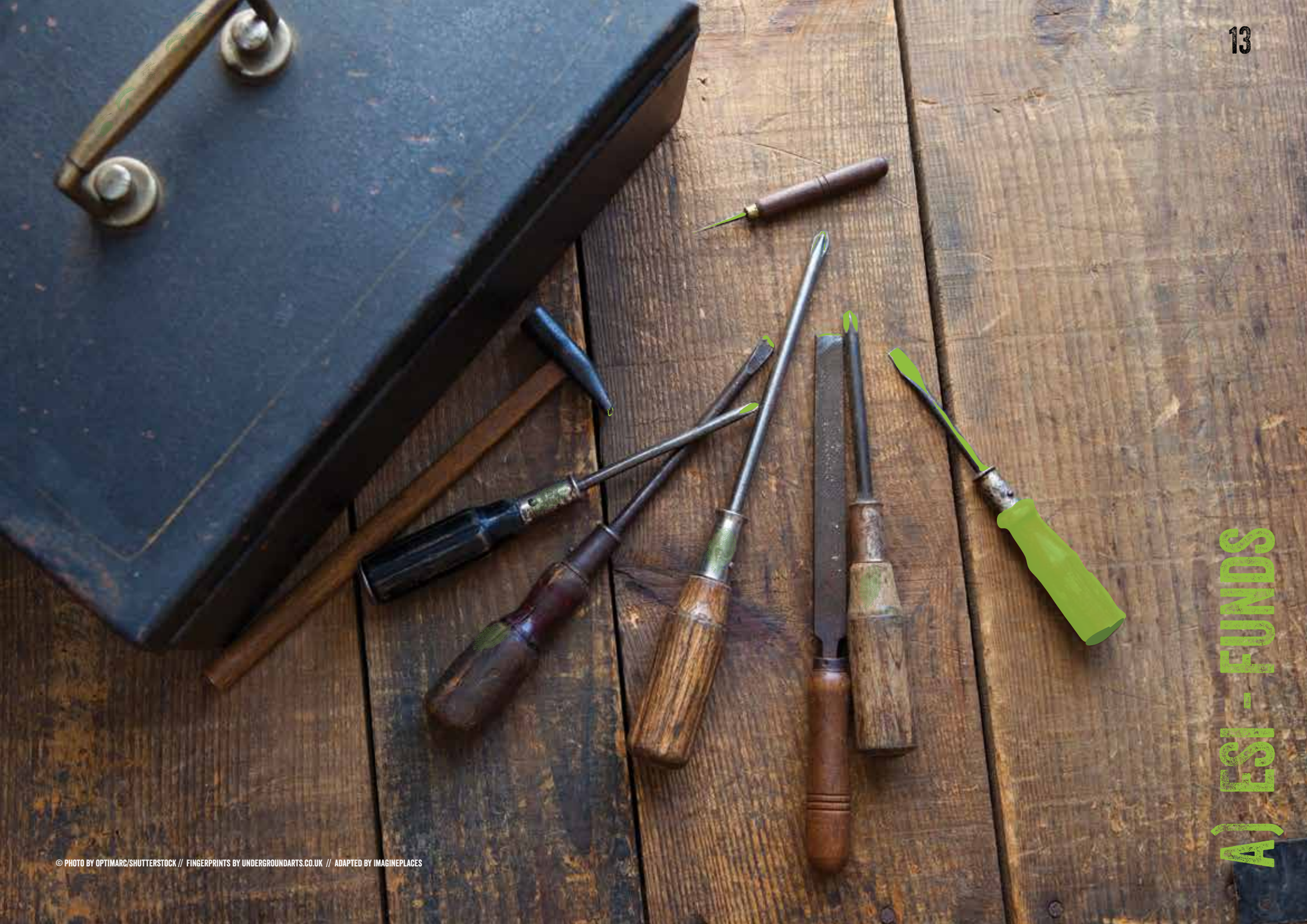
- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

A list of the managing authorities for the ERDF in your country or region:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm?pay=108&list=no

A search engine for all Operational Programmes for the ERDF:

- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/prordn/index_en.cfm



(2) EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

The ESF is the central tool for the implementation of the EU's social and labour market policy. It invests in the EU's human capital and works by funding local, regional and national projects targeting poverty, decent work and inclusion in the whole of the EU. In the new funding period 2014-2020, the ESF will focus on four central goals: creating decent work, promoting social inclusion, supporting better training and education and improving the quality of public administration.

The Greens/EFA group's political work for a broader focus of the ESF investments was successful: the ESF shifts in the period 2014-2020 its focus from purely employment-related funding to more comprehensive project support that pays higher attention to the fight against poverty and exclusion, as well as anti-discrimination measures. Furthermore, we successfully campaigned for simplified funding procedures, making it easier for small NGOs to apply, and the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees under the scope of ESF funding. Our campaign for "Investments in people not high-ways" bear fruit, hence the ESF-share of all Structural Funds investments will be higher than in the previous period.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The activities of the ESF can be summarised into four central fields of action:

- The thematic objective "promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility" foresees investments into activities promoting access to employment, decent work, sustainable integration into the labour market, self-employment and entrepreneurship, equality between men and women, active and healthy ageing and the modernisation of labour market institutions.
- The thematic objective "promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination" foresees investments into activities promoting active inclusion, socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, the combat against all forms of discrimination, enhanced access to high-quality services, social entrepreneurship and community-led local development strategies.

➤ The thematic objectives "investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning" foresees investments into activities promoting equal access to good quality education, improving the quality and access to tertiary and equivalent education, enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups and improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems. For the first time ever it takes into account all ages for education, from kinder garden to old age.

➤ The thematic objective "enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration" targets investments to a specific group of poorer Member States, which need support to make maximum use of the ESF. Measures include capacity building for public administrations and the other stakeholders involved, such as organisations working in the fields of education, anti-discrimination, lifelong learning, integration and poverty. For more specific information on the ESF priorities in your Member State or region, you need to consult the respective ESF operational programme for your region or country, or contact the responsible managing authority.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Similar to the ERDF, the ESF falls under shared management. This means, dependent on Member State, that the ESF is implemented at the national or regional level by a managing authority. The European Commission only supervises this implementation.

The ESF is allocated mostly through project grants, which are awarded through calls for proposals organised by the responsible managing authority. ESF support can also take place in other types of financing, e.g. indirect funding through intermediary bodies. This form of loan, or seed funding, aims to support new social businesses develop and find investments for their activities.

You can find more specific information on the implementation of ESF funds in your region on the webpage of your regional or national managing authority. There you will find

information on the availability of funds, deadlines for on-going projects, project examples and future calls for proposals from the ESF for your specific projects.



"We achieved that the ESF supports a broad range of measures for poverty reduction. The ESF no longer focusses on direct integration into the labor market only, but also on equal opportunities and participation in society." // ELISABETH SCHROEDTER

ELIGIBILITY:

A variety of bodies and organisations can become beneficiaries of ESF support:

Social, cultural and educational organisations

- Workers' and employers' organisations, as well as organisations providing training, support for workers, labour market support
- NGOs and charities
- Public administrations and municipal institutions
- Companies and associations

The eligibility criteria are further specified in the calls for proposals.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the ESF:

➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp?langId=en>

Information about the ESF-activities in your country or region:

➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=45>

ESF priorities database:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/social/esf_projects_117/search.cfm

(A) YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (YEI)

The YEI promotes the fight against youth unemployment by supporting actions for the sustainable integration of young people into the labour market. This instrument particularly targets regions that show the highest rates of youth unemployment and is implemented as part of the ESF (see above), but with different provisions on eligibility.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament has been tirelessly advocating for EU support to those Member States and regions most affected by rocketing youth unemployment. Indeed, in our 2009 Youth report we called for the earmarking of EU funding for Youth Employment, which has finally been realised by assigning 3 billion € of the European Social Fund and additional 3 billion € of a separate budget line to Youth Employment. In the negotiations on how to implement the YEI, we insisted on targeted and integrated funding through the ESF and a clear focus on young people most in need and not simply a labour market focus.

Budget: 6 billion €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

All projects shall directly aim at improving the situation for young people. In particular, however, those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and those from marginalised communities. The supported activities should aim at improving their labour market prospects and their access to training or education. Furthermore, the supported activities should provide support for early school leavers and promote social inclusion. The precise activities under the YEI are outlined in further detail in the ESF operational programmes within each eligible Member State or region.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The YEI is integrated into the programming of the ESF, i.e. every eligible Member State and region has to set out the programming arrangements for the YEI in an operational programme, agreed with the Commission.

ELIGIBILITY:

The following regions are eligible for funding from the YEI:

- ➔ NUTS* level 2 regions that have youth unemployment rates for young persons aged 15 to 24 of more than 25 % in 2012,
- ➔ NUTS* level 2 regions that have youth unemployment rates of more than 20% in a Member States where the youth unemployment rate has increased by more than 30 % in 2012.

Beneficiaries of the YEI can be all young persons under the age of 25 not in employment, education or training, residing in eligible regions, who are inactive or unemployed including the long-term unemployed, and whether or not registered

as seeking work. On a voluntary basis, Member States may decide to extend the target group to include young persons under the age of 30.



“High youth unemployment rates are totally unacceptable - for our social cohesion and the EU future. We were the first to demand earmarking of funding in favour of youth employment and a substantive reaction by the EU to create jobs for young people. The Youth Employment Initiative was finally adopted with 6 billion Euros. We know that this is not enough and more ambitious steps must be done to properly tackle the youth unemployment and inequalities in the European Union, notably in countries such as Spain, Greece and Portugal. For us Greens, youth policies at the EU level should be long-term and continuous investment in quality jobs, education and training for young people.”

// RAÚL ROMEVA I RUEDA

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the ESF on activities targeted at young people:

➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=534&langId=en>

Find out more about the Greens/EFA group's claims and initiatives for Youth Employment and related issues:

➔ <http://www.reclaimyourfuture.eu>

* The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a statistical standard developed by the European Union in order to reference to subdivisions of the EU Member States. The NUTS system consists of a hierarchy of three NUTS level, which mostly but not always correspond with the Member States' administrative structures.

(3) COHESION FUND

The Cohesion Fund plays a major role in the reduction of disparities in development among the Member States. It supports the least developed EU members - most of these countries joined the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013 - with funding in key transport infrastructure projects and fostering compliance with environmental standards. The Cohesion Fund is subject to the same rules of programming, management and monitoring as the ERDF and ESF.

An important element of the Cohesion Fund is the new funding opportunities in favour of environmental protection and climate resilience: financing of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency for housing, improved environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, eco-system based disaster prevention, the protection of Natura 2000 areas and the exclusion of nuclear plants from support. Another positive item is the obligation to consult with regional authorities, economic and social partners and civil society for planning and implementation, as well as the integration of disabled people's rights in planning.
Budget: 66 billion Euros

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:**THE COHESION FUND INVESTS INTO 5 DIFFERENT PRIORITIES:**

- ➔ supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- ➔ promoting climate change adaptation, eco-system based risk prevention and management
- ➔ preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency
- ➔ promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
- ➔ enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Cohesion Fund is implemented on the national level by the respective managing authority of the Member States. The grants are allocated by calls for proposals.

ELIGIBILITY:

- ➔ Every Member state with a GNI less than 90% of the EU average is eligible for support from the Cohesion Fund. In the funding period 2014-2020, these countries are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Cyprus (Phasing-out), Latvia, Lithuania, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Cohesion Fund:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/cohesion/index_en.cfm



"We succeeded in making the Fund Greener. However, it is very important that civil society, local and regional authorities will use EU instruments to implement Green policies. EU funds can be used more efficiently in a bottom-up approach. Therefore, the decentralisation of funds should take place in practice and Member States shall allocate more power and resources to local actors!" // NIKOS CHRYSOGELOS

II) RURAL AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**(1) EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)**

The EAFRD is the EU's main instrument for investments in rural areas and the agricultural sector. It provides rural areas with funding for a wide variety of actions that aim at the promotion of sustainable economic development, the social and environmental well being and the fostering of climate action. The Greens/EFA group has managed to safeguard critical investment within the Rural Development Fund for environmentally sustainable projects. 30% of funding in each country and region must be earmarked for green programmes such as agri-environmental schemes and organic farming. There will be higher support rates for investments that counter climate change and to promote biodiversity, and specific support can be provided to develop short supply chains and local markets.

Budget: 85 billion €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The EAFRD is investments in the following 6 priority areas:

- ➔ knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas (e.g. development of the knowledge base in rural areas, research and innovation for improved environmental management, lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors)
- ➔ enhancing farm viability and competitiveness and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests (e.g. facilitating farm restructuring, modernisation and agricultural diversification, facilitating generational renewal and the entry of adequately skilled farmers)
- ➔ promoting food chain organisation (e.g. processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture)
- ➔ restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (e.g.: restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, improving water and soil management)
- ➔ promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift

towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors (e.g. efficiency in water and energy use, supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes and residues and of other non food raw material, green house gas reduction and ammonia emissions, carbon conservation and sequestration

➔ social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development (e.g. diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, job creation, accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies, competitiveness of primary producers)

These areas of intervention and type of actions are further specified by each Member State or region in rural development programmes. Moreover, the Member States can establish as part of their implementation strategy thematic sub-programmes, which address more specific activities for young farmers, small farms, mountain areas, short supply chains, women in rural areas, climate change mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity.

Another important element of the EAFRD is the LEADER approach, which is tool for the establishment of local development initiatives. LEADER stands for “Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Économie Rurale”, meaning “links between the rural economy and development actions”. In previous funding periods, LEADER has proven to be a successful tool for the involvement of local stakeholders into the development and implementation of local development strategies. In the new funding period 2014-2020, LEADER will remain a mandatory part of the Rural Development Programmes funded by the EAFRD. Furthermore, as well the ESI-Funds (ERDF, ESF, EMFF) have the option to invest in Community-led Local Development initiatives (CLLD). Further information on this new local development mechanism CLLD is given underneath in the section on territorial development.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The EAFRD falls under shared management, which means that depending on the MS the EAFRD is implemented at the national or regional level by a managing authority. The Commission only supervises the implementation and approves in the national and regional implementation strategies – the operational programmes.

The EAFRD is allocated through project grants, which are awarded through calls for proposals. The maximum co-financing rate for EAFRD support is:

- ➔ 85% of the eligible public expenditure in the less developed regions, the outermost regions and the smaller Aegean islands.
- ➔ 50% of the eligible public expenditure in the other regions.

The Member States have the opportunity to increase the co-financing rate for investments in climate action and biodiversity by 10%.

ELIGIBILITY:

In general, a wide range of actors can become beneficiaries of funding from the ERDF:

- ➔ municipal institutions and administrative bodies
- ➔ social, cultural and educational institutions,
- ➔ NGOs
- ➔ companies, SMEs and associations

The eligibility criteria are further specified in the calls for proposals, published by your managing authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A list of national ministries for agriculture is available at:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/use/index_en.htm

The European Network for Rural Development is active in the field of information on the EAFRD, the involvement of local stakeholders in the implementation of the programmes and the support of local action groups:

- ➔ http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/home-page_en.cfm

“We have managed to safeguard critical investment within the Rural Development Fund for environmentally sustainable projects. 30% of funding in each country and region must be earmarked for green programmes such as agri-environmental schemes and organic farming. There will be higher support rates for investments that counter climate change and to promote biodiversity, and specific support can be provided to develop short supply chains and local markets.

// THE GREENS/EFA GROUP

(2) EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF)

The EMFF is intended to promote the transition towards more sustainable fishing in the EU, support the diversification of the coastal communities' economies and finance the creation of decent jobs and quality of life.

Budget: 6.4 billion €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The central areas of investment will be the sustainable development of fisheries, development of aquaculture activities, the control of fisheries activities, data collection, help for ultra-peripheral regions, storage and integrated maritime policy under shared management.

Another important element of the previous period of Fishery Funds was the support of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), which were partnerships between fisheries actors and other local private and public stakeholders. These FLAGs develop and implement bottom-up strategies for their coastal communities that fit the areas challenges and promote sustainable development. In the period 2014-2020, this tool will continue to exist under the Community-led local development (CLLD) mechanism. Please find further information on CLLD underneath in the section on territorial development.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The funds are used to co-finance projects along with national funding. Each country receives a certain share of the EMFF, for which it designates a managing authority and establishes its operational programme outlining the investment priorities, target groups and regional objectives.

ELIGIBILITY:

In general, a wide range of actors are eligible for funding by the EMFF, these include:

- Municipal institutions and administrative bodies
- Social, cultural and educational institutions,
- NGOs
- Companies, SMEs and associations

The eligibility criteria are further specified in the calls for proposals, published by your managing authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website:

- http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/emff/index_en.htm

The Fishing Areas Network FARNET provides further information on local development initiatives in 2014-2020
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/tools/local-development-2014-2020>

III) TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

(1) SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In the period 2014-2020, sustainable urban development is a new priority of the EU's Cohesion Policy. This will focus especially on integrated actions in urban areas or urban communities, offering more possibilities to delegate responsibility to urban authorities and introducing a community-led local development (CLLD) approach in these areas. A minimum of 5% of ERDF resources per Member State will be spent on projects in the field of integrated sustainable urban development. Furthermore, complementary investments in urban development concepts can be made from the other ESI Funds.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The supported activities in the field of urban development correspond with the activities outlined under the ERDF and ESF activities. It is considered that all sectorial investments have a territorial dimension and consequences, thus they need to be carefully planned through an integrated approach that considers the various dimensions of urban life, i.e. economic, environmental, climate, cultural, demographic and social challenges.

A new element of EU funding in the field of urban development is Innovative Actions. These projects aim to explore and demonstrate radical new solutions to long-term urban challenges. These could be pilot projects, demonstration projects or new urban experiments, which are of European interest. These projects will be managed directly by the Commission and selected through a competition. The Commission will put 330 million € aside for this particular instrument.

Under European Territorial Cooperation (see section 4) a) v.), URBACT, the exchange and learning programme for cities, will continue to provide urban authorities with networking opportunities in order to share and develop good practice in urban development.

Furthermore, the Commission encourages Member States to make use of financial instruments (such as loans, guarantees or equity) in their implementation of sustainable

urban development concepts. Some Member States and regions follow this initiative and set-up urban development funds on the local level.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The new regulation foresees a minimum degree of delegation of implementation responsibilities from the managing authority to the urban authority. The minimum requirement for delegation is the decision on the selection of operations. On a rather voluntary basis, delegation of powers can also include responsibilities such as financial management and control, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation. The managing authority and the urban authority agree on the scope of the management tasks to be delegated.

Furthermore, it is possible to use the CLLD approach as one element or building block within the wider urban strategy. CLLD aims to build community-capacity and encourage local communities to develop integrated bottom-up strategies, thus it can be a very useful tool in addressing specific challenges that urban areas face. It could take the form of e.g. small neighbourhood based approaches, integrated approaches focusing on a prominent urban challenge, or target group approaches.

ELIGIBILITY:

The definition of the principles for the selection of the urban areas, in which sustainable urban development projects are implemented, are in the responsibility of the Member States. That is why you will find further specifications on investments in urban development in your country in the national and regional investment strategies, the so-called Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes. These documents are currently still being negotiated between the Commission and each Member state or region bilaterally.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Directorate General for Regional Policy on Urban Development:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/urban/index_en.cfm#1

A full list of the EU programmes and initiatives, which include an urban dimension, is available under:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/urban/portal/index_en.cfm

(2) COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD)

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the European Commission has promoted the establishment of local development initiatives. This approach has allowed local stakeholders, including civil society, to have direct involvement in the elaboration of local strategies addressing social, economic and environmental challenges. Indeed, this initiative has proved successful by marking a sustainable impact, fostering the development of new ideas and allowing local communities to take ownership. Within the context of the rural development fund (EAFRD), the so-called LEADER approach became a principal example of local development strategies driven by local stakeholders.

In the new funding period 2014-2020, the Commission redesigned its local development initiatives and integrated existing instruments in one approach on Community-led Local Development (CLLD). This shall encourage and reinforce integrated approaches and allow complementary funding from different European Structural and Investment funds into more comprehensive development strategies.

A CLLD IS IN DETAIL:

- ➔ a method of cooperation focused on specific sub-regional territories that involves various partners from the local level.
- ➔ led by local action groups composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which, at the decision-making level neither public authorities nor any single interest group represents more than 49 % of the voting rights;

- ➔ carried out through integrated and multi-sectoral area-based local development strategies;
- ➔ designed with the consideration of local needs and potential, and including innovative features.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The ESI Funds for CLLD uphold the costs of preparatory support consisting of capacity building, training and networking related to the preparation of a community-led local development strategy. Preparatory support is eligible, regardless of whether the CLLD strategy designed by the local action group is selected for funding of its implementation. Such costs may include:

- ➔ training actions for local stakeholders;
- ➔ studies of the area concerned;
- ➔ costs related to the design of the community-led local development strategy;
- ➔ administrative costs, and
- ➔ support for small pilot projects.

After having been selected for the implementation of the local development strategy, the ESI Fund supports covers:

- ➔ implementation of operations of the CLLD strategy;
- ➔ preparation and implementation of the local action group's cooperation activities;
- ➔ running costs linked to the management of the implementation of the community-led local development strategy;
- ➔ animation of the community-led local development strategy in order to facilitate exchange between stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The use of CLLD in your Member State should be outlined in the Partnership Agreement between the Member States and the Commission. This is the key strategic document for the use of ESI Funds and is supposed to outline, in one section,

the arrangement for the territorial development of specific sub-regional areas. Additionally, the funding programmes, which set out the implementation strategies for each ESI Fund or priority, will give an outline of how CLLD is used for the implementation of the investments.

In general, CLLD may be implemented in cross-border cooperation programmes, provided that the local development group is composed of representatives of at least two countries, of which one is a Member State.

ELIGIBILITY:

LEADER is a mandatory part of the EAFRD programmes; unfortunately, the use of CLLD is not compulsory, but optional for the implementation of the other ESI Funds. The eligibility can, therefore, vary per region and needs to be checked in the Operational Programme of your region, or by direct contact to the Management Authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

General Information on CLLD is provided by the European Network for Rural Development:

➔ http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/clld/en/clld_en.cfm

The LEADER Gateway offers information for local development initiatives in rural areas:

➔ http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader/en/leader_en.cfm

The Fishing Areas Network FARNET provides information on Fisheries Local Action Groups:

➔ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/tools/local-development-2014-2020>

URBACT, a network of European experts in urban development, has put forward information on how to implement CLLDs in cities:

➔ <http://urbact.eu/en/news-and-events/view-one/urbact-news/?entryId=5131>

IV) EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (ETC)

The ETC is part of the ERDF and therefore its general objective is the promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The more specific objectives vary among the three different forms of territorial cooperation, which are funded under the ETC:

- ➔ cross-border cooperation
- ➔ transnational cooperation
- ➔ interregional cooperation

Sustainable tourism, culture and natural heritage are part of the activities that are considered to foster employment friendly growth in the context of territorial strategies. This is a result of the Greens/EFA group's active campaigning. We also added social inclusion as an objective of cross-border cooperation.

Budget: 8.9 billion € (74% cross-border cooperation, 20% transnational cooperation, 6% interregional cooperation)

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

Similar to other funding activities under the ERDF, as well ETC programmes have to comply with the new requirement of thematic concentration. At least 80 % of the ERDF allocation to each cross-border cooperation and transnational programme shall be concentrated on a maximum of four of the following thematic objectives: research & innovation, ICT, competitiveness of SMEs, low carbon economy, climate change adaptation and risk management, environmental protection and resource efficiency, transport, employment, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, education and training, institutional capacity of public authorities. In the field of interregional cooperation, all of these thematic objectives may be selected for the cooperation strategy. Additional and more specific fields of intervention for the different types of territorial cooperation are the following:

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION:

- ➔ promotion of sustainable and quality employment;
- ➔ support to labour mobility, joint local employment

- ➔ initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training;
- ➔ promotion of social inclusion, fight against poverty and any discrimination;
- ➔ investment in education, training and vocational training,
- ➔ enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration.

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION:

- ➔ enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.

INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BY:

- ➔ disseminating good practices and expertise in relation to sustainable urban development, including urban-rural linkages;
- ➔ promoting the exchange of experience in order to reinforce the effectiveness of territorial cooperation programmes;
- ➔ strengthening the evidence base in order to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy and the achievement of the thematic objectives.

IMPLEMENTATION:

ETCs are implemented on the basis of cooperation programmes, which are drafted by the participating Member States. The participants designate a single managing authority responsible for the implementation of the programme and the publication of calls. Member States may as well choose a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation as a managing authority.

A European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) is a cooperation instrument for the foundation of legal personality that enables public authorities to deliver joint services.

Members of an EGTC can be the Member States, regional or local authorities, associations and any other public body. Even though, a central function of these entities is the management and implementation of territorial cooperation programmes funded by the EU, these entities are entitled to carry out actions under any other EU funding or without EU funding.



“European territorial cooperation policy is among the most iconic policies in terms of European integration and the European Parliament had voted by a large majority for its strengthening and to make it a priority. Our disappointment is thus great with regards to the financial arbitrations that led Member States to consider it only as an adjustment variable.”

// FRANÇOIS ALFONSI

ELIGIBILITY:

The three different types of ETC address different type of territories:

- ➔ Cross-border cooperation promotes integrated regional development between neighbouring land and maritime border regions on NUTS* level 2 in two or more Member States or between neighbouring border regions in at least one Member State and one third country on external borders of the Union, separated by a maximum of 150 km.
- ➔ Transnational cooperation addresses larger transnational territories, encompassing national, regional and local partners. It covers NUTS* 3 regions and takes, where appropriate, account of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.
- ➔ Interregional cooperation covers the entire territory of the EU.

Cross-border and transnational cooperation shall involve beneficiaries from at least two participating countries, at least one of which shall be from a Member State. An operation may be implemented in a single country, provided that cross-border or transnational impacts and benefits are identified. Operations under interregional cooperation shall involve beneficiaries from at least three countries, at least two of which shall be Member States.

In general, a wide range of actors can become beneficiaries of funding from the ERDF:

- ➔ municipal institutions and administrative bodies
- ➔ social, cultural and educational institutions
- ➔ NGOs
- ➔ companies, SMEs and associations

The eligibility criteria are further specified in the respective cooperation programmes and calls for proposals, published by your managing authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the ETC programmes:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/cooperation/index_en.cfm

A list of the managing authorities and ETC programmes in your country or region:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm?pay=108&list=no

Committee of the Regions maintains a register of all existing EGTCs and provides support for their foundation on the EGCT Platform:

- ➔ <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/egtc/en-US/Platform/Pages/welcome.aspx>

* The Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) is a statistical standard developed by the European Union in order to reference to subdivisions of the EU Member States. The NUTS system consists of a hierarchy of three NUTS level, which mostly but not always correspond with the Member States' administrative structures.



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B) EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

The EU Member States are currently facing multiple challenges: high-unemployment rates, a shrinking workforce, growing poverty and social exclusion and an increasingly fragmented labour market. The crisis highlighted the interdependence and close links between the European economies and their national welfare systems. Even though the primary responsibility for addressing socio-economic challenges remains in the hands of the Member States and regions, it became evident that the EU can make substantial contributions to their solution through policy-coordination, the identification of needs for reform, the support in the modernisation of welfare systems and investments into European societies. Under the EU budget for 2014-2020, the EU's employment and social policy is organised in four pillars, which form together the EU Initiative for Employment and Social Inclusion 2014-2020: the European Social Fund (see above, section on Cohesion Policy), the new programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF).

1) EU PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (EaSI)

The EaSI is a new umbrella programme that integrates and extends the three existing EU programmes: the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS), the European Employment Services (EURES) and the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Facility (MF/SE). The idea of this new design is to increase the policy coherence and, hence, the impact of the EU programmes on Member States reforms in the sector of employment and social policy at the national, regional and local level. The main function of investments under this programme is to develop, test and upscale innovative employment and social policies in order to promote sustainable growth and jobs and reduce social inequalities in European societies. The EaSI is designed as a complementary instrument to the ESF that focuses in its funding activities on projects with a Europe-wide dimension instead of addressing explicitly specific regional or national challenges only. A new element is the strong role of social innovation activities in the funding activities – each year 10-14 million € will be invested for this purpose.

(1) PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY (PROGRESS)

The main objective of PROGRESS is the promotion of policy reform by the support of broad spectrum of activities that aim at the development, testing and rollout of solutions to current socio-economic challenges in the EU Member States. Hereby, the programme makes a contribution to the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets and its flagship initiatives in the field of employment and social policy. Initiatives by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament ensured that also smaller scale projects can be financed by PROGRESS and that social inclusion remains the most important element of the programme.

Budget: 561 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

In order to foster social policy experimentation and to promote social inclusion and poverty reduction, PROGRESS invests in 2014-2020 in the following types of activities:

- Analytical (Gathering of evidence; Ensure correct and effective application of EU law in the Member States)
- Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination (peer reviews on social protection and social inclusion policies in different EU Member States; exchange of good practice and experience; Benchmarking of Public Employment Services (PES))
- Support for Key NGOs and Networks

IMPLEMENTATION:

PROGRESS is managed by the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment and Social affairs, which allocates the funds directly to beneficiaries in the form of call for proposals and call for tenders. The Commission establishes three years work programmes, which give an outline of the planned funding activities, selection procedures, geographic coverage, target audience and an indicative time frame for their implementation.

The maximum rate of co-financing for an action is 80% of eligible costs, any financial support above this ceiling is only granted in duly justified exceptional circumstances.



“In the negotiations conducted by the European Parliament with the Council, the Greens managed to redirect this programme primarily towards the fight against poverty and social inclusion through social experimentation. We also made sure that special attention would be paid to the situation of young people, especially those who are neither in employment nor in education or apprenticeship.” // KARIMA DELLI

ELIGIBILITY:

Funds are allocated to actors inside the EU Member States, EEA countries and EFTA Member States, as well as to certain EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries on the basis of bilateral agreements on their participation in EU programmes.

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES OF FUNDING ARE:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- employment services;
- national statistical offices;
- specialist bodies provided for under EU law;
- social partners;
- NGOs;

- ➔ higher education institutions and research institutes;
- ➔ experts in evaluation and in impact assessment; media

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of PROGRESS:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1082&langId=en>

Information about European Commission calls for tender in the area of employment, social affairs and inclusion:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=624&langId=en>

(2) EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (EURES)

EURES is a European job mobility network, which provides workers and jobseekers in Europe with information on job vacancies and offers guidance on how to take advantage of the freedom of movement for workers. A network of more than 850 EURES advisors are available across Europe, 1.5 million job vacancies are accessible to jobseekers on the EURES Portal and about 150.000 job-seekers per year receive job offers with the help of EURES. Three thematic sections form the core of EURES activities:

- ➔ transparency of job vacancies, applications and any related information for applicants and employers
- ➔ development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment;
- ➔ cross-border partnerships.

Under this scheme, public bodies are funded for their participation in programmes and the realisation of specific projects. It is important for the Greens/EFA group that EURES was not reduced simply to a jobseeker website, but that cross-border partnership, capacity building and the promotion of accessibility to decent work remain core elements.

Budget: 165 million €



“With the new EaSI programme, we have secured EU funding for the EURES cross-border partnerships! There are more and more mobile workers at national borders with access needs to a European labor market. It is a European task to inform them about their rights and to advise properly in the jungle of different social systems, and this must be supported by the EU!”

// ELISABETH SCHROEDTER

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The following activities are funded under the EURES Programme:

- ➔ a multilingual digital platform and its self-service tools for the clearance of job vacancies and applications;
- ➔ the development of targeted mobility schemes, following calls for proposals, to fill job vacancies where labour market shortcomings have been identified, and/or to help workers with a propensity to be mobile, where a clear economic need has been identified;
- ➔ the development and the activities of EURES cross-border partnerships, in particular the provision of information, counselling, placement and recruitment services for cross-border workers;
- ➔ mutual learning among EURES actors and training of EURES Advisers, including EURES cross-border partnership advisers;

- ➔ information and communication activities to raise awareness of the benefits of geographical and occupational mobility in general and of the activities and services provided by EURES.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The activities under EURES are managed directly by the Commission. The Commission adopts work programme for a three-years period that outline the supported actions, the geographic coverage, the targets audience and the indicative implementation time frame of the funding activities. To apply for funding, eligible organisations must respond to a call for tender or/and to a call for proposals. The EU co-financing, following a call for proposals, shall not exceed, as a general rule, 95 % of the total eligible expenditure.

ELIGIBILITY:

All Member States, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland participate in the programme. Potential beneficiaries of funding are:

- ➔ national, regional and local authorities;
- ➔ employment services;
- ➔ social partner organisations and other interested parties.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal:

- ➔ <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR JOB SEEKERS:

- ➔ <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?acro=job&lang=en&catId=52&parentId=0>

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR RECENT GRADUATES:

- ➔ <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/main.jsp?lang=en&acro=job&catId=7576&parentId=52>

(3) YOUR FIRST EURES JOB

Your First EURES Job is a new job mobility scheme that offers young people aged 18-30 and their potential employers information and guidance on traineeship and apprenticeship placements in the EU, as well as jobs in sectors that face a shortage in workforce, such as the ICT sector.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

For young people, the programme offers:

- Job matching and job placement support
- Funding towards the costs of an interview trip and/or of moving abroad to take up a new job
- Training (languages, soft skills)

For Employers, the programme offers:

- Recruitment support
- Small and medium businesses (companies with up to 250 employees) may apply for financial support to cover part of the cost of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in

IMPLEMENTATION:

Your first EURES job is based on support from national employment services. The implementation of the programme is managed by your regional or national employment service that participates in the EURES programmes.

ELIGIBILITY:

All Member states, plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland participate in the programme.

TYPE OF BENEFICIARIES:

- Young jobseekers, who are: aged 18-30, EU nationals, legally living in an EU country
- Employers, who are: a legally established business in an EU country, looking for workers with a specific profile they can't find in their home country, offering minimum 6-month contracts, with pay and conditions compliant with national labour law.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official webpage of Your first EURES Job:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=993&langId=en>

List of contact points:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=10329&langId=en>

(4) MICROFINANCE AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FACILITY (MF/SE)

The MF/SE is a programme that aims at helping people, which have problems to obtain loans on the traditional banking market in order to start their own micro-enterprise, to gain better access to micro-finances. For this purpose, the MF/SE supports the establishment of microcredit institutions with capacity building and promotes the development of a social investment market.

Until 2016, the previous programme "Progress Microfinance" will run alongside the new MF/SE programme. The predecessor enables selected microcredit providers in the EU to increase lending by issuing guarantees and providing funding.

Budget: 193 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

- increase access to, and the availability of, microfinance;
- for vulnerable persons who have lost or are at risk of losing their job, or have difficulty in entering or re-entering the labour market, or are at risk of social exclusion, or are socially excluded, and are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market and who wish to start up or develop their own micro-enterprises;
- micro-enterprises in both start-up and development phase, especially micro-enterprises which employ vulnerable persons;

- build up the institutional capacity of microcredit providers;
- support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises by making equity, quasi-equity, loan instruments and grants of up to EUR 500 000 available to social enterprises with either an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 30 million, or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 30 million which are not themselves a collective investment undertaking.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Under the ME/SE support to microfinance and social enterprises, including for institutional capacity building, in particular through the financial instruments and grants may be provided. The programme does not directly provide microloans to individuals, but enables microcredit providers in the EU to increase access to it.

The Commission establishes three years work programmes, which give an outline of the planned funding activities, selection procedures, geographic coverage, target audience and an indicative time frame for their implementation.

ELIGIBILITY:

Participation under the MF/SE is open to public and private bodies:

- established at national, regional or local level inside the EU Member States, EEA countries and EFTA Member States, as well as to certain EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries on the basis of bilateral agreements on their participation in EU programmes.
- and that provide is these countries microfinance for persons and micro-enterprises; and/or financing for social enterprises.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the MF/SE:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1084&langId=en>

A list of current microcredit providers is available under:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=983&langId=en>

II) FUND FOR EUROPEAN AID TO THE MOST DEPRIVED (FEAD)

At the time of publication of this guide (February 2014), several details of the fund were still in negotiation. Therefore, the information given in this section is of preliminary nature. The FEAD aims to strengthen social cohesion by supporting the fight against poverty and its great social exclusion impact, such as homelessness, child poverty and food deprivation. However, the Fund does replace public policies undertaken by the Member States to fight poverty and social exclusion.

The programme provides food, clothing and other essential goods to homeless people and materially deprived children. Support will be given through contributions to Member State support schemes for most deprived people.

Severe food deprivation in the EU coincides with significant food wastage. The Greens/EFA group contributed actively so that the programme contributes to the reduction and prevention of food wastage. The cost of collection, transport, storage and distribution of food donations and directly related awareness raising activities undertaken by partner organisations is now eligible to support from the FEAD.

Budget: 3.5 billion €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

- ➔ Funding of Member State support schemes covering the period 2014-2020 and providing food to the most deprived persons and clothing and other essential goods (such as shoes, soap and shampoo) to the homeless and to materially-deprived children.
- ➔ Support of Activities related to the collection, transport, storage and distribution of food donations with the aim to augment and diversify the supply of food for the most deprived persons, as well as reducing and preventing food wastage
- ➔ Accompanying measures, such as activities aiming at the social integration of the most deprived
- ➔ Assistance for beneficiaries to make more efficient use of local food supply chains.

It should be noted for non-governmental partner organisations that the following costs and activities incurred and paid by partner organisations are eligible to support by the FEAD:

- ➔ the costs of collection, transport, storage and distribution of food donations and directly related awareness raising activities,
- ➔ the costs of accompanying measures delivering directly or under cooperation agreements the food and/or basic material assistance.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Member States or regional authorities are responsible for implementation of the FEAD. On the basis of operational programmes the money is allocated in project grants to eligible partner organisations.

ELIGIBILITY:

Member States participate voluntarily in the programme. The type of actors that can benefit from FEAD support:

- ➔ Public bodies
- ➔ NGOs and charities
- ➔ Welfare organisation

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Notification by the European Commission:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=pt&-catId=89&newsId=1704&furtherNews=yes>



“We have tried to ensure that the fund for European aid to the most deprived citizens reaches those in greatest need. We have managed to make funding eligible not only for buying food directly, but also for facilities that food banks can use to collect and distribute additional food donations. The fund can also be used for undertaking awareness raising activities to reach potential food donors. This will help to diversify the supply of food for the most deprived while at the same time reducing food waste.” // **MARIJE CORNELISSEN**

III) EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND (EGF)

The EGF is an instrument for one-off support to workers in the EU that have lost their job due to the closing of large enterprises or the removal of a production side as a result of globalisation. Up to 500 million € are provided each year to help in such cases to provide suitable career advice, assistance in the job search and training.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament successfully included in the regulation of the EGF that supported measures should be compatible with a shift towards a resource efficient and sustainable economy. Furthermore, thanks to our initiative, self employed and temporary agency workers will also have access to EGF supported activities. Budget: 500 million € per year

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The EGF finances:

- ➔ job-search assistance
- ➔ careers advice
- ➔ tailor-made training and re-training
- ➔ mentoring
- ➔ promoting entrepreneurship.
- ➔ allowances for participating in life long learning and training activities.

The EGF does not replace social welfare measures, such as pensions or unemployment benefits. These remain in the responsibility of the Member State.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Applications to receive support from the EGF must be submitted to the European Commission by the Member States. However, the initiative for an application may come from stakeholders in the region, i.e. from the affected municipality or region, from the social partners involved, or the workers involved.

ELIGIBILITY:

Individual workers can benefit by their participation in the support schemes set up by national governments and supported by the EGF.

The Member States can delegate the delivery of services financed under the EGF to specialised bodies, such as training institutions.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A list of contact persons per Member State is available under:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=581&langId=en>

The Commission wishes to encourage eligible applications and it is prepared therefore to offer assistance and other guidance before the formal application is submitted. You can contact the European Commission directly at:

- ➔ EMPL-EGF-Info@ec.europa.eu



“Fighting unemployment is a top priority for the Greens. While economic policies of the EU need to change more fundamentally to improve job perspectives, the EGF can provide workers with personalised support to find a new job in case they are the victim of mass redundancies. Our Green focus has been to provide workers who lost their jobs with new opportunities in sectors with future potential, instead of unsustainable sectors that might face new job losses. If rightly used, the EGF should provide workers with skills and support needed for the ecological transformation to be socially fair.”

// **MARIJE CORNELISSEN**

we're
HIRING

G) CULTURE, EDUCATION, YOUTH

I) CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe is the EU's new umbrella programme for its funding activities in the cultural and media sector. It follows on from the MEDIA 2007-2013 and Culture 2007-2013 programmes, which continue to exist as sub-programmes, to which a new cross-sectorial strand was added. The driving motivation behind the more integrated design of the programming is said to be a more effective support for beneficiaries in the cultural and creative sectors, increasing their international dimension and, therefore, their competitiveness. The Commission reinforced de facto in its proposal for the new programme a more market and economic growth oriented approach, which would have advantaged bigger actors. During the negotiations, the European Parliament and as one of the driving forces the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament campaigned successfully for a broader access to the programme strands, the protection of the smaller projects interests, and a more active promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity as a richness of Europe instead of an obstacle in form of a "fragmented market".

Budget: 1.462 million € (56 % MEDIA Sub-programme, 31 % Culture Sub-programme, 13 % Cross-sectoral Strand)

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

As a general principle, the funding activities of the Creative Europe programme aim to create a European Added Value.

This is understood as fulfilling one, or more, of the following criteria:

- transnational character
- promotion of transnational cooperation
- the economies of scale and critical mass which Union support fosters, creating a leverage effect for additional funds;
- ensuring a more level playing field in the European cultural and creative sectors

The support measures are further defined separately for each sub-programme.



"We are facing difficult times and big challenges and the European Union is tackling them from different angles, with different strategies. The new Creative Europe Programme is part of this strategy. We need a diverse culture with a strong social integration competence, strengthening cultural operators and the civil society in order to shape the future of the European Union." // HELGA TRÜPEL

MEDIA PROGRAMME

The MEDIA sub-programme provides support for:

- the development of a comprehensive range of training measures
- the development (writing phase) of European audiovisual works, in particular films and television works, as well as interactive works such as video games and multimedia with enhanced cross-border circulation potential;
- activities aiming to support European audiovisual production companies through distribution support;
- activities helping European and international co-production partners to come together and/or providing indirect support for audiovisual works co-produced by international coproduction funds
- facilitating access to professional audiovisual trade events and markets and the use of online business tools inside and

outside the Union;

- establishing systems of support for the distribution of non-national European films as well as for international sales activities;
- facilitating the circulation of European films worldwide and of international films in the Union on all distribution platforms
- a European cinema operators' network screening a significant proportion of non-national European films;
- initiatives presenting and promoting a diversity of European audiovisual works;
- activities aimed at promoting film literacy and at increasing audiences' knowledge of, and interest in, European audiovisual works;
- innovative actions testing new business models and tools in areas likely to be influenced by the introduction and use of digital technologies.

CULTURE PROGRAMME

The Culture sub-programme provides support for:

- transnational cooperation projects bringing together cultural and creative organisations from different countries to undertake sectoral or cross-sectoral activities;
- activities by European networks of cultural and creative organisations from different countries;
- activities by organisations ("platforms") with a European vocation fostering the development of emerging talent and stimulating the transnational mobility of cultural and creative players and circulation of works, with the potential to exert a broad influence on the cultural and creative sectors and to provide for lasting effects;
- literary translation and its further promotion;
- special actions designed to make the richness and diversity of European cultures more visible and to stimulate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, including Union cultural prizes, the European Capitals of Culture action and the European Heritage Label action. These measures are supposed to support in particular non-profit projects.



What's On? DanceEast.co.uk
Great Dance, Great Shows Great Times!

G) CULTURE.EDUCATION.YOUTH

CROSS-SECTORIAL STRAND

This strand of Creative Europe consists of two elements: the Guarantee Facility and Funding of Transnational policy cooperation.

The purpose of the Guarantee Facility for the cultural and creative sector is:

- ➔ to facilitate access to finance for SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations in the cultural and creative sectors;
- ➔ to improve the capacity of participating financial intermediaries to assess the risks associated with SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations in the cultural and creative sectors and with their projects, including through technical assistance, knowledge-building and networking measures.

The transnational policy cooperation aim at supporting:

- ➔ transnational exchange of experiences and know-how in relation to new business and management models, peer-learning activities and networking among cultural and creative organisations and policy-makers related to the development of the cultural and creative sectors, promoting digital networking where appropriate;
- ➔ the collection of market data, studies, analysis of labour market and skills needs, European and national cultural policies analysis and support for statistical surveys based on instruments and criteria specific to each sector and evaluations, including measurement of all aspects of the impact of the Programme;
- ➔ payment of the contribution fee for Union membership of the Observatory to foster data collection and analysis in the audio-visual sector;
- ➔ testing of new and cross-sectoral business approaches to funding, distributing and monetising creation;
- ➔ conferences, seminars and policy dialogue, including in the field of cultural and media literacy, promoting digital networking where appropriate;
- ➔ the Creative Europe Desks referred to in Article 16 and the performance of their tasks.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Programme is managed directly by the European Commission. It is publishing an annual work plan, in which the funding activities for the year are outlined for all three strands of the programme. It specifies the amount to be allocated, the measures to be financed and the indicative implementation timetable.

ELIGIBILITY:

In general, the following types of actors are eligible for funding:

- ➔ NGOs
- ➔ Cultural Organisations
- ➔ Enterprises
- ➔ Associations

Individuals are not eligible for direct funding by Creative Europe. For the Guarantee Facility (which will start only in 2016), the eligibility and selection criteria for financial intermediaries as well as the eligibility for the capacity-building providers is outlined in the annual work programme. Further specifications on the eligibility of actors are given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official webpage of Creative Europe:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/index_en.htm

A list of all Creative Europe Desks in the EU Member States:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/creative-europe-desks_en.htm

All Calls for Proposals under Creative Europe are available under:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/calls/index_en.htm

II) ERASMUS+ (EDUCATION, TRAINING, YOUTH, SPORT)

Erasmus+ is the Commission's main funding tool in the field of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. It is the successor of 7 existing EU programmes and its integrated nature is supposed to facilitate the participation for organisations and individuals. Erasmus+ encompasses a wide range of actions in the fields of:

- ➔ education and training in a lifelong learning perspective, including school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), international higher education (Erasmus Mundus), vocational education and training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult learning (Grundtvig);
- ➔ youth (Youth in Action), particularly in the context of non-formal and informal learning; and
- ➔ sport.

A new instrument in the field of education and training is the Student Loan guarantee facility. This instrument aims at facilitating, for students at master level, the participation in a masters programme in another programme country by making a loan available that covers parts of the costs.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament was actively involved in the debate around the establishment of this tool in order to improve mobility in the EU while guaranteeing students a manageable re-imbursement of the debt contracted.

Budget: 14,7 billion € (77,5 % education and training, 10 % youth, 3,5 % Student Loan Guarantee Facility, 1,9 % Jean Monnet, 1,8 % sport, rest for administration and operation)

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

In the field of education and training, the programme shall pursue its objectives through the following types of actions:

- ➔ the mobility of students in all cycles of higher education and of students, apprentices and pupils in vocational education and training; the mobility of staff, within the Programme countries
- ➔ strategic partnerships between organisations and/or

institutions involved in education and training; partnerships between the world of work and education and training institutions

- ➔ the implementation of the Union policy agenda on education and training; the implementation in Programme countries of Union transparency and recognition tools; the policy dialogue with relevant European stakeholders
- ➔ promote teaching and research on European integration (Jean Monnet activities)
- ➔ The Youth strand promotes the following activities:
 - ➔ mobility of young people in non-formal and informal learning activities between the Programme countries and of persons active in youth work or youth organisations and youth leaders
 - ➔ strategic partnerships aimed at developing and implementing joint initiatives, including youth initiatives and citizenship projects
 - ➔ IT support platforms allowing peer learning, knowledge-based youth work, virtual mobility and exchanges of good practice
 - ➔ implementation of the Union policy agenda on youth through the open method of coordination, implementation of Union transparency and recognition tools
 - ➔ support for Union-wide networks and European youth NGOs;
 - ➔ policy dialogue with relevant European stakeholders and structured dialogue with young people;
 - ➔ the European Youth Forum, resource centres for the development of youth work and the Eurodesk network.
 - ➔ Activities in the field of Sport, will encompass:
 - ➔ promotion of voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity
 - ➔ promotion and support of good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;

The Student Loan Guarantee Facility provides partial risk guarantees for financial intermediary bodies in order to ensure the availability of student loans to the most favourable terms possible.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The European Commission manages all programmes under Erasmus+, sets their priorities and targets and evaluates their success. The centralised actions under Erasmus+ are implemented by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. This agency is responsible for the publication of the calls for proposals and the analysis of grant requests.

Due to the specific competency of Member States for education, however, most of the programmes under Erasmus+ are implemented by national agencies, which are closer to the beneficiaries and can better adapt to the national context. Each of the participating countries has appointed one agency, which is acting as the link between the Commission and participating organisations in the programmes.

The Student Loan Guarantee Facility will be managed by the European Investment Fund and implemented by financial intermediaries, such as banks, national and/or regional student lending institutions or other recognised financial institutions. The aim is to select a financial intermediary from each programme country.

Further information on the functioning of this facility can be found in Annex II of the Erasmus+ Regulation.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Erasmus+ Programme is open to all EU Member States and partner countries specified under Article 24 of the Erasmus+ Regulation.

There are two types of actor that can benefit from the Erasmus+ programmes:

Any private or public body active in the field of education, training, youth and sport (including groups of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of youth organisations, also referred to as informal groups of young people)

- ➔ participants, i.e. individuals participating in the programme. These could be students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, volunteers, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, etc. (Job seekers are excluded from this programme, and covered by the ESF) For both participants and participating organisations, the conditions for participation depend on the country in which they are based.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

European Commission - Directorate General Education & Culture (DG EAC)

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus>

European Commission - Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

- ➔ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php

A list of all National Agencies

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/na>

III) EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

The programme Europe for Citizens pursues two central objectives: (1) European remembrance through the stimulation of debates, reflection and networking on the Union's history, identity and goals; and (2) Democratic engagement and civic participation through the promotion of a better understanding of EU policy-making and the further development of opportunities for participation at Union level. Next to these central objectives, the programme supports horizontal activities for the analysis, dissemination and use of project results.

The Greens/EFA group campaigned actively for an extension of the Europe for Citizens programme. We consider it to play an important role for a more democratic and participative Union. It is a missed opportunity that the budget and the scope of actions of the programme are cut back in the current period. We consider the available budget as being too little with regards to the huge potentials of this type of support by the Commission.

Budget: 186 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Action grants provide funding for actions with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented. All actions funded under this programme shall have a European dimension and shall be implemented on a transnational basis or have a European dimension.

The European remembrance strand supports activities that promote the reflection on European cultural diversity and on common values. It finances projects reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history (especially, but not exclusively, Nazism that led to the Holocaust, Fascism, Stalinism and totalitarian communist regimes) and to commemorate the victims of their crimes. Furthermore, other defining moments and reference points in recent European history can lie in the focus of projects. Preference will be given to concepts that promote tolerance, intercultural dialogues and reconciliation on the basis of mutual understanding. The democratic engagement and civic participation strand funds the following type of actions:

Town twinning projects that bring together citizens

- Networks of towns that cooperate on longer term on a common topic
- Civil society projects that gather citizens for activities with a direct link to EU policies and offer the possibility for participation in the EU policy-making process

2. Operating grants provide financial support for regular and usual activities of an organisation.

- Under the heading of European remembrance, organisations reflecting on causes of totalitarian regimes in Europe's modern history as well as on other defining moments and reference points in recent European history are eligible for operation grants.
- Under the heading democratic engagement and civic participation, organisations working on citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU, ranging from local democracy to the empowerment of citizens to play a full part in EU policy are eligible for operating grants.



“The programme is extremely valuable as it allows for the citizens to engage across borders and to play an active role in the construction of an integrated Europe. It fosters tolerance and intercultural dialogue and a truly European citizenship.” // HELGA TRÜPEL



IMPLEMENTATION:

The programme and the majority of action are centrally managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the Commission. The funds of the Europe for Citizens programme are allocated through grant and public procurement contracts.

The Commission publishes annual work programmes, which give further information on the objectives, the method of implementation, the amount of the financing plan, the co-financing rate, a description of actions supported and an indicative implementation timetable.

ELIGIBILITY:

Programme funding is open to all actors promoting European citizenship and integration, especially:

- ➔ local and regional authorities
- ➔ civil-society organisations in the fields of culture, youth and education
- ➔ research institutions

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the programme:

- ➔ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

Europe for Citizens Point in each Member State:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/the-europe-for-citizens-programme-in-the-member-states/index_en.htm

IV) ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

The EU starts in the period 2014-2020 a new funding instrument for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, called COSME. One of its sections, the support for entrepreneurs, includes an initiative offering help to young entrepreneurs by financing the opportunity to learn from an experience host entrepreneur running a small business in the context of an Erasmus stay abroad. The programme is designed for mutual benefit, allowing both sides to profit from the exchange: the young entrepreneur has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge needed to run a small firm and the host entrepreneur gains new perspectives, potential foreign partners and knowledge of new markets for his/her business.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

Activities of the young entrepreneur can be for example:

- ➔ shadowing a senior host entrepreneur; market research and developing new business opportunities;
- ➔ project development,
- ➔ taking a fresh look at existing business operations;
- ➔ understanding SME finance;
- ➔ branding, sales and marketing of the HE's company;
- ➔ work on concrete projects from one or more of the above mentioned areas.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The programme is facilitated by intermediary organisations, which are in charge of establishing the contact between the young entrepreneurs and host entrepreneurs. The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Support Office supervises their work and ensures consistency on the European level. Applications for the participation in the programme should ideally be sent to the intermediary organisation in your region or country of origin.

ELIGIBILITY:

All new Entrepreneurs, who are planning to start their own business and are in possession of a viable business plan, can participate in the programme. This means you could be still in the phase of planning, or you might have already started your own business and are not longer in operation than three years. Furthermore, the participants must demonstrate a sound educational and vocational background. The programme is open to all sectors. The host entrepreneurs must be successful and experienced entrepreneurs or persons directly involved at SME board level in the entrepreneurship. The host entrepreneurs must show a commitment to the development of the new entrepreneur's knowledge and skills.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official programme website:

- ➔ <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/index.php#.Ut6CH-KVZAy4>

Your local contact point is available under:

- ➔ <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=5#.Ut5-D6VZAy4>

Success stories:

- ➔ <http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=9#.Ut6CQqVZAy4>



D) CIVIL RIGHTS, JUSTICE, SECURITY

I) RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

The new Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme integrates the previous EU programmes Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Daphne III, and the sections “Antidiscrimination and Diversity” and “Gender Equality” of the PROGRESS programme. It is designed to promote the rights of European citizens, the principles of equality between men and women and the protection against any form of discrimination. The programme’s main objective is enhancing the awareness of EU law and of the rights, values and principles underpinning the Union.

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament involved actively to ensure a prominent role of measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, children, and young people, and gender based violence, as well as to protect victims of such violence.

Budget: 439 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The programme will finance the following activities:

- ➔ analytical activities: the collection of data and statistics, studies, researches, analyses and surveys, evaluations, the elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material, workshops, seminars, experts’ meetings and conferences;
- ➔ training activities, such as staff exchanges, workshops, seminars, train-the-trainer events and the development of online training tools or other training modules;
- ➔ mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities, such as the identification of, and exchanges concerning good practices, innovative approaches and experiences; the organisation of peer reviews and mutual learning; the organisation of conferences, seminars, media campaigns, information campaigns;
- ➔ support for main actors whose activities contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme, such as support for NGOs in the implementation of actions with European added value, support for key European actors,

European-level networks and harmonised services of social value; support for Member States in the implementation of Union law and policies; and support for networking activities at European level among specialised bodies and entities as well as national, regional and local authorities and NGOs.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Programme is managed directly by the European Commission. The Commission publishes annual work plans, in which the funding activities, the amount to be allocated, the measures to be financed and the indicative implementation timetable are outlined in further detail. The allocation of funds is organised by the Commission by a call for application for action grants or operating grants.

ELIGIBILITY:

The programme is open to all EU member states and further partner countries, further specified under Article 6 of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme Regulation.

Types of actors that can benefit from the programmes:

- ➔ Public bodies
- ➔ NGOs and civil society
- ➔ Bodies and entities, which are profit-oriented, only have access to the Programme in conjunction with non-profit or public organisations.
- ➔ Further specification on the eligibility of actors is given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Directorate General Justice:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm#newsroom-tab

Information on open call for tenders:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/contracts/index_en.htm

Information on open call for proposals:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/index_en.htm



“It’s important to help develop and implement EU values and legislation at the grassroots level. As well as continuing important work on domestic violence and helping to embed equality, it now includes the promotion of children’s rights and data protection awareness. Don’t leave this money unspent”

// JEAN LAMBERT



II) JUSTICE PROGRAMME

The main objective of the Justice Programme is providing support to the creation of a truly European area of Justice, based on mutual trust. The programme promotes more specifically judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters; supports training to judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals, and finances EU action to tackle drugs. Thus, the programme contributes to the effective and consistent application of EU legislation as regards civil law and criminal law that covers for instance procedural rights and victims' rights. The Justice Programme integrates three existing programmes of the current funding period: Civil Justice, Criminal Justice and Drug Prevention and Information Programmes. The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament was able to ensure during the negotiations that fundamental rights play an important role in the implementation of the programme.

Budget: 377 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

- analytical activities, such as the collection of data and statistics; studies, researches, analyses and surveys; evaluations; the elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material; workshops, seminars, experts meetings and conferences;
- training activities, such as staff exchanges, workshops, seminars, train-the-trainer events, including language training on legal terminology, and the development of online training tools or other training modules for members of the judiciary and judicial staff;
- mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities, such as the identification of, and exchanges concerning, good practices, innovative approaches and experiences; the organisation of peer reviews and mutual learning; the organisation of conferences, seminars, information campaigns; the compilation and publication of materials to disseminate information about the Programme and its results; the development, operation and maintenance of systems and tools, using information and communication technologies;

- support for main actors whose activities contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme, such as support for Member States in the implementation of Union law and policies, support for key European actors and European-level networks; and support for networking activities at European level among specialised bodies and entities as well as national, regional and local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Programme is managed directly by the European Commission. The Commission publishes annual work plans, in which the funding activities, the amount to be allocated, the measures to be financed and the indicative implementation timetable are outlined in further detail. The allocation of funds is organised by the Commission by call for proposal, which are published on an annual basis.

ELIGIBILITY:

The programme is open to all EU member states and further partner countries, further specified under Article 7 of the Justice Programme Regulation.

Types of actors that can benefit from the programmes:

- National, regional and local authorities
- Public bodies
- NGOs
- Bodies and entities, which are profit-oriented, only have access to the Programme in conjunction with non-profit or public organisations.

Further specification on the eligibility of actors is given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Directorate General Justice:

- http://ec.europa.eu/justice/index_en.htm#newsroom-tab

Information on open call for tenders:

- http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/contracts/index_en.htm

Information on open call for proposals:

- http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/grants/index_en.htm

III) ASYLUM AND MIGRATION FUND

At the moment of publication of this guide, several details of the fund were still in negotiation. Therefore, the information given in this section is preliminary in nature.

The Asylum and Migration Fund is a new programme, which integrates activities that are currently covered by separate funds, namely the European Refugee Fund, the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals and the European Return Fund. The new design is supposed to better align EU spending in the field of migration and simplify the implementation of funds.

The fund addresses different field of EU migration policy, it covers the support of actions in relation to asylum, legal migration and the integration of third-country nationals, as well as return operations.

Besides a critical view on certain measures under the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament achieved certain success in the negotiations: We were able to include a commitment to resettlement and relocation measures in the programme. This demonstrates solidarity and helps refugees, whose lives and liberties are at risk. We achieved that NGOs are eligible to funding from the Asylum and Migration Fund. Another important element in the new programme is a stronger definition of indicators for the implementation and evaluation of the Programme. This will help to ensure that Member States follow closer the EU guidelines for funding.

Budget: 3 869 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

National programmes:

- ➔ Reception and asylum systems
- ➔ Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies
- ➔ Resettlement and relocation
- ➔ Immigration and pre-departure measures
- ➔ Integration measures at local and regional level
- ➔ Measures accompanying return procedures
- ➔ Return measures
- ➔ Practical co-operation and capacity building measures
- ➔ Emergency assistance to address urgent and specific needs.

Support of the European Migration Network in order to:

- ➔ collect and exchange up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable data and information
- ➔ undertake analysis of the data and information
- ➔ produce and publish periodic reports on the migration and asylum situation
- ➔ serve as a reference to the wider public for objective, impartial information on migration and asylum

IMPLEMENTATION:

Where possible, the fund is implemented by national programmes of the EU Member States. Member States or regional authorities are in this case responsible for allocation of grants to eligible beneficiaries. We want to encourage NGOs to involve actively in the elaboration of these programmes and push Member States to devote higher importance to the support and integration refugees. Specific transnational or particularly innovative projects, as well as support to non-state actors and the promotion of events and studies are managed directly by the Commission.

Another share of the budget is implemented through the European Migration Network.

ELIGIBILITY:

The programme is open to all EU Member States and further partner countries, further specified under Article 7 of the Justice Programme Regulation.

Types of actors that can benefit from the programmes:

- ➔ National, regional and local authorities
- ➔ Public bodies
- ➔ NGOs
- ➔ Bodies and entities, which are profit-oriented, only have access to the Programme in conjunction with non-profit or public organisations.

Further specification on the eligibility of actors is given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Home Affairs programmes:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/funding-home-affairs-beyond-2013/index_en.htm

Information on all DG HOME Calls for Proposals currently open:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/calls-for-proposals/index_en.htm#/_

E) LIFE - PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

The LIFE programme's general objective is the conservation of nature and the contribution to sustainable development. The new programme for the period 2014-2020 is sub-divided into two strands: Environment and Climate Action. The Environment strand includes three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, and governance and information. The sub-programme Climate Action consists as of three priorities: adaption, mitigation, and governance and information.

The Greens/EFA group was actively involved in the negotiations on the programme. It is a Green success that the selection of project funding will be based on merits, and not on a prefixed national allocation. This allows a more effective use of EU money for projects with the most relevant effects on environmental protection and climate adaptation/mitigation. Additionally, projects in the field of biodiversity will receive higher co-financing from the Commission, thus making it easier to realise biodiversity projects, for which it was difficult to receive additional funding. Furthermore, integrated projects will promote a closer cooperation between authorities and reinforce integrated action.

Budget: 3.4 billion € (Environment: 2.6 billion €, Climate action: 0.8 billion €)

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The Environment strand supports projects in the fields of:

- nature and biodiversity
- water and marine environment
- waste
- resource efficiency, including soil and forests, as well as green and circular economy
- environment and health, including chemicals and noise
- air quality and emissions, including the urban environment information and governance

The Climate Action strand supports projects in the fields of:

- implementation and development of Union policies and legislation and mainstreaming of activities across policy areas
- improvement and application of knowledge base in practice
- development and implementation of integrated strategies and action plans
- development and demonstration of innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Environment strand budget will be allocated in a first phase (2014-2017) to projects with respect to a national allocation and in a second phase (2018-2020) projects will be supported on a merit basis. Projects covered by the Climate Action strand are selected throughout the whole period on a merit basis.

At least 81% of the LIFE programme's budget will be implemented through project grants. The rest will be allocated in the form of operating grants for the support of non-profit organisations and public procurements for studies and other services.

Further information on the allocation of funds between priority areas and between different types of funding within each sub-programme are published by the Commission in a multi annual work programme.

ELIGIBILITY:

All Member States participate in the LIFE programme. Furthermore, the support of activities outside the Union is possible under certain conditions:

- the action outside the EU is necessary to achieve EU environmental/climate objective,
- it ensures the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member States and the coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU.

Funding under the LIFE programme is open to public and private bodies.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the LIFE programme:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

LIFE activities in your Member State:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/countries/index.htm>



“LIFE is a very successful European programme and an important part of our common effort to preserve and ensure a healthy environment for generations to come. With climate change threatening our homes and livelihoods the new LIFE-programme aims at helping communities to engage in adaptation projects to prevent the worst impacts from heavy rainfall and stormier weather that we are already experiencing due to this generation's lack of commitment to combat climate change.” // MARGRETE AUKEN



“Scientific evidence is overwhelming that insufficient action on the environment and biodiversity will result in massive losses for Europe’s and the world’s economy (e.g. 7% of world GDP if biodiversity loss is not reversed). Despite its small budget the LIFE instrument has proven to be a very effective financial mechanism of the EU supporting the implementation of the EU’s Birds and Habitats Directives, including Natura 2000. It is of uttermost importance that local authorities and NGOs get access to those funds.” // **SANDRINE BÉLIÈRE**

F) CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF) – ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND BROADBAND NETWORKS

The CEF is the new umbrella programme for EU investments in energy, transport and broadband infrastructure projects of common European interest. The programme integrates the three sectors in order to better exploit synergies between funded projects.

Budget: 50 billion Euros (31.7 billion Euro transport infrastructure, 9.1 billion Euros energy grids, 9.2 billion Euro broadband networks)

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

Investments in transport infrastructure:

- ➔ removing bottlenecks and bridging missing links
- ➔ ensuring sustainable and efficient transport
- ➔ optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing the interoperability of transport services

Investments in energy:

- ➔ increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market
- ➔ interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders
- ➔ enhancing Union security of energy supply
- ➔ integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and developing carbon dioxide networks
- ➔ investment in broadband networks
- ➔ deployment of fast and ultrafast broadband networks
- ➔ establishment of cross-border access to an interoperable, digital public service infrastructure

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Commission adopts multiannual and annual work programmes for each of the transport, telecommunications and energy sector, which specify what forms of financial assistance are used for the allocation of the budget. The money is allocated through grants, procurements and financial instruments.

ELIGIBILITY:

Proposals shall be submitted by one or more Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, by international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Information on the CEF in the field of Energy:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/mff/facility/connecting_eu-rope_en.htm

Information on the CEF in the field of Transport:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/connecting_en.htm

Information on the CEF in the field of Broadband

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/connecting-eu-rope-facility>



“The Connecting Europe Facility is together with the structural funds a possibility to speed up the investments into wind and solar energy in Europe and to link these green energies over the borders of individual Member States.” // **CLAUDE TURMES**



“The concept of Connecting Europe Facility is right: Europe has to grow together, in particular on the environmentally-resilient railways. However, the priority of transport policy focusses on the construction of projects of megalomaniac dimension that absorb huge amounts of money and time but prevent Europe from really growing together. The European railway network is highly fragmented, its gaps lie exactly where the national borders lie. To close these missing cross-border railway links that have been destroyed by the war and by post-war policies as well as focussing on noise-reduction measures in the railway sector is highest priority.” // **MICHAEL CRAMER**



G) EMERGENCY AID INSTRUMENTS

I) UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism is a EU instrument to promote more effective systems for preventing and responding to natural and man-made disasters. It supports the coordination between Member States and with the EU in order to achieve a high level of protection against disasters, to enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters and to facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disaster. For local authorities, this instrument is interesting in relation to measures for preparedness and prevention of disaster.

Budget: 368 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The Union Mechanism supports activities in the following fields:

- ➔ Prevention actions
- ➔ Risk management
- ➔ Preparedness actions of the Commission and in the Member States
- ➔ Establishment of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre to ensure 24/7 operational capacity, and serve the Member States and the Commission
- ➔ European Emergency Response Capacity as a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities of the Member States
- ➔ Planning of operations
- ➔ Addressing response capacity gaps
- ➔ Training, exercises, lessons learnt and knowledge dissemination
- ➔ Notification of disasters within the Union
- ➔ Promoting consistency in the response to disasters outside the Union
- ➔ Support on site
- ➔ Transport and equipment

IMPLEMENTATION:

Except for actions falling under the emergency response, the Commission adopts annual work programmes that set out the objectives pursued, the method of implementation, a description of actions and indicative financial allocation and an indicative implementation timetable. Financial assistance may take various forms, in particular grants, reimbursement of expenses, public procurement, or contributions to trust funds.

ELIGIBILITY:

Funding is open to all EU Member States and further partner countries, further specified under Article 28 of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Regulation.

Potential beneficiaries:

- ➔ public administrative bodies
- ➔ universities
- ➔ international organizations
- ➔ enterprises

Further specification on the eligibility of actors is given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the programme:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding/financial_instrument_en.htm

II) EUROPEAN UNION SOLIDARITY FUND (EUSF)

At the moment of publication of this guide, a revision of the Solidarity Fund is still under negotiation. The information given in this section is, therefore, preliminary in nature. The Solidarity Fund is a EU wide solidarity mechanism in order to provide support to Member States and regions within Europe that have been stricken by major natural disasters. Since its creation in 2002, the EUSF has reacted to over 50 disasters including floods, forest fires, earthquakes and storms with more than 3.5 billion € of financial support.

The Greens/EFA group supports the creation and mobilisation of the fund to help regions and Member States suffering from the consequences of a natural disaster. We point to the need for further prevention to avoid, where possible, the re-occurrence and the scope of damage caused by a disaster.

Budget: annual total of 500 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The EUSF provides financial support to the concerned Member States' public investment for disaster relief:

- ➔ Immediate restoration to working order of infrastructure and plant in the fields of energy, drinking water, waste water, transport, telecommunications, health and education
- ➔ Providing temporary accommodation and emergency services to meet the immediate needs of the population;
- ➔ Immediate securing of prevention infrastructures and measures to protect the cultural heritage;
- ➔ Cleaning up of disaster-stricken areas, including natural zones.

IMPLEMENTATION:

In order to receive support from the Solidarity Fund, the Member State concerned has to send an application to the Commission within 10 weeks of the date of the first damage caused by the disaster. A direct contact to the Directorate General for Regional Policy is recommended to facilitate the process.

In case the application is accepted and the European Parliament and the Council have approved the budget for financial support, the aid is paid immediately and in a single instalment to the Member State. Subsequently, the affected State is responsible for the implementation including the selection of operations and their audit and control. Emergency measures may be financed retroactively from day one of the disaster.

A new rapid advance payments mechanism shall enable the Solidarity Fund to react quickly to an urgent request of an affected Member State. The mechanism is limited to 10% of the expected amount of the financial aid and capped at EUR 30 million.

ELIGIBILITY:

All Member States as well as accession countries are eligible for EUSF funding in the event of a major natural disaster, and under certain circumstances a regional disaster.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the Solidarity Fund:

➡ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/solidarity/index_en.cfm#1



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H) HORIZON 2020 – FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020 is the new framework for the EU's investments in research and innovation for every stage of the innovation process from basic research to market uptake. Its main priorities are generating excellent science, creating leadership in industrial technologies, and tackling societal challenges. The newly designed programme is the successor of the previous 7th Research Framework Programme, and integrates the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme and parts of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). Additionally, the activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology are integrated into the strategic framework of HORIZON 2020. In the negotiations on the design of the new programme, the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament was able to contribute proactively and achieve modifications in a broad spectrum of fields. We successfully promoted multi-disciplinary approaches, the integration of social sciences across the whole programme and, in particular, the closer participation of citizens, end-users, civil society and public sector organisations. We have fought for more funding opportunities for SMEs. We ensured that scientific publications resulting from HORIZON 2020 funding will be publicly accessible, and that access to data will be promoted. We reinforced the need to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons, and in particular their rights to privacy. In the field of energy, we have ensured that 85% of the investment will be allocated to renewable energies, end-use energy efficiency, smart grids and storage technologies and we underpinned several parts of the programme with the objectives of sustainability, resource and energy efficiency.

Budget: 74.3 billion Euro

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

The HORIZON 2020 Framework Programme addresses, with its funding activities, a large variety of thematic fields, which can be structured according to the programmes' key objectives:

EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- ➔ European Research Council
- ➔ Future and Emerging Technologies

- ➔ Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- ➔ European Research Infrastructures, including e-Infrastructures

INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP

- ➔ Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies
- ➔ Information and Communication Technologies
- ➔ Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology
- ➔ Space
- ➔ Access to risk finance
- ➔ Innovation in SMEs

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

- ➔ Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
- ➔ Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bio-economy
- ➔ Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- ➔ Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
- ➔ Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
- ➔ Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- ➔ Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

SPREADING EXCELLENCE AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION

- ➔ Funding which addresses the EU's internal disparities in terms of research & innovation performance. Measures in this section are targeted at the Member States most in need of Cohesion Policy.

SCIENCE WITH AND FOR SOCIETY

- ➔ build effective cooperation between science and society, including and civil society citizen's participation
- ➔ recruit new talent for science

- ➔ pair scientific excellence with social awareness, sustainability and responsibility

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) organises Knowledge and Innovation Communities in the following field:

- ➔ Innovation for healthy living and active ageing
- ➔ Raw materials – sustainable exploration, extraction, processing and recycling
- ➔ Added-value manufacturing
- ➔ Food4Future – sustainable supply chain from resources to consumers
- ➔ Urban mobility



“We have been successful in Greening the objectives of Horizon 2020, widen stakeholder's participation and strengthen its synergies with other EU, national and regional funds. The programme is open to support the development of eco-innovative solutions for a large range of societal concerns, both at international and at local level. Now we need good projects to make it greener in the facts.

I therefore encourage all types of organisations (civil society, SMEs, local and regional authorities) with eco-innovative ideas to actively seek funding and partners under the Programme.” // PHILIPPE LAMBERTS

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Commission adopts work programmes for the implementation of the different sections of the Framework Programme, which outline in further detail the funding objectives and supported types of actions, and give an indicative implementation timetable. The funds are mostly allocated through project grants for duration of usually 3 years. However for larger investments and market-oriented activities, access to loans and equity are made available under an EIB/EIF facility.

ELIGIBILITY:

All EU Member States.

- ➔ Public sector bodies
(including local and regional administrations)
- ➔ Public and private institutions
- ➔ Universities and research Institutes or research organisations
- ➔ Enterprises and SMEs, including social enterprises
- ➔ NGOs, civil society organisations, stakeholders/end-users organisations in all sectors
- ➔ Independent researchers, including starting researchers, from any country in the world

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Official website of the HORIZON 2020 Programme:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Participant Portal for HORIZION 2020 Funding:

- ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Funding for SMEs:

- ➔ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/sme_participation.html



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1) EU HEALTH PROGRAMME

At the moment of publication of this guide, several details of the Health Programme were still in negotiation. Therefore, the information given in this section is preliminary in nature. The main purpose of the Health Programme is to support and complement the Member States' national health policies in order to improve the health of EU citizens and reduce inequalities.

The central objectives of the programme are to:

- ➔ promote health, prevent disease and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles
- ➔ facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens
- ➔ encourage innovation and sustainability in health systems
- ➔ protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats

The Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament ensured with its initiatives that the programme includes a strong reference to preventive measures and reference to environmental factors as a risk factor and source of chronic diseases.

Budget: 450 million €

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES:

- ➔ Protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats
- ➔ Legislation in the fields of communicable diseases and other health threats (Health Security Initiative)
- ➔ Improve risk assessment by providing additional capacities for scientific expertise and map existing assessments
- ➔ Support capacity building, cooperation with neighbouring countries, preparedness planning, non-binding approaches on vaccination, joint procurement
- ➔ Promote health, prevent disease and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles
- ➔ Cost-effective promotion and prevention measures for addressing tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits, physical inactivity

- ➔ Chronic diseases including cancer; good practices for prevention, early detection and management, including self-management
- ➔ HIV/AIDS, TB and hepatitis; up-take of good practices for cost-effective prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care
- ➔ Legislation on tobacco products advertisement and marketing
- ➔ Health information and knowledge system
- ➔ Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens
- ➔ Rare diseases
- ➔ Patient safety and quality of healthcare including the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections
- ➔ Antimicrobial resistance
- ➔ Legislation in the field of tissues and cells, blood, organs, medical devices, medicinal products, and patients' rights in cross-border healthcare
- ➔ Health information and knowledge system
- ➔ Encourage innovation and sustainability in health systems
- ➔ Health Technology Assessment
- ➔ Up-take of health innovation and e-health solutions
- ➔ Health workforce forecasting and planning (number, scope of practice, skills), mobility/migration of health professionals
- ➔ Mechanism for pooled expertise and good practices assisting Member States in their health systems reforms
- ➔ Health in an ageing society, including European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- ➔ Legislation in the field of medical devices, medicinal products and cross-border healthcare
- ➔ Health information and knowledge system including Scientific Committees

IMPLEMENTATION:

The Health Programme is implemented through project grants, operating grants direct grants to International Organisations and public procurement (tenders, framework contracts).

ELIGIBILITY:

All EU Member States participate in the programme.

Types of actors that can benefit from the programmes:

- ➔ Public authorities
- ➔ Public bodies (research and health institutions, universities and higher education)
- ➔ NGOs

International organisations:

Further specification on the eligibility of actors is given in the respective call for proposals and tenders.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- ➔ Official website of the Health Programme:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm

Information for current calls:

- ➔ http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/funding_schemes/index_en.htm

5) FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACT POINTS

A) CONTACT POINTS:

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of local and regional representatives. It offers on its webpage further information on EU activities in the regions and contact information to your regional representatives.

➔ <http://cor.europa.eu/en/Pages/home.aspx>

Local Councillors Network of the European Green Party

➔ <http://europeangreens.eu/local-councillors-network>

The Covenant of Mayors is a Europe-wide association of local and regional authorities voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories:

➔ http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html

The European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities is a platform for the development and exchange of innovative solutions to the major environmental, societal and health challenges facing European cities today.

➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/eip/smartcities/>

PREPARE – Partnership for Rural Europe is an organisation active as a European network for rural actors. They offer amongst others a publication on territorial development initiative: ("Community Spirit Wins- How civil society sustains rural Europe)

➔ <http://www.preparenetwork.org/about-prepare>

EURES – The European Job Mobility Portal:

➔ <https://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en>

The European Youth Portal offers all information on offers and opportunities for young people across Europe:

➔ http://europa.eu/youth/splash_en

Eurodesk is the main provider of information on European policies and opportunities for young people and those who work with them:

➔ <http://www.eurodesk.org/edesk/>

Europe Direct is a central information service, which can be address with all kinds of questions related to EU law, citizen rights and as well project grants:

➔ http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm

A list of managing authorities for the Structural Funds in every region:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm?pay=108&list=no

B) INFORMATION ON EU CALLS FOR PROPOSALS AND TENDERS:

The most important websites for EU calls for proposals is the Tenders Electronic Daily. It presents information about every EU procurement document, it is updated on a daily basis with public procurement notices from the European Union and it allows you to search for procurement by sector, country and region.

➔ <http://ted.europa.eu/TED/misc/chooseLanguage.do>

Furthermore, the official websites of the Programmes or the responsible Directorate General's website publish information on their planned, on-going and closed procurements. The Commission has one central website, which provides you with a list of links to the different thematic fields:

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/grants_en.htm

The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) offers practical guidance to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation:

➔ http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

The SIMAP portal provides access to most important information about European public procurement:

➔ http://simap.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Tips for potential contractors are provided in the Commission's publication "Doing business with the European Commission"

➔ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/publications/publications_en.cfm#doing_business

C) PARTNER FINDING TOOLS:

Most of the Official websites of the EU funding programmes offer a partner finding tool.

E.g.: Directorate General for Education and Culture offers for its programmes in the field of education (Erasmus, Comenius, etc.) a project partner search:

➔ http://lp.teamwork.fr/partner_search/partner_search.php

Otlas is an online partner finding tool for international projects in the youth field. Organisations can register their contact details and areas of interest in Otlas, and also create partner requests for project ideas.

➔ www.otlas.eu

LinkedIn EU Projects Partner Search:

➔ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/EU-Projects-Partner-Search-2842114>

Facebook Partner Search for EU & International Projects

➔ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Partnersearch/?fref=ts>

YOUR NOTES

YOUR NOTES

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++ EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESI-FUNDS) ++ EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) ++ EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) ++ YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (YEI) ++ COHESION FUND ++ EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) ++ EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND (EMFF) ++ TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ++ SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ++ COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (CLLD) ++ EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (ETC) ++ EU PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION (EASI) ++ PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY (PROGRESS) ++ EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (EURES) ++ YOUR FIRST EURES JOB

++ YOUR GUIDE TO EU FUNDING ++

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